

# Hume Interfaith Network



## Blessings Collection

*A collection of blessings and prayers  
by the Hume Interfaith Network  
for the opening prayer at  
Hume City Council Meetings*

The Hume Interfaith Network (HIN) was established in 2001, with the aim to:

- Develop harmonious relationships between all people who live, work or practice faith in the City of Hume
- Creating peace, understanding and respect for one another's beliefs, cultures and traditions
- Foster social harmony, inclusivity and dialogue rather than promoting one religion over another or debating religious beliefs
- Provide a space to celebrate our similarities and share our differences to foster peace and goodwill.



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# Asim Jaleel & Rasul Pasha

Muslim

Craigieburn Hub

**Prayer:** Purification of the Heart

اللَّهُمَّ آتِ نَفْسِي تَقْوَاهَا ، وَزَكِّهَا أَنْتَ خَيْرٌ مَنْ زَكَّاهَا ، أَنْتَ وَلِيُّهَا  
وَمَوْلَاهَا ، اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ عِلْمٍ لَا يَنْفَعُ ، وَمِنْ قَلْبٍ لَا  
يَخْشَعُ ، وَمِنْ نَفْسٍ لَا تَتَّعِبُ ، وَمِنْ دَعْوَةٍ لَا يُسْتَجَابُ لَهَا .

**Transliteration:** Allāhumma āti nafsī taqwāhā, wa zakkihā Anta khayru man zakkāhā, Anta Walliyuhā wa Mawlāhā, Allāhumma innī a‘ūdhu bika min ‘ilmi-l-lā yanfa‘, wa min qalbi-l-lā yakhsha‘, wa min nafsi-l-lā tashba‘, wa min da‘wati-l-lā yustajābu lahā.

**Translation:** O Allah, grant my soul taqwā (piety) and purify it, for You are the Best of those who can purify it. You are its Protector and Master. O Allah, I seek Your protection from knowledge which does not benefit, a heart which does not submit, a soul which is not satisfied and a supplication which is not accepted.

*Reference:*

*Sahih Muslim: 2722*

**Prayer:** Surah Ikhlas

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ  
اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ  
لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ  
وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ

**Transliteration:**

Bismillah hir rahman nir Raheem  
Qul huwal laahu ahad  
Allah hus-samad  
Lam yalid wa lam yoolad  
Wa lam yakul-lahoo kufuwan ahad

**Translation:**

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful.

Say: "He is Allah, the One and Only;  
Allah, the Eternal, Absolute;  
He begetteth not, nor is He begotten;  
And there is none like unto Him. "

# Pastor Enele Tailiki

Christian

Hume Samoan Assembly of God

## **Prayer:**

Dear Heavenly Father,  
Who art in Heaven,  
Hallowed be your name,  
Your Kingdom come  
Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

We bow before your throne of mercy and grace,  
Asking you for your guidance, wisdom and support,  
as we begin this meeting.

Please help the Council to engage in meaningful  
discussions, And also allow them to grow closer as a  
group, And nurture the bonds of community.

Fill them with your grace,  
As they make decisions that might affect the  
communities of Hume City.

Loving Heavenly Father,  
Continue to remind us that all that we do here today,  
And all that we have accomplished,  
is for the pursuit of truth,  
For the greater glory of you and for the service of  
humanity.

We ask all these things in Jesus' name,  
Our Lord and our Saviour.

Amen.

# Helen Patsikatheodorou OAM

Greek Orthodox

## **Prayer:**

At all times and in every hour,  
you are worshiped and glorified  
in heaven and on earth,  
Christ our God.

Long in patience,  
great in mercy and compassion,  
you love the righteous and show mercy to sinners.

You call all to salvation through the promise of good  
things to come.

Lord, receive our prayers at the present time.

Direct our lives according to your commandments.

Sanctify our souls.

Purify our bodies.

Set our minds aright.

Cleanse our thoughts and deliver us from all sorrow, evil,  
and distress.



Surround us with your holy angels that,  
guarded and guided by them,  
we may arrive at the unity of faith and the  
understanding of your ineffable glory.

For you are blessed to the ages of ages.

Amen.

**Prayer:**

Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace,  
good will to all people.

We praise you,

we bless you,

we worship you,

we glorify you,

we give thanks to you for your great glory.

Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father, almighty Lord,  
the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and Holy Spirit.

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father  
who take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy upon us,  
you who take away the sins of the world.

Receive our prayer,  
you who sit at the right hand of the Father,  
and have mercy upon us.

For you only are holy, only you are Lord,  
Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

*Reference:*

*Book of Prayers - Prayer Book English*

*A selection for Orthodox Christians, St Andrew's  
Orthodox Press Sydney 2013, Greek Orthodox  
Archdiocese of Australia.*

# Madhuri Maskey

Hindu

## Prayer:

Oh God, the Protector, the basis of all life,

Who is self-existent,

Who is free from all pains and

Whose contact frees the soul from all troubles, Who  
pervades the Universe and sustains all,

The Creator and Energizer of the whole Universe, the  
Giver of happiness,

Who is worthy of acceptance,

the most excellent,

Who is Pure and the Purifier of all, let us embrace that  
very God, so that He may direct our mental faculties in  
the right direction.

# Sargon Thomas

Christian

## **Prayer:**

You, O Lord of all;  
are almighty and immortal,  
ever-loving and faithful,  
compassionate and full of grace.

We thank you for our blessed country, Australia where  
we worship you in freedom, safety and without fear.

We pray;  
where there is hatred, may we show your love;  
where there is conflict, may we be peacemakers;  
where there is misleading, may we show your  
truthfulness:  
and where there is arrogance may we show the humility  
you showed us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We pray for your blessings upon the Hume City Council  
and for the safety, welfare and wellbeing of its citizens.

We beseech you to guide the Councillors whose work touches the lives of this City's residents.

May their work always be carried out in harmony and goodwill for the benefit of Hume's people.

May your holy spirit protect us as we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

O Lord of all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, forever;

Amen.

# Rezvanieh Newton

Baha'i

## Prayer:

“O God, Almighty Protector! O Thou Who art the confirmer of every just power and equitable empire in eternal glory, everlasting power, continuance and greatness!

Strengthen with the abundance of Thy mercy every government which acts with equity towards its subjects, and every dominion under whose flag the poor and weak find protection.

We ask Thee by Thy holiness and bounty to pour out Thy blessing upon this government which has stretched its tent over citizens from every land, that its inhabitants, its industries, its territories may be penetrated by justice.

O God! Strengthen its executives, give authority and influence to its word and utterance, protect its territories and dominions, guard its reputation, make its ideals to echo throughout the world, reveal its traces and exalt its

principles by Thy conquering power and wonderful  
might throughout the kingdoms of creation.

Thou art the confirmer of whomsoever Thou willest.  
Verily, Thou art the powerful and the mighty! “

*Reference:*

*Abdu'l-Bahá - Star of the West 24 Dec. 1933: Volume 24,  
Number 9*

# Rev. Dr. Satvasheela Pandhare

Christian

Hume Anglican Parish

*St. Paul, who established many churches in the first century, advised his companion and fellow worker, Timothy, in the following words:*

*Go into training in godliness! Physical exercise is good, but it has limited usefulness. Godliness is useful in every way. It carries the promise of life both now and in the future. Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young but be an example to the people in what you say and how you behave - in love, faith and devotion. Don't neglect the gift that is in you.*

*We can see how Paul gave confidence to Timothy, who was a young leader. It may not apply to all of us in this room, because some of us here are very experienced people here, but when it comes to leading the community, let us accept, that we all feel vulnerable, because we are not sure, whether or not our ideas and plannings will be well-received.*

*Friends, exactly at this point, let us be reminded that we all have a special gift, and we must use it fully without*



*any doubt in mind. We must continue to reflect God's love through our actions, as we lead God's people, and always keep justice at the centre of our mission. May God bless you.*

Let us pray.

**Prayer:**

God, our Creator and Sustainer,

We thank you for allowing us to come together.

We thank you for the gift of life.

Help us use our life for your glory and the service of your people.

Loving God, we pray for your blessings on this meeting. Bless the leaders of Hume City Council; and grant them your wisdom and strength as they discuss and plan future programs. Help us all draw closer to one another and you. We ask this in the precious name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

# Nilupa Jayawickrema

Buddhist

Sri Lankan- Australian Buddhist

## **Prayer:**

At dawn as the sun rises from the slumber, and when  
the sun sets at dusk,  
in a silent prayer of sincere gratitude, I pay homage to  
the most Blessed One.

The Sacred Lord Buddha,  
The Great Achiever of Enlightenment,  
with each heartbeat and each intake of breath,  
as a faithful follower I walk ahead in the promising path  
you chose.

Like a Guiding Star,  
you showed us the way to gain refuge from the  
continuous circle of Life and Death.

May we be blessed with your compassionate love  
throughout the maze of Life.

Honourable Councillors, Officers & Staff, for all your honest endeavours to serve the community, may you be adorned with Buddha's Blessings.

In the long course of duration, may your projects to upgrade the facilities, your planning and designing for improvements and the expected future constructions, be blessed, to bring fruitful success and pleasant outcomes to the society.

Working in Unity and Harmony may the Hume Council be blessed with the strength, capacity and potentiality to rise above the horizons to serve your fellow citizens bigger and better in the near future.

May the blessings of the sacred lord Buddha always be with you.

**Acknowledgement:**

Venerable Kotte Santhindriya Thero from the Buddhist Temple Daham Niketanaya Yuroke for writing this prayer.

# Clayton Williams

Christian

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

## **Prayer:**

Dear Heavenly Father, as we come together at the commencement of this Hume City Council meeting, we express our gratitude for the hard-working and dedicated council executives, the Mayor, and Councillors.

We pray for them and pray that they may be blessed with an added measure of wisdom, strength, and courage as they seek to council together to build a better community.

We offer our thanks for the wonderful members of this community. We especially pray for the youth, the elderly, and the needy. We ask that you grant them strength, patience, understanding, peace, and joy as they navigate through their individual challenges.

As we gather in this council, we are reminded of and grateful for the beauty of our differences. We pray that

we might recognise and respect the unique perspectives, talents, and experiences that everyone brings. May we cultivate a spirit of love and empathy, embracing one another as fellow children of God.

Father, we express our heartfelt gratitude for the freedom to worship according to the dictates of our conscience. We ask for Thy continued protection of this precious right. May our places of worship be safe havens for spiritual growth, where all may seek solace and inspiration.

Help us to work in harmony and with a sense of purpose. May our decisions be guided by wisdom and compassion, fostering a community that promotes love, unity, and progress.

We offer this prayer in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Amen

# Reverend Fa'amata'u Leota

Christian

Sunbury St Andrews Uniting Church

## **Prayer:**

God of many names and faces,

We thank you that you walk among us and that you hold and sustain us in your embrace. As we gather today we pray for Hume City Council, its Councillors and its people;

We pray your blessing upon all Councillors. We appreciate that they give of their time, their talents and their labours to serve the people of Hume. Grant them insight and wisdom in their deliberations and decision making and in all they do. Keep them steadfast in their shared focus and vision especially when things become challenging.

We pray for its people, rich in its diversity of languages, cultures and backgrounds. We pray that in the midst of this rich tapestry of diversity a rich sense of community and unity takes root and continues to flourish, that a

common humanity characterised by love, respect and understanding is experienced by all.

Bless all who gather and the proceedings, for we pray in your name, the Father, the Son the Holy Spirit, Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.

God of many names and faces. Amen

# Hume Interfaith Network



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