

**Fr. O'Connor's Homily**  
**February 16, 2020**

Are you aware that each of the four Gospels describes Jesus a little bit differently? This is because each Gospel was addressed to the needs of the community for which it was written.

The purpose of St. Matthew's Gospel is to show that Jesus is the true Messiah prophesied in the Old Testament. Over and over again Matthew tells us that the words and deeds of Jesus fulfill the prophesies of the Hebrew Testament.

It is my understanding that Jesus did not intend to start a new religion, a new Church but that he is the fulfillment of the Jewish religion. But because of the rejection of Jesus it was impossible for this to happen.

I believe this means we have to have a deep respect for the Jewish religion for which Christianity sprung. Pope John Paul II describes the Jewish people as our brothers and sisters in the faith. They are deserving of our respect and prayers.

Anti-Semitism is a terrible stain on humankind. Let us pray for our older brothers and sisters and give the respect they deserve.