



PRIME MINISTER
TE PIRIMIA

PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE FOR HANUKKAH

Shalom and kia ora koutou katoa. I'd like to wish all of Aotearoa New Zealand's Jewish community a very happy Hanukkah!

This is a time to celebrate with friends and family. This year has had its challenges, but as the eight days of Hanukkah begin, I hope you are able to come together with your loved ones.

I wish you and your whānau a Hanukkah filled with love, peace and happiness. Have a wonderful Festival of Lights.

Hanukkah Sameach!

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Jacinda Ardern.

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Prime Minister



SIMON O'CONNOR

MP FOR TAMAKI

Chag Sameach

Hannukah is once more upon us, and as the sun sets this coming Sunday – December 18th – the great eight-day celebration begins.

This year we are once again able to celebrate with families and within our communities. This itself is a great joy and something to be grateful for. As each candle is lit, we can reflect on the many aspects of the year past and look with hope to the future. No candle stands alone – they stand together, a symbol not only of light but of community.

Of all the candles, my thoughts are of the shamash, the 'helper' candle that lights all others. With all the struggles and divisions we see at home and abroad, there is a call on each of us to help and support where we can. Just as the shamash is often smaller than other candles, our little actions of care and consideration each day can generate a great and growing light.

To our Jewish community here in Auckland - and throughout New Zealand and the world – can I wish you all a year of blessing and prosperity, and one filled with health and light.

Chag Hanukkah Sameach

Simon O'Connor

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New Zealand Catholic Bishops' Committee for Interfaith Relations



December 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Jewish Community,

On behalf of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops' Committee for Interfaith Relations I send warm greetings to you as you celebrate Hanukkah.

We Catholics are currently celebrating our Advent season, lighting one candle every week until Christmas. Each week, we connect them to a theme: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. The way I understand your celebration of Hanukkah, the lights certainly express strong faith, trust and hope – resulting in a miracle. The more candles are lit, the more light the Menorah brings into the houses and the communities.

Thank you for your huge contributions to the interfaith work in Aotearoa New Zealand. May the lights of Hanukkah bring joy and happiness to your congregations and shine on our continuous cooperation beyond religions and faiths.

We wish you Happy Hanukkah

Kind regards,

Beate Matthies

On behalf of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Committee for Interfaith Relations:

Adele Churchman, +Michael Dooley, Teresa Fernandez, Matthew Gardner, Daniel Kleinsman, Christopher Longhurst, Beate Matthies, Colin MacLeod (chair) and Nick Wilson.