

Faith leaders and MPs celebrate shared values

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NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian addresses the Parliamentary Interfaith Breakfast (Twitter/ACUMedia)

Faith leaders and parliamentarians came together yesterday for Australian Catholic University's annual Parliamentary Interfaith Breakfast at Parliament House in Sydney. Source: ACU.

Almost 200 guests attended, including more than 70 faith leaders and 40 parliamentarians. More than 20 faiths were represented, including various Christian groups, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh and other communities – to celebrate shared values.

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian and Opposition Leader Luke Foley each provided a welcome and the leaders of five different faiths delivered readings on leadership, service and community harmony, and prayed for wise deliberations and good governance.

Ms Berejiklian told the crowd that they were fortunate to be in Australia and that this type of interfaith gathering would not happen in many parts of the world. She praised Australians' shared values of diversity and inclusion.

Mr Foley said faith communities were an important part of our society, allowing the community to feel valued, supported and connected.

“Religion should always be a legitimate voice as a source of values within public life and within public affairs,” Mr Foley said.

“I think of what is so often challenged today in our country and throughout the West is the embodiment in public policy of values that derive from religious teaching and religious authority. It’s that that is under constant challenge and attack.”

SBS World News presenter and journalist Janice Petersen also addressed the breakfast, discussing the role of media in society and reporting of religion.

ACU Vice-Chancellor Greg Craven said the Parliamentary Interfaith Breakfast was a natural extension of the university's mission to bring together political and faith leaders from across the community in a spirit of harmony.

“The ACU Mission is to foster an appreciation of the sacred in life and a commitment to serving the common good,” Professor Craven said.

“The Catholic Intellectual Tradition promotes engagement with and understanding of people of different faiths. The interfaith breakfast provides an opportunity to reflect on the important role that faith plays in our everyday lives and in making sense of the world.”

FULL STORY

[Diversity and tolerance celebrated at annual Parliamentary Interfaith Breakfast \(ACU\)](#)