

We Cannot be Silent!



We Cannot be Silent!, by Deirdre Mullan RSM and Catherine Prendergast DC, offers an opportunity to pause as we reflect and try to make sense of these times. Set in the context of a journey, *We Cannot be Silent!* invites the reader to reflect on the journey taken by the sixteen-year-old pregnant Mary to visit her cousin Elizabeth. The Visitation story provides an opportunity for the contemporary reader to gain insights into what motivated world leaders from across the globe to journey to the United Nations to develop the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and implementation progress since!

Mary McAleese, former President of Ireland and Chancellor of Trinity College Dublin, writes in her Foreword:

“After the drama of the Annunciation when the teenage Mary assents to becoming the mother of God, though not without expressing her concerns to the angel-messenger, she was undoubtedly as excited as she was terrified. She really needed someone to talk to, someone who could be trusted to listen and to reassure. So she turned to Elizabeth and both women helped each

other to contemplate and reimagine a world in which God was about to intervene more emphatically than in all of human history. The birth of the great interruptor, Jesus, was only months away and the world would never be the same. While no treaty negotiations between big powers could ever hope to match the encounter between Mary and Elizabeth, this booklet sets out to capture anew the lessons to be learnt from that epic reunion of these two humble, untitled women, whose voices still speak insistently from a place where women were silent and silenced. *We Cannot be Silent!* outlines how the Visitation can act as a catalyst for all of us who dream that another world, where all voices are heard, is possible – a world capable of becoming a fair and decent homeland for all God’s family, all those who are the work of his hands. But we are intended to be the hands of the work that will bring about a world fuelled by love, compassion, and the communal heft needed to make justice and equality real.”

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