



## Foreword

Religious belief can produce the deepest feelings of loyalty and identity. Friendship and understanding between people of different religions are essential for a peaceful world. At a time when people of different religions and cultures are living ever closer to each other in every part of the world and specifically in Britain, the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales wish to encourage Catholics to see dialogue as an integral part of their faith and practice.

Some might object that clergy and laity are already overburdened and that we should be focussing on proclaiming our faith to others rather than listening to them about their beliefs. But **the Church** – that is the whole people of God - is called to be like Christ and humbly serve others. Catholics are encouraged to work together with other Christians in this service of witness and dialogue with people of other religions and with secular culture. The bishops therefore also offer *Meeting God in Friend and Stranger* to all Christians.

*Meeting God in Friend and Stranger* draws on Scripture, on the teachings of Vatican II, on the words of Popes and Vatican departments, and has been agreed by all the Catholic bishops of England and Wales.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin McDonald". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned on a light grey background.

Kevin McDonald, Archbishop Emeritus of Southwark