



# ing a generation

## A LIFE DEDICATED TO RELIGION AND SPIRITUALITY

### What does the future look like for female priests of any faith?

The future for female priests looks bright and balanced. I have full faith that more women will come forward to support, provide strength and unify through this instrumental role. We are living in a world that is fast evolving and very embracing of change, which gives me great confidence that more women are rising tall to make their dreams come true.

### What different things does being a female priest bring to the world or lives of others?

As a woman our perspective is different to that of a man, and this is vital when servicing a community that includes both men and women. From experience, there have been many occasions when I have been approached for guidance, service provision and advice as I am a woman, as it's believed my understanding, outlook and approach to matters of religion, tradition and culture are more valuable. Therefore it is vital that we have equal numbers of both male and female priests available for our communities.

### Which aspect of your journey would you relive or have done differently?

I would like to have gone to university when I was a teenager. I think that would have dramatically changed

the course of my life, but in those days it was not the typical thing for women to go to university. However I have lived vicariously through daughters who continue to inspire me everyday!

### If you could change the world tomorrow, what would that change be?

I want to live in a world that gives fair and equal chances to all, regardless of their background. A world where there was mutual respect and regard for everyone, and where people are judged by their positive contribution towards society to make it safer, tolerant and peaceful.

### Today, what inspires you?

My inspiration comes from being there for people in their time of need, whether it's a celebration of a new-born child or a wedding, or a time of sadness and mourning. Being there to support, provide perspective and calm brings me spiritual peace and happiness. This is my motivation for my work; this is my peace of mind.

### You are inspirational, but which female role models inspires you most?

I'm inspired by many of which one has to be the beautiful late princess Diana. She was a very compassionate woman, always willing to help people in need whilst maintaining her stature and presence as a royal. In life we must all be willing to give without expecting to receive as this is one of life's greatest rewards, the power to bring happiness to others. Om Shanti.

Priya Mulji



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## A bad investment

THE key piece of advice a financial expert would give you about a bad investment would be to cut your losses, walk away and learn a lesson for next time.

The same perhaps hasn't applied to bad relationships because emotions are involved. Many stay in clearly broken or dysfunctional relationships because they have invested a lot of time, money and emotions, so feel they can't walk away from it. But surely that is wrong.

By staying in something that clearly isn't working, you are losing more precious time which can be used to perhaps find a happy ever after that has been lost with someone else. Some will stay in a toxic relationship because they have a fear of not finding someone else, others will be forced to stay because both have invested in a property, and others will feel they can't leave because children are involved.

If you feel a relationship is broken, the first thing to do is to have a very open, honest and frank conversation with your partner. If you feel the discussion can't happen for some reason, that is surely a big sign something is very wrong. When you can no longer communicate and tell the other person what you are truly feeling, that is usually the beginning of the end.

Many broken relationships have been salvaged by having a no-holds-barred discussion and getting everything in the open, and on the flip side there are plenty of incidents when remaining quiet has led to that final break. (So many will think of what they should have said when it's too late).

Unfortunately, men are less in touch with their feelings and more likely to bottle things up, but ladies can be just as bad. I have heard plenty of stories where women will go into denial about a bad relationship. If you have invested heavily in a relationship, it doesn't mean you are stuck with it for life. If a beautiful dream like space you created turns into a cage, it's time to open the door and walk away.

It's better to be alone and free than trapped in something that is slowly draining your inner happiness away. Just think of it this way, if you have dug yourself into a hole, the solution isn't to carry on digging. Throw away the spade and climb out of there.

There are plenty of potential partners out there who will give you the love you deserve. Sometimes you just have to open your eyes and see them. Love, live, learn and always look to the endless possibilities ahead.

I will leave you with this quote from Autumn Kohler: "A bad relationship is like standing on broken glass, if you stay you will keep hurting? If you walk away, you will hurt but eventually you will heal."

