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THE BISHOP  
OF NEWCASTLE

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15<sup>th</sup> March 2019

To our brothers and sisters in the Muslim Community.

My Dear Brothers & Sisters,

I write today to offer my sincere condolences to everyone affected by the terrible shootings at two mosques in Christchurch New Zealand. My thoughts and prayers are with you all, especially those in Christchurch who have lost loved ones in this terrible act of evil.

I am both saddened and shocked by these heinous, senseless atrocities. I stand in solidarity with our Muslim brothers and sisters. It is with great pride that I can say that we here in Newcastle we welcome people of all faiths and cultures. I value the relationships we have with our Muslim communities and it is vital that we stand together against such hatred which exacerbates violent extremism.

+ Christine

**The Rt. Revd. Christine Hardman**  
**Bishop of Newcastle**