

**CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF FAITH
THROUGH THE TEACHING OF VATICAN II**

*Holy Hour for September 2013
Declaration on the Relation of the Church
to Non-Christian religions.
Nostra Aetate, 28 October 1965*



'Let Christians, while witnessing to their own faith...acknowledge, preserve and encourage the spiritual and moral truths found among non-Christians...'

As the Blessed Sacrament is exposed during this series of Holy Hours to mark the YEAR OF FAITH let us sing each time the hymn that bears these words from St Paul 'We Walk By Faith And Not By Sight'

'WE WALK BY FAITH AND NOT BY SIGHT'

Celebration For Everyone No 789/ Laudate No 284

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God, graciously increase the faith of your people that we may understand by whose love we have been created, by whose blood we have been redeemed and by whose spirit we have been reborn so that in our understanding we may reach out in love to all those who do not share our faith and beliefs and strive to bring about your peace and unity among the religions of the world. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **AMEN**

Reader 1:

'In this age of ours, when humanity is drawing more closely together and the bonds of friendship between different peoples are being strengthened, the Church examines with great care the relation which she has to non-Christian religions. Ever aware of her duty to foster unity and charity among individuals, and even among nations, she reflects at the outset of what people have in common and what tends to promote fellowship among them. All people form but one community. This is so because all stem from the one stock which God created to populate the entire earth (cf. Acts 17:26), and also because all share a common destiny, namely God. His providence, evident goodness, and saving designs extend to all (cf. Wis. 8:1; Acts 14:17; Rom 2:6-7; 1 Tim 2:4) against the day when the elect are gathered together in the holy city which is illumined by the glory of God, and in whose splendour all people will walk (cf. Apoc. 21:23 ff).'

(from the Documents of the II Vatican Council.

Declaration: The Church to Non-Christian Religions (Nostra Aetate) No 1)

A PAUSE FOR QUIET REFLECTION

Reader 2

FIRST READING

WISDOM 1:1-16 (*Lectionary III, pg 124, 125*)

'LOVE VIRTUE SINCE WISDOM WILL NEVER MAKE ITS WAY INTO A CRAFTY SOUL'

12 MINUTE SILENT ADORATION

To conclude this time of adoration and reflection we sing:

WHEN I NEEDED A NEIGHBOUR

Celebration For Everyone No 800/ Liturgical Hymns Old & New No 730/ Laudate No 888

Other suitable hymns may be used highlighting the theme of unity and peace among peoples.

Reader 1:

'Men and women look to their different religions for an answer to the unsolved riddles of human existence. The problems that weigh heavily on the human heart are the same today as in ages past. What is Man? What is the meaning and purpose of life? What is upright behaviour, and what is sinful? Where does suffering originate, and what end does it serve? How can genuine happiness be found? What happens at death? What is judgement? What reward follows death? And finally, what is the ultimate mystery, beyond human explanation, which embraces our entire existence, from which we take our origin and towards which we tend?...The religions which are found in more advanced civilizations endeavour by way of well-defined concepts and exact language to answer these questions...So, too, other religions which are found throughout the world attempt in their own way to claim the hearts of men...The Catholic Church rejects nothing of what is true and holy in these religions. She has a high regard for the manner of life and conduct, the precepts and doctrines which, although differing in many ways from her own teaching, nevertheless often reflect a ray of that truth which enlightens all humanity.

(from the Documents of the II Vatican Council.

Declaration: The Church to Non-Christian Religions (Nostra Aetate) No 2)

A PAUSE FOR QUIET REFLECTION

SECOND READING **ST PAUL TO THE ROMANS 12:1-2; 9-19** (*Lectionary III, pg 165*)
‘DO NOT LET YOUR LOVE BE A PRETENCE.’

12 MINUTE SILENT ADORATION

To conclude this time of adoration and reflection we sing:

SHALOM, MY FRIEND

*Celebration For Everyone No 639/ Liturgical Hymns Old & New No 612/ Laudate No 925
For extra verses see attached sheet—these verses can be sung more than once!*

Other suitable hymns may be used highlighting the theme of unity and peace among peoples.

Reader 1:

‘The Church, therefore, urges her sons and daughters to enter with prudence and charity into discussion and collaboration with members of other religions...The Church has also high regard for the Muslims. They worship God, who is one, living and subsistent, merciful and almighty, the creator of heaven and earth, who has also spoken to men. Since Christians and Jews have such a common spiritual heritage, this sacred Council wishes to encourage and further mutual understanding and appreciation. This can be obtained, especially, by way of biblical and theological enquiry and through friendly discussions...It is true that the Church is the new people of God, yet the Jews should not be spoken of as rejected or accursed as if this followed from Holy Scripture. Consequently, all must take care, lest in catechizing or in preaching the Word of God, they teach anything which is not in accord with the truth of the Gospel message or the spirit of Christ. Indeed, the Church reproves every form of persecution against whomsoever it may be directed.’ (*from the Documents of the II Vatican Council.*

Declaration: The Church to Non-Christian Religions (Nostra Aetate) No 4

A PAUSE FOR QUIET REFLECTION

GOSPEL READING **MATTHEW 5:38-48** (*Lectionary III, pg 584, 585*)
‘IF YOU SAVE YOUR GREETINGS FOR YOUR BROTHERS, ARE YOU DOING ANYTHING EXCEPTIONAL?’

12 MINUTE SILENT ADORATION

To conclude this time of adoration and reflection we sing:

LET THERE BE LOVE SHARED AMONG US

*Celebration For Everyone No 358/ Liturgical Hymns Old & New No 425
(For other verses and note on inclusive version see attached sheet)*

Other suitable hymns may be used highlighting the theme of unity and peace among peoples.

Leader: In humility of heart, let us pray to God who cares for everyone.
Response to each prayer: Lord, strengthen the faith of your people

Reader 2:

- Keep alive in your Church the strength of faith and the joy of believing. We pray to the Lord
- Open the hearts of all who believe in the one God that they may live in truth and respect the right and dignity of those of other religions. We pray to the Lord
- Hold in your Fatherly care the Jewish people to whom you first spoke, may they advance in love of your name and in faithfulness to your covenant. We pray to the Lord
- Grant that all Muslims who worship you, the one God, creator of heaven and earth may, by walking before you with a sincere heart, find truth in the love you bear to all. We pray to the Lord
- With your power drive from the religions of the world all those whose fundamental interpretation of your divine will have led to discord, disunity, mistrust, hatred and violence among religions and to a rejection of religion by those scandalised by such hatred and inhumanity. We pray to the Lord
- May your Holy Spirit at work in the Christ and in all people of good will banish disease, drive out hunger, and ward of every affliction in the world. We pray to the Lord
- Grant to those who have died the joy of standing before you as Saints among saints in the halls of heaven. We pray to the Lord

BENEDICTION PRAYERS AND HYMNS NOW FOLLOW

ALL OVER THE WORLD THE SPIRIT IS MOVING

*Liturgical Hymns Old & New No 120/ Laudate No 984
For Celebration For Everyone use alternative: ‘Spirit of the Living God,’ No 666;*

Supplement sheet
September Holy Hour

SHALOM

Shalom, my friend,
Shalom, my friend
Shalom, Shalom,
The peace of Christ I bring you today,
Shalom, Shalom.

Shalom, my friend,
Shalom, my friend,
Shalom, Shalom
The peace of Christ the world cannot give
Be yours, Shalom,

Shalom, my friend,
Shalom, my friend,
Shalom, Shalom,
The Lord is with us to the end of the age,
Shalom, Shalom.

LET THERE BE LOVE

*For inclusive version replace 'brotherly love that is real' with 'creating a love that is real'
in verse one and '..peace.., ..hope.., ..joy.., ..love..' respectively in the other verses*

- 1) Let there be love shared among us...,
- 2) Let there be peace shared among us,
- 3) Let there be hope shared among us,
- 4) Let there be joy shared among us,
- 5) Let there be love shared among us,