

Reflection Wednesday Week 13 – 2023

Whatever one may think about God's instructions to Abraham in the Genesis, it is clear that the Judaic and Islamic faiths come from the same origin – Abraham. Since we too have grown out of the Judaic faith, Abraham is our patriarch too. Since the incarnation of Jesus all three branches of faith have developed along different lines and yet the fundamentals in each tradition are the same: to love God and to love neighbour. Now more than ever these three branches need to learn from each other, to seek a better understanding of each other's traditions, to meet together in prayer and allow God to help us journey together more closely.

Pope Francis says to us:

“For Abraham, looking up to heaven was an incentive to journey on earth, to set out on a path that, through his descendants, would lead to every time and place. His journey involved sacrifices that remind us that “we need one another. Our journey calls us to leave behind those ties and attachments that keep us enclosed in our own groups, prevent us from welcoming God's boundless love and from seeing others as our brothers and sisters. The pandemic has shown us we cannot ignore the suffering of others, especially the most vulnerable. Peace, however, requires alliances that do not pit *us* against each other but unites us by overcoming division. Anyone with the courage to look at the stars, anyone who believes in God, has no enemies to fight. We have only one enemy to face and that enemy is *hatred*.”

May the faithful of the three Abrahamic religions find inspiration in their common father, and turn their weapons into instruments of peace. Together we must remind the world that human life has value for what it is and not for what it has. That the lives of the unborn, the elderly, migrants and men and women, whatever the colour of their skin or their nationality, are always sacred and count as much as the lives of everyone else! Let us commit ourselves to fulfilling God's dream that the human family may become hospitable and welcoming to all God's children; that looking up to the same heaven, we will journey together in peace.