

*“Our local church has been amazing at organising community forums that enable people to listen to each other and hear what people are concerned about where we live”.*

*“I don’t go to church at all but some of people I’ve met from the church down the road are the best listeners I’ve ever come across. I’ve always been able to say what I think without any fear of being judged”*

*“I’m really frightened by the amount of violence in our world and how our political leaders seem increasingly incapable of listening to each other, let alone the voters. There’s got to be a better way”.*



## **Mission as Listening**

*“The WORD dwelt among us....full of grace and truth” (John Ch. 1)*

*“Listen” (first word of the Rule of St. Benedict)*

*“Whoever has ears, let them hear” (Matthew 11:15)*

Pope Francis has titled his address for the 50<sup>th</sup> World Day of Peace, “Nonviolence: a Style of Politics for Peace”. At the heart of nonviolence is listening. Can we imagine a church which has a reputation for being the most compassionate, most engaged listeners in the community and which embodies the practice of peace in all aspects of life, in families, communities and workplaces?

You are invited to a free workshop/conversation to explore how churches can equip themselves for listening as a way of practical peacemaking ministry, nonviolence and reconciliation. The workshop will provide some simple resources which can be used immediately, including freely available on-line materials, as well as some creative dreaming about how to engage local communities using processes like Open Space Technology, Listening Cafes and Listening Circles.

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March 5.30pm-7pm**

**Burt Hall at St. George’s Cathedral, Perth**

**Donation to cover costs: \$10 (\$5 unwaged)**

Sponsored by Michael Wood (Coach/Facilitator and Anglican Chaplain to the University of Western Australia) and Brendan McKeague (Peace Practitioner and co-founder of ‘The Conflict Company’ and ‘Nonviolent Interfaith Leadership Program).

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