Affinity co-ordinates Muslim Community visits to Cathedrals during Christmas

During Christmas, Affinity executive members and various members of the Muslim community once again set out to visit Cathedrals and Churches around Sydney and Wollongong.

For over 6 years, Affinity has taken the initiative of visiting places of worship during the most sacred time for our Christian friends, Christmas and Easter.
Affinity views these visits as a great way to establishing dialogue and long lasting relationships with others. Affinity President Mr Mehmet Saral stated that 'it is important to go beyond dialogue and pay respects to each other's faith tradition by visiting each other during special times such as Christmas'.

On Christmas Eve for Midnight Mass, we visited **Our Lady of Rosary Cathedral in Waitara** where **Bishop David Walker** welcomed 15 members of the Muslim community to the Cathedral as well as **St Francis Xavier's Cathedral in Wollongong** where **Bishop Peter Ingham** welcomed 8 members of the Muslim community to the Cathedral.

During Christmas Day, we attended Mass at **St Patrick's Cathedral in Parramatta** where **Bishop Anthony Fisher** welcomed 10 members of the Muslim community to the Cathedral and the beautiful **St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney** where **Cardinal George Pell** welcomed 10 members of the Muslim community to the Cathedral. We also attended service at the **Uniting Church on the Mall in Wollongong** where **Rev Gordon Bradberry** welcomed 10 members of the Muslim community to the Parish.

It was a great pleasure to be able to attend such services that mean so much to around 70% of Australia's population. Affinity would like to thank all churches and the respective Cathedral Bishop's and Parish Ministers for opening their doors and hearts to the Muslim community and making us feel welcome.