

**MESSAGE ON THE OCCASION OF RAMADAN AND THE
CELEBRATION AT THE END OF THE MONTH OF RAMADAN 2024
(11th of March – 9th of April)
'Id al-Fitr/Ramazan Bayramı, 10th /11th of April 2024**

1 Cor 12, 12.24-26

12 The body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, 24 God has so composed the body, giving greater honour to the part that lacked it, 25 that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. 26 If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together.

Sahih al-Bukhari 6011

Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) said, "You see the believers as regards their being merciful among themselves and showing love among themselves and being kind, resembling one body, so that, if any part of the body is not well then the whole body shares the sleeplessness (insomnia) and fever with it."

Dear sisters and brothers,

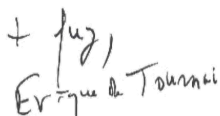
The various wars scattered around the world are a source of polarisation but also evoke a counterforce of compassion. At the same time, floods, droughts and severe earthquakes are triggering a great wave of solidarity. In our country too, many people sympathise with the affected families and join hands to collect goods and funds for emergency relief. Solidarity actions, big and small, bring out the best in people: goodness and generosity, cooperation and connection.

On the occasion of Ramadan and the feast of Id al-Fitr, we want to support these experiences of human brotherhood. They show us that there is a great source of Love that transcends and connects us all: God in whom we believe. Ramadan and Christian Lent, which partly coincide this year, are the ideal opportunity for Muslims and Christians to meet and encourage each other in the good.

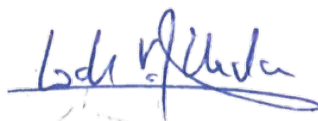
These times remind us equally of the need to show solidarity, each according to his or her capacities and resources. As the various members of one body, let us work together to be a sign of God's great love and generosity in this world.

I wish you all a wonderful celebration!

Guy Harpigny
Bishop Referendary
for interfaith dialogue



Lode Van Hecke
Bishop Referendary
for interfaith dialogue



Steven Fuite
Synod chairman of the
United Protestant Church
in Belgium

