

'May the Lord give you peace'

Post-modern culture, philosophy, politics, theology, church all reflect society. They trot along in the wake of economics. Prosperity spawns 'choice', 'fulfilment', 'individualism', 'dispersion' - it demands the destruction of the overarching meta - narrative and the death of God.

Poverty keeps the tribe together for survival and favours factors which make for cohesion - like a god, like the tribal legends and myths. The existence of a 'rich world' and a 'poor world' on the same planet makes for conflict. One attempt to redress the manifold injustice is dubbed currently 'The War on Terror'.

The existence of the Christian church in multifarious and often conflicting shapes and sizes in both worlds leads us to ask - 'What do we say?' - 'What is our witness to our God who refuses to die, and who is beyond any tribal myth?'

Jesus said 'Peace I leave with you'. Francis said 'May the Lord give you peace'.

In this issue we offer reflections on the Christian/Franciscan witness to peace, in the hope that readers will feel supported, inspired even, in their own Christian witness to peace, corporate or individual.