

**Launch of the Nostra Aetate Joint Statement, Wednesday, 16 March 2016,
which was proclaimed at the 50th Anniversary of the Nostra Aetate Event, held at the Great
Synagogue, Sydney, on 28 October 2015.**

Message from Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP

Out of that great statement of 50 years ago, *Nostra Aetate*, there has emerged an ongoing dialogue between Catholics and Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Orthodox and other Christians; a collaboration of religious leaders, scholars, activists, and ordinary faithful.

Out of that great statement, *Nostra Aetate*, has emerged our shared commitment to mutual respect and understanding and to overcoming the sources of bigotry and discrimination.

We have come so far, but have a long way to go.

The joint Statement, which I signed along with Mr Jeremy Spinak, President of the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies, Mr Robert Goot, President of Australian Jewry and His Grace Archbishop Christopher Prowse, President of the ACBC Advisory Council for Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue, is an historic document. It testifies to our resolve, at the conclusion of our gathering in the Great Synagogue of Sydney on 28th October 2015, that the legacy of that Interfaith Conference, including the fruits of the scholarly input and the discussion between the participants, would be disseminated amongst our Communities and acted upon in our institutions.

We know there is much to celebrate in and since *Nostra Aetate*. The 50th Anniversary Commemorative event rekindled within us the expectation that our communities will actively bear witness to our belief that every human being is an inviolable image and beloved child of God.

I recall my words at the conclusion of my Address of the 28th October, 2015:

“There is no room for apathy or disengagement, partiality or pessimism. Dialogue and collaboration are no longer optional extras. They are the will of Almighty God for all of humanity and vital for peace in the world.”