

It is a great privilege to be a police chaplain. If you are not careful as a police chaplain, you could think the many compliments were about yourself. We deal with people who deal with the darker side of the world, the evil of the world. It is not surprising when we spend time with police, they are appreciative of something that is about seeing hope in a fallen world. It is about spending time with police and the hope of what we represent that makes meaning to their world. It is about God's hope.

The centre of it all seems to me: is giving time or presence to those we serve. I find it easy from this background to appreciate a God who spends time with me, gives me His presence in the sacrament of the Eucharist. It is a God who loves me so much that despite my brokenness, God wants to be part of my life. No longer bread or wine but truly a loving God who gives my life hope by being part of me. When I reflect on it all it is an amazing belief that God wants to be part of my life.

It brings union to myself and God, but also my Church and the world. I suppose that is why we call it communion – a union with God, His Church and the world.

Fr Paul O'Donoghue