

THIS IS OUR FAITH!

THIS WEEK ... I BELIEVE IN GOD

QUESTIONS ...

We all love questions. Quizzes, watched on television or played at home or in pubs, are always popular. And changes in technology seem to increase their popularity - the internet, and especially Wikipedia - mean that when we wonder who was in a particular film, or what the name is of a particular capital city, we can instantly look it up and find out the answer.

But some questions are much more important than others. The investigation of a crime, or the diagnosis of an illness are much more than just matters of interest. And when bad things happen to us or to other people, we are likely to wonder why. What is it all about? Why does sickness or tragedy happen?

The most fundamental question seems to be "What is the meaning of life"? Why are we here? What will happen when we die? What is it all about?

All people search for an answer to this question. Of course, the answers may differ - but the question remains the same.

The search for meaning proves that human beings all know, deep down, that there is something more than just this world we live in. It shows that we have a built-in sense that there is a purpose to life, that the universe did not come into being at random, that

there is a mind, a purpose, a person, a creator. The search itself is the beginning of the proof that God does indeed exist.

And there are at least two other ways we can be sure that the world is created, that God does indeed exist.

What about the Universe? It is beautiful and complex. It can move us to wonder. How can we possibly believe that the universe came together at random, by chance - isn't it much more likely that there is a mind and a purpose which brought it all into being?

Next, there is the sense we have also of right and wrong. Even if we have not been taught, we know that human life is precious, that property should be protected, that and that the family should be cherished. How can this be, unless we have been made with this basic moral sense?

Christians call these proofs for the existence of God. These are "proofs", because we ask this - what is the most likely, most probably answer to the question, what is the purpose of life? That there is a creating mind, who we may call "God" - or that there is no purpose at all?

I believe
in God!

DOORWAYS TO FAITH
Sundays 4.30pm
in the Newman Room, Hanley
Wednesdays 4.30pm
In Our Lady's School, Fenton

FROM THE CATECHISM

Question: Why do people search for answers to the Question of the Meaning of Life?

Answer from the Catechism of the Catholic Church (27):

The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to himself. Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for:

The dignity of man rests above all on the fact that he is called to communion with God. This invitation to converse with God is addressed to man as soon as he comes into being. For if man exists, it is because God has created him through love, and through love continues to hold him in existence. He cannot live fully according to truth unless he freely acknowledges that love and entrusts himself to his creator. (Second Vatican Council, *Gaudium et Spes*).

CAN YOU ANSWER?

Each week we will have a tough question - we will give an answer next week

Do the theories of the Big Bang and of Evolution contradict the Catholic faith?

Come along to Doorways to Faith for the answer to this question, and many others.

NOTICES

Doorways to Faith

Sessions are held at 4.30pm on Sundays in the Newman Room, Downey Street, Hanley and at 4.30pm on Wednesdays in Our Lady's School, Watkin Street, Fenton.

Part One: The Creed

I believe in God ... Nov 4 & 7

... and in Jesus Christ Nov 11 & 14

... crucified, died and buried Nov 18 & 21

I believe in the Holy Spirit Nov 25 & 28

The Holy Catholic Church Dec 2 & 5

... resurrection of the body Dec 9 & 12

The Word of God Jan 6 and 9

YEAR OF FAITH PRAYER

Loving Father,
you have called us to pass through the door of faith into the fullness of life and have shown us that faith bears fruit in hope and love. Arouse in us a deep desire for these gifts, which the teaching of your Son bestows upon all who encounter him. Help us to understand his teaching: proclaimed by the apostles, alive in the Scriptures, active in the Church, professed in the Creed, and offered to the world anew through the Second Vatican Council and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Increase in us the love that casts out fear, that the whole Church may profess her faith confidently and joyfully. Enable us to hold open the door of faith, with its promise of salvation, for all humanity. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Blessed Dominic Barberi **pray for us**