




Community:  
old paths and  
new directions

---



† Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre

*create  
community*

yesterday...  
† today...  
† tomorrow...





## What is community: Can we be clear? - a theological interpretation by Dr Lea Verstricht

"Scripture is one big story telling us how to relate to our Creator, to each other and to the entire world"

"Community is where people dare to tell their stories"

"Being in community is being on a journey, open to surprise"

"It is like writing a story of which the end is unknown, unclear"

"We should dare to listen! We don't know it all ourselves. We need each other. This is the basis of our community"

"Ask ourselves, where do we place the emphasis, on the 'I' or the 'We'?"



Community:  
Old paths and  
new directions



Understanding faith-based communities through their stories - **Prof John McCafferty**

"Communal faith stories (often celebrating the smallest, most mundane details) are the means by which a community can make sense of and locate its place in the greater salvation story"

"Sharing communal stories can allow faith to 'bubble up' in our lives"

"Touch, taste, see, hear" - the physicality of Christian faith stories

"An eruption of the transcendent into the present"

"Jesus is present and absent/transcendent at the same time"

"All faith stories are about community"





## Global community in a time of crisis - towards a better future

**Dr Gemma Simmonds**

“Do not lose hope!”

“There is a difference between hope and optimism”

“Faith and hope are not certain. They can be dark - but refuse to settle for comfort blanket faith. The darkness can lead to light”

“Find the sacred in all, not only in the 'officially sacred'”

“True community is where people listen to each other; where the marginalised and excluded are included”

“The ordinary holds within it the sacred”

“Listening and speaking” - “develop a synodal mentality”

“We need to step out of our comfort zone”

“Create hope for others - small gestures person-to-person; resolve to carry through your opinions, to take action”

“Develop a deeper sense of community”



## THE LOCAL IS GLOBAL

*Building hope through action in the local community*

Helping the most vulnerable in our local communities

To begin to create a better global future, we should start 'in our own backyard'

'You need to be flexible to empower someone rather than simply help them'

'One unit, one spirit, one humanity'

"We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and uncared for is the greatest poverty." *Mother Teresa*



creation love faith help  
community caring local diversity  
friendship justice action needs support  
peace hope  
human



## Towards an inclusive community

"The community we strive to build is one which values each person equally and which is based on the Gospel values of love, inclusivity and outreach to people in need."

"A community realises its unity in diversity, instead of being an obstacle, diversity can be an enrichment if we allow each one to be themselves, and by doing so complement one another."

Give us the patience to build on what unites us, to celebrate our differences and to learn from them.

"The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone" Psalm 118

# “Let's talk loneliness”



“Loneliness is a mismatch of the relationships we have and those we want. It is our internal trigger, letting us know it's time to seek company, in the same way as hunger lets us know it's time to eat.” *Joseph Rowntree Foundation*

“By building our understanding of loneliness, we can help ourselves and others to manage the feeling.”

“In a more connected world, some can feel more disconnected”

*Marmalade Trust*