



## ABRAHAMIC FAITHS GATHERINGS: FOSTERING UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECT



The Abrahamic Faiths Gatherings, organised by Downs and Toowoomba Churches Together with the support of the Pure Land Learning College Association Multi-Faith Multicultural Centre, take place every three months. These gatherings alternate between St Anthony's Community Centre and the Garden City Mosque, providing a welcoming space for interfaith dialogue and mutual respect.

Each gathering features speakers from the Jewish, Islamic and Christian faiths, who share insights on a selected topic. This is followed by a Q&A session, allowing participants to deepen their understanding and engage in meaningful discussions. The event concludes with a light meal, fostering friendships and strengthening connections among attendees.

The first Abrahamic Faiths Gathering of 2025 was held on 5 February, exploring the theme: "How to Foster Peace and Understanding Between Religions". The thought-provoking discussions sparked insightful questions, enriching the dialogue.

The next gathering will take place on Wednesday, 8 March, at St Anthony's Community Centre, with the theme "Hope". We invite all community members to join us for an inspiring conversation and an opportunity to build bridges of understanding.

## TOOWOOMBA INTERFAITH WORKING GROUP BEGINS A NEW YEAR OF DIALOGUE AND COLLABORATION

The Toowoomba Interfaith Working Group (TIWG) held its first meeting of 2025 on 5 February at the Pure Land Learning College Association (PLLCA), bringing members together to reconnect and plan for the year ahead.





Since its founding in 2016 with just eight members, the TIWG has grown into a diverse group of twenty-three faith representatives, dedicated to fostering understanding and unity through dialogue and community initiatives. Meeting monthly, the group has successfully organised over thirty peace conferences and workshops, while also representing Toowoomba on the international stage at interfaith events in Singapore, Malaysia, Paris, London, Wales, India, Thailand and Taiwan.

With a steadfast commitment to peace and collaboration, TIWG looks forward to another year of meaningful engagement and impactful initiatives.



## GRAND OPENING OF THE ABBEY MUSEUM'S ART GALLERY AND CAFÉ EXTENSION



On 1 February, we were honoured to attend the official launch of the Abbey Museum's new Art Gallery and Café extension. This momentous occasion, forty years in the making, was celebrated alongside key donors, supporters and distinguished guests, recognising the dedication and vision that brought this project to life.

Congratulations to Abbey St Michael on this incredible achievement! It was truly heartening to see our diverse community come together in support of the arts and heritage.



## SPOTLIGHT ON TIWG MEMBERS: DR. ARSALAN MOZAFFARI FALARTI

Dr Arsalan Mozaffari Falarti, a distinguished member of the TIWG, has dedicated his life to community service and interfaith harmony.

Born in the historic city of Isfahan, Iran, Dr Arsalan comes from a family with a centuries-old legacy as Masters (Ghotb, Peer and Murad) in the Nematollahi Ghadeer Ali Shahi Muslim Sufi Order. He completed his academic studies in Iran and married at the age of twenty-four. His marriage has been blessed with a daughter and a son, both of whom have followed his path in academia.

Dr Arsalan began his professional journey as a consultant and advisor to the Mayor of Isfahan, focusing on the city's illumination, luminosity and beautification. His career soon expanded beyond Iran, and in the 1980s, his family made Australia their home.

Since settling in Australia, Dr Arsalan has been deeply committed to community service. His leadership and dedication have seen him contribute to various organisations, including:

- Member of the Board of Directors of the Queensland Institute of Export
- Vice President of the Islamic Society of St. Lucia
- Vice President of the Islamic Council of Queensland
- Founding Member of the Queensland Faith Communities Council
- Member of the Toowoomba Interfaith Working Group (TIWG)

In addition to his service, Dr Arsalan is a Justice of the Peace (Qualified) and a Peace Ambassador, reflecting his ongoing commitment to justice, peace, and social cohesion.

With humility and a deep passion for fostering understanding among diverse communities, Dr Arsalan serves as an inspiration to many. His tireless efforts in promoting harmony and goodwill continue to make a lasting impact on all who have the privilege of working alongside him.



## UPCOMING EVENTS!

### Wellbeing Symposium

Building on the success of the first session on 12 February, which saw an outstanding eighty participants, we are pleased to announce the second session in this important series. The 2nd Series of Wellbeing Workshop is a joint effort of Momentum Mental Health and the PLLCA.

Join us on Thursday, 27 March, at St Patrick's Cathedral Centre, where professionals from healthcare, law enforcement, community organisations, and engaged individuals will come together to explore ways to foster a stronger, safer and more connected community.

With Momentum Health collaborating closely on the program, this session promises to be a thought-provoking and engaging discussion. We look forward to another meaningful exchange and the continued growth of this initiative.

 To register, please email: [mfmcc.pllc@gmail.com](mailto:mfmcc.pllc@gmail.com) ----- We hope to see you there!