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[Faith Centre Website](#)

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Greetings & Welcome Back to all our readers! . . I hope this first bulletin of the new academic year finds you all well – and hopefully refreshed too. A new year with new challenges, new opportunities and no doubt, plenty of new surprises and new unknowns along the way. We send you our very best wishes, especially to those involved in the four new colleges / schools which opened in Burnley this week. Openings which complete the phased introduction of new, state of the art facilities for the young people of Burnley and parts of Pendle. May the months ahead be both fruitful and progressive for us all, as we look to serve the needs of our school and wider communities, both locally and beyond

Eid Ul-Fitr – marks the end of Ramadhan, the Islamic holy month of fasting (*sawm*). We understand this year's Eid takes place today (Friday), so a very special weekend lies ahead for our Muslim friends. We send our very best wishes to them all and say 'Eid Mubarak!'

-  **Eid in the Park** – a warm welcome is extended to everyone who may wish to join in a mini festival on Friday 10th September at Queen's Park (Burnley) to celebrate Eid Ul-Fitr. The festival will kick off at 1130hrs, with Eid Prayers beforehand at 0930hrs.
-  **Meeting God in Friend and Stranger (MGFS)** – in April 2010 the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales issued this document, with the aim of fostering respect and mutual understanding between different world religions and clarifying the Church's stance on interreligious dialogue. Join us at the Faith Centre on **Tuesday 28th September 2010**, when David Jackson, Interreligious Relations Co-ordinator at Leeds Diocese will share the key findings of the document, followed by group discussion. The event is open to everyone and we are hoping to attract a very diverse audience. An opportunity to share thoughts and opinions. For e-bulletin readers, see poster attached. **1930hrs start**, with refreshments served beforehand from 1900hrs.
-  **Why does Racism Exist?** – a lecture presented by James O'Connell, Professor Emeritus of Peace Studies at Bradford University on Tuesday 14th September at the Ace Centre (Nelson), 1900hrs – 2100hrs. For info on this interesting event, please contact BB Pendle on 01282 719303 or office@buildingbridgespendle.org.uk
-  **Welcome** – it has been a pleasure to meet up with a number of new teachers, students and others around the Campus this week, as a new chapter in our shared existence kicks off. Good too to meet up with some new people within our faith communities. On this, a special welcome to Phil Clarke, who has recently taken over as the Superintendent of the Burnley Methodist Circuit. It was a pleasure to be with him at his Service of Welcome last week. We wish Phil every blessing and success, conscious that the team he leads provide valued support to the Faith Centre's work.

✚ **Regular Gatherings at the Faith Centre** – everyone is most welcome to join us for some of our scheduled sessions at the Faith Centre – see details below:-

- **Bereavement Group** – 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month – 1930hrs
- **Buddhist Meditation** – Wednesday at 1930hrs. This term's session runs until 8 December inclusive, the current topic being "An Introduction to Buddhism"
- **Christian Prayers** – each Thursday lunchtime during term time. Starts at 1250hrs and runs for approx 20 mins. Supported by Burnley Lane Fellowship.
- **Baha'i Soul Food** – prayers from across all faiths; an opportunity to reflect and meditate in a tranquil setting. Each Thursday at 1930hrs, except the final Thursday of the month. Spiritual Food for the Soul, with refreshments later.
- **Healing Rooms Burnley** - run by a group of Christians from different local churches and of different denominations, who believe that it is God's will to heal today. Meet on the final Thursday of each month, 1930hrs – 2100hrs. People from all faiths and none are welcome – no appointment required.
- **Friday Prayers** – each Friday lunchtime during term time. Commences at approx 1310hrs and led by one of the qualified Thomas Whitham students.

✚ **Burnley Town Hall Open Day** – colleagues at Burnley Council have asked me to alert you to this special event taking place on Saturday 11th September, between 1100hrs and 1500hrs. There will be an opportunity to tour the Town Hall, learn about its history, meet elected representatives & find how they make decisions that affect you

✚ **Diversity and Interfaith - Valuing Difference & Building Communities** - the RC Diocese of Salford Department for Evangelisation in partnership with The Woolf Institute for Abrahamic Faiths, Cambridge are offering a six week course designed to build interfaith skills. The programme will be delivered in the Vincent Farrell Centre at St Mary's RC Church, Yorkshire Street, Burnley BB10 4AU. The course commences on Wednesday 22 September 2010 – time to be confirmed. For further information contact Sharon Beech on 0161 761 0536 or sharon.beech@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

✚ **And finally . . .** as we look ahead to the new academic year before us, it is important too to reflect on some of the events that have occurred since the last time of writing in mid July. The catastrophic floods in Pakistan, not to forget those around the China/North Korea border, the continuing starvation in Niger and the trapped miners in Chile, to name but a few. Situations which require our prayers and support. Ramadhan is centred on fasting being a way of better understanding the struggles of people who are less fortunate. Let us always be mindful of the needs of all people, irrespective of creed, race or culture and irrespective of their position on our globe.

"A believer is not one who eats his fill while his next door neighbour goes hungry"

Words of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)