

# THIS IS OUR FAITH!

## 2. I BELIEVE ... IN JESUS CHRIST, HIS ONLY SON, OUR LORD

### WHO IS THIS MAN?

"Who do people say that I am?" - this was a question Jesus asked his own followers. They told him that people were intrigued by him - and continue to be. Even people who do not have faith - or follow other faiths are engaged by the figure of Jesus.

But what do we know about him?

That Jesus was born, lived and died about 2,000 is as secure an historical fact as any other from the ancient world.

The 27 documents of the New Testament tell us about him. They make clear that the writers either were eye-witnesses or got their information directly from them.

We know that Jesus was a Jewish Man, and that he was as a carpenter. He was publicly active for about 3 years. He died by crucifixion about 27AD. After his death, his followers claimed he had risen from the death.

Jesus was a human being (not something fanciful like an angel or an astronaut). We know the story of his birth, and some details of his childhood. We are told about his relatives, especially his mother. He cried at the news of a friend of his. He was tortured and he bled when he died.

Jesus was a teacher. The teaching was rooted in people's daily lives, giving examples and encouragement. He simplified the complex Law and said that all that was necessary was to Love God and Love our Neighbour.

He was a leader. He gathered many followers. He chose twelve men to share

his work, and sent them out to teach too. Many women also followed him. He called them his "Church".

And he performed miracles. People were healed of sickness. Thousands of people were fed from meagre resources. Yet he told people to keep these extraordinary events to themselves, and discouraged people to follow him just because of his miracles.

And on occasions, Jesus himself answered the question of his identity. He spoke often of his closeness to 'the Father'. He did things only God can do - such as forgive sins, still the winds and sea. He even said he existed before Abraham, who lived a thousand years earlier.

Jesus also spoke of his mission, the reason why he was "sent". He explained that he was sent to die for the salvation of the world, and to draw all people into the life of God, through his Body which is given for us.

And so his followers came to see that he was both truly human and also truly God.

In the words of St John: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.* (John 1:1-3,14)

And so he is not only Jesus of Nazareth, not only a great teacher, not only a man of holiness and wisdom, but far more - Messiah, the Chosen one of God, the one who was sent into the world, King of King and Lord of Lords. The object of our Worship.

## FROM THE CATECHISM

**Question: What does it mean when it says The Word became Flesh (the Son of God became man)?**

**Answer from the Catechism of the Catholic Church:**

The Word became flesh so that thus we might know God's love: "In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him." "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

The Word became flesh to make us "partakers of the divine nature": "For this is why the Word became man, and the Son of God became the Son of man: so that man, by entering into communion with the Word and thus receiving divine sonship, might become a son of God." "For the Son of God became man so that we might become God." "The only-begotten Son of God, wanting to make us sharers in his divinity, assumed our nature, so that he, made man, might make men gods."



## A Day of Reflection

Find out more by joining others on a Diocesan day on Saturday 24th November at Cardinal Griffin High School, Cannock. 9.30am to 3.30pm

Coach leaves: Holy Trinity Newcastle 8.00am and St. Augustine's Meir 8.20am  
Cost per person £7. Please bring a packed lunch.

To book a seat on the coach and to select one afternoon workshop contact: John Macdonald 01782 388390

## CAN YOU ANSWER?

**Last Week: Do the theories of the Big Bang and of Evolution contradict the Catholic faith?**

**Answer:** No, not at all. The Church teaches that the Biblical stories of creation (there are five accounts in the Bible, each of which has a different emphasis) are not scientific accounts at all, but carry religious and spiritual meaning. In fact, the theory of the Big Bang was first proposed by a Catholic priest, and at first scientists rejected it because it was considered "religious".

**This Week:** *Are the accounts of Jesus in the Gospels accurate - or made up a long time after the events?*

*For the answer come along to "Doorways to Faith" or read this leaflet next weekend.*

## 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*



**This is Our Faith** is a weekly leaflet to accompany the Doorways to Faith groups which are meeting in the parishes of Fenton and Hanley during the Year of Faith (October 2012 to November 2013). The leaflet is produced only while the groups are meeting - so there are no leaflets during holiday periods.