

CONVERSATIONS

Explore the roots of faith, our understanding of God, good and evil, Jesus, other religions, and the relationship between faith and science in society.

2018 Program

Date	Conversation Title	Summary	Speaker
Jan 18th	Challenges for the 21 st Century	<i>What does the Christian Faith have to do with those living with the challenges of this this 21st century, for families, individuals and society generally?</i>	Michael Nazir-Ali
Feb 22nd	500 Years Since the Reformation: Justification by Faith as an Ongoing Conversation	<i>Almost exactly 500 years ago the movement known as the 'Reformation' changed Western Christendom in fundamental ways. Among the many issues arising that led to the denominational separation of the many churches, none was more central than the issue of our faith in the saving power of Christ and how it justifies us before God. From acrimony to conciliation with many, perhaps surprising, points in between; the question has been the focus of an ongoing conversation that continues to this day.</i>	Tom Herbst
Mar 15th	Way of Beauty, as a way of Handing-on the Faith?	<i>Pope Francis and Pope Benedict both referred the "via pulchritudinis" as a means of evangelization. The Way of Beauty, as it is often translated, is just one of the means by which we can communicate something of God and of our faith in Jesus Christ. It is, however, an increasingly important element in the spread of the Good News within contemporary society. This 'conversation' will look at what the Holy Fathers mean by the Way of Beauty and what impact this might have on our parishes and the local Church in Southwark.</i>	Mark Nash

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Apr 19th	What is New Monasticism? Can monasticism really be described as "new"?	<i>What has it got to do with me? isn't it just for the "super-spiritual"? Is the Catholic Worker Movement new monastic? I've heard of Dorothy Day but it's just American isn't it? Hopefully we will together explore some of the answers to these questions.</i>	Richard Loxton-Barnard
May 17th	The Apostolic Constitution <i>Anglicanorum Coetibus</i> : Has this furthered Ecumenism or Not?	<i>An introduction to the publication and significance of the Apostolic Constitution Anglicanorum Coetibus which established a structure to allow priests and people of the Anglican tradition, who wish to enter into the full communion of the Catholic Church, to do so while retaining some of their spiritual, pastoral and liturgical traditions which are in conformity with Catholic teaching. I will also discuss the significance of this as far as ecumenical relations between Catholics and other denominations are concerned.</i>	Keith Newton
June 21st	Give me strength? Exploring a theology of weakness	<i>In modern society we tend to value strength, independence and self-sufficiency. However, our faith challenges us to think differently about fragility and calls us to interdependence and community. As St Paul writes to the Corinthians, our strength is made perfect in weakness, Jesus chooses weakness to demonstrate God's love to the world both as a helpless child and in the bitter experience of the cross. How does a theology of weakness speak to us and our vulnerabilities today?</i>	Helen Hollands
July 19th	Parish Individuals' Forum:	<i>Consisting of lay speakers within our parish, having different topics of ideally 15 minutes, each followed by their 15 minutes or so of associated interactions:</i>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christianity and the Media • Bereavement, do we need to talk to others when in distress? • ?????????????? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Defending Christianity in the modern media; challenges and our response; Use of the media i.e. letters, articles, blogs, debates, discussion etc.</i> • <i>What is the Bereavement group and why do we now have one in our parish?</i> • Third: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Owen • Marie Mann • ??????????
Sep 20th	Is the Catholic Church a force for good in the world?	<i>Not so long ago, in a debate broadcast worldwide by the BBC, over 87% of the audience rejected the motion that the Catholic Church is a force for good in the world. To set the record straight, this talk will assess the extraordinary fruitfulness of the faith, noting that our university system, art, music, legal tradition, charity and even much of our science arises from Catholic civilisation and Catholic minds. It is intended to be a source of encouragement for Catholics, and indeed other Christians, of practical use for those engaged in apologetics, evangelism and teaching today, and for anyone wishing to investigate further.</i>	Marcus Holden
Oct 18th	Screwtape: Is Evil Real?	<i>References to the author C.S. Lewis, opens up the question of Evil: some may say the greatest argument for the meaninglessness of life. Is evil real or merely a product of our imagination, an illusion?</i>	Peter Geldard

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SPEAKER BIO'S

Speaker Name	Bio
Michael Nazir-Ali	<p><i>The Rt. Rev Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali is the now President of the Oxford Centre for Training, Research, Advocacy and Dialogue (OXTRAD). He was Bishop of Rochester from 1994- 2009. Before that he was the General Secretary of the Church Mission Society (CMS), having been Bishop of Raiwind in Pakistan, where he has both a Christian and a Muslim family background. From 1999, Bishop Michael was a member of the House of Lords where he was active in a number of areas of national and international concern. Between 1997 and 2003, he was a member of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority and chair of its Ethics and Law Committee and was also the chair of the Rochester Commission on woman bishops. He was also President of the Network for Interfaith Relations (NIFCON) of the Anglican Communion. He has studied, researched and taught at a number of colleges and universities, including those of Karachi, Oxford and Cambridge. He is the author of several books. The last being Faith, Freedom and the Future; Challenges for the 21st Century (2016).</i></p>
Tom Herbst	<p><i>Rev Dr. Father Tom Herbst OFM is a Franciscan friar from the west coast of the USA. He has been a senior lecturer in systematic theology, Church history, Christian spirituality, and Franciscan studies, and jack of many other trades, at the Franciscan International Study Centre in Canterbury for the past twelve years and has also been involved in a variety of pastoral work in and around Canterbury and Thanet.</i></p> <p><i>Prior to that, Tom taught theology at the Pontifical Antonianum University in Rome and at the Franciscan School of Theology in Berkeley, California. He received his D.Phil. in Theology from Oxford University and a MA and M.Div. in theology from the Graduate Theological Union at Berkeley, California.</i></p> <p><i>Before pursuing higher studies, he enjoyed a variety of pastoral ministries which included time spent as a parish priest among the Apache Indian people in the state of New Mexico, insertion in the African-American community in West Oakland, California, and ministry among the homeless in San Francisco.</i></p> <p><i>Tom also takes a keen interest in painting and creative writing.</i></p>

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Mark Nash	<i>Dr Mark Nash is the first lay Director of the diocesan Centre for Catholic Formation (Tooting Bec). He also has particular care for the ongoing formation of priests after ordination. Formerly, the formation adviser for Kent, he joined the Archdiocese of Southwark in 2014 with over seven years' experience in Westminster promoting and supporting small Christian communities. He has previously spent a considerable length of time in tertiary education completing a Ph.D. in Russian and East European Studies at the University of Birmingham in 2007. A father of four Mark lives in the parish of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Herne Bay</i>
Richard Loxton-Barnard	<i>Richard Barnard lives in a new monastic community in Dover Kent. He is the only Catholic in the community. He is also one of the founding members of the Kent Catholic Worker Movement - he is not the only Catholic there! Richard is a father, ultra-marathon runner, cyclist, spiritual director, a life and Neuro-Linguistic Program-based coach and works locally for a homelessness charity. He also follows the Benedictine Hours, having both a well-established contemplative practice of his own and helping groups and individuals develop their potential. He is also a trustee of a foodbank, a Christian outreach centre and a fitness organisation that links working-out outside with mindfulness and wellness concepts.</i>
Keith Newton	<i>Monsignor Keith Newton is the Ordinary of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham. Before reception into full Communion of the Catholic Church Monsignor Newton was an Anglican priest and then bishop for over 35 years. He served in East London, Wimbledon, Malawi and Bristol before being appointed Bishop of Richborough in 2002. He was ordained a Catholic priest in 2011 and appointed the first Ordinary of this new structure by Pope Benedict on the day of his ordination to the Catholic priesthood in January 2011. Keith is married to Gill and they have 3 grown up children and two grandchildren.</i>
Helen Hollands	<i>Rev. Helen Hollands MA is a Methodist minister currently serving in the Canterbury and East Kent Methodist Circuit and is based in Whitstable. She is moving to Ashford in September 2018 to serve both as a circuit minister and an Assistant Chair of the South-East Methodist district. As a district ecumenical officer Helen is enthusiastic about making connections between churches, breaking down barriers and encouraging creative dialogue about faith and its contemporary relevance.</i>

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	<p><i>Prior to ordained ministry Helen lectured in Law at the University of Kent and practised as a local solicitor. She has four daughters, two step-sons and is married to Roy.</i></p>
Marcus Holden	<p><i>Father Marcus Holden is a priest of the Archdiocese of Southwark. He was ordained in 2005 after six years of seminary at the Venerable English College in Rome. He became parish priest of Ramsgate and Minster in 2010 after serving as assistant priest in Balham (2005-2008) and Royal Tunbridge Wells (2008-2010). In 2012 he led the foundation of the new shrine of St Augustine at Pugin's personal church in Ramsgate. He is the theological censor for the Archdiocese of Southwark. He holds several academic degrees in theology including a Master's from Oxford University and a Licentiate from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. Among his many publications are the Evangelium Course and the Saints of the English Calendar. He is co-founder of St Anthony Communications, the Evangelium Project and the British Confraternity of Catholic Clergy and regularly works with the media on behalf of the Catholic Church and in the production of documentary films on faith and religion. Mark is a popular speaker and has recently been working for St Mary's University, Twickenham, as external examiner, and as director of the Maryvale Institute MA Apologetics pathway.</i></p>
John Owen	<p><i>John Owen is a Faversham Parishioner, lecturer and active correspondent. He gained an M.Sc (Econ) from the London School of Economics.</i></p>
Marie Mann	<p><i>Marie is a Faversham parishioner; after an early career in Architecture studied Psychology and Spirituality at St Anselm's Institute, then trained as a Spiritual Director at the Franciscan International Study Centre in Canterbury and worked for the Archdiocese of Southwark as an Adult Formation Adviser; has an MA in Leadership in Catholic Education. She returned to FISC where for the last seven years she helps train Spiritual Directors.</i></p>
Peter Geldard	<p><i>Father Peter Geldard; since 1996 he has been Catholic Chaplain, and now Dean of Chaplains, at the University of Kent at Canterbury. During that time at UKC he has influenced generations of students and received into the Catholic Church over 100 converts including many students, a previous Anglican Chaplain at the University, Professors, and a Master of a College.</i></p>

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	<i>He has spent almost half of his life in the Church of England, and the second half as a Catholic. As an Anglican, he was, for 20 years, Senior Proctor in Convocation for Canterbury Diocese and a leading member in their General Synod.</i>
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Notes:

- No “*Conversation*” evenings in August, November, December and January
- We are deeply appreciative of the support & contribution from every participant and welcome all feedback (*of whatever nature*)
- Anyone interested in becoming a speaker is requested to contact the Parish Secretary at Whitefriars

Venue and Time:

- Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Tanner Street, Faversham (parking at back of Church)
- Carmel Hall – entrances off the parking area and also off the church driveway
- Approximately 19-30hrs till 21.00hrs on the third Thursday of each designated month

Structure:

- The *Conversation* will commence by the speaker sharing their thoughts for 45 minutes followed by a refreshments’ 15-minute break then a 30-minute question and answer conversational time.
- Timings may vary slightly dependent on depth on discussion and participant inter-actions

Small donations at each event are welcomed as a contribution to running costs

Thank you,

The Organising Team.