

## *First steps towards a Three Faith Forum*



Cork, like all of Ireland, is increasingly becoming a multicultural, multiracial and multireligious society. In recent months a group drawn from the Muslim and Christian faith communities in Cork have come together to explore how our various faith traditions can help foster a spirit of openness, dialogue, and inclusion within our society.

One avenue being presently explored is the possibility of establishing a Three Faiths Forum in the Munster region. The Three Faiths Forum is an initiative that brings together representatives of the three Abrahamic faiths – Judaism, Christianity and Islam – and seeks to create a space where people of faith can dialogue openly and respectfully, come to a better understanding of each other's faith and work together to enhance tolerance, co-operation and friendship in society. The Three Faiths Forum of Ireland was established in Dublin as far back as 1997, and since its inception, has met regularly every couple of months. Canon Desmond Sinnamon and Dr Siraj Zaidi of the Three Faiths Forum Ireland, based in Dublin, were kind enough to visit our group in May 2016 to share with us the benefit of their experience over the years and to accentuate the positive contribution the forum has made in enriching mutual understanding and establishing lasting friendships across our respective faith traditions.

The next meeting of the group will take place on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> July 2016, at 3.00 p.m. in the Wilton Community Centre in Cork. Anyone from the Muslim, Jewish and Christian communities who is interested in exploring how we, as people of faith, can contribute to a more inclusive, welcoming and integrated society is welcome to join us.

*Photo shows [from left] Canon Desmond Sinnamon and Dr Siraj Zaidi of the Three Faiths Forum Ireland; Sr Kathleen McGarvey, OLA; Gerry Forde, SMA Justice Desk; Sr Jo McCarthy, PBVM; Fr Sean O' Sullivan, Monkstown Parish; Mr Charles Payne, Methodist Church, Douglas; Sheikh Ihab Ahmed, Iman, Blarney Street Mosque, Cork.*

Sean O Sullivan  
Email: [sean.osullivan@corkandross.org](mailto:sean.osullivan@corkandross.org)