



## PRESENTATION AT NAZARETH HOUSE

On Friday, August 30, Fr Robert McCulloch, the Columban Procurator General from Rome, celebrated Mass at Nazareth House Ballarat, followed by his presentation in the Nazareth House Hall titled "Persecuted for their Christian faith".

Fr McCulloch explained the blasphemy laws in Pakistan and the discrimination aimed at Asia Bibby who was imprisoned for nine years on false charges of blasphemy. She was released from prison late last year but had to remain in hiding until recently as radical Pakistanis made threats against her life. She is now safe with her family although some militants have vowed to kill her wherever she is.

*"It might be hard for us to believe but there are more martyrs today than in the first centuries. They are persecuted because they speak the truth and proclaim Jesus Christ to this society"* Pope Francis.

Questions followed and discussions continued over supper.



*Carmel Kavanagh*

*Photo: Fr Robert McCulloch - Pakistan 2013*