Soul Sisters presents:

A Conversation with Two Women who are Leaders in their Faith Communities

*The purpose of leadership is not to make the present bearable. The purpose of leadership is to make the future possible.*

Joan Chittester

Jacinta Bright & Sherene Hassan

At this time in our history, when society is polarised, when hatred and division permeates, fanned by ignorance, bigotry, fear, a lust for power and a self-righteous claim to identity; national, religious and gender—we need a new script!

When our world seems unsafe, we can cling to power because it makes us feel secure. However what we know about power is that when it is abused, it corrupts. Lord Acton, the 19th century politician, said “Absolute power corrupts absolutely”

Is there a different way of leadership? Are we in the midst of a paradigm shift? Will the greater leadership of women contribute to a more balanced, compassionate world?

What are the struggles of women in leadership and what is the hope they bring, to not only make the future possible, but to help the future flourish

**Sherene** Hassan is the Education Director of the Islamic Museum of Australia, and has been awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for service to the community through the promotion of cross-cultural understanding. Highly regarded for her commitment to ethics and building bridges between communities, Sherene serves her community and Australia tirelessly. Sherene is a friend of St Mary’s Parish, having spoken once before at a Soul Sisters’ event—Women of Faith in Australia.

**Jacinta** Bright is Pastoral Associate at St Mary’s Parish, Greensborough. Jacinta is committed to making a contribution to the emerging Church and to society, so that women and men are equally valued, where boundaries created by fear and ignorance are explored and especially in the light of our faith, where division is healed, so that God’s ongoing Creation is made whole.

**When:** October 10th 7.00pm

**Where:** St Mary’s Parish, Greensborough in the Gathering Space of the church

Sherene Hassan CV

- Islamic Council of Victoria (ICV): Executive Committee Member, 2005-2011. First female Vice-President. Also served as Secretary and Media Spokesperson.
- Muslim Coordinator, Building Bridges in Schools Program.
- Member, Advisory Committee, Speaking Across the Sectarian Divide, 2013-2014.
- Board Member and Education Director, Islamic Museum of Australia, Thornbury, Victoria, since 2011.
- Presenter, Media Training Workshops, Muslim Leadership Program, Centre for Dialogue, La Trobe University, 2008-2011.
- Chairperson, Conference Committee, Jewish Christian Muslim Association of Australia (JCMA), 2005.
- Subcommittee Member, Prime Minister’s Muslim Community Reference Group, 2005. Education Officer, Muslim Women’s Association of South Australia, 2002-2003.
- Member, Australia Day Committee (Victoria), 2011-2012. Regular Presenter, Cranlana Program, since 2008.