

CATHOLIC ROOTS @ ST JOHN LLOYD

In the face of old wives' tales and a bewildering market in complementary therapies, the NHS today seeks to offer "Evidence-Based Medicine".

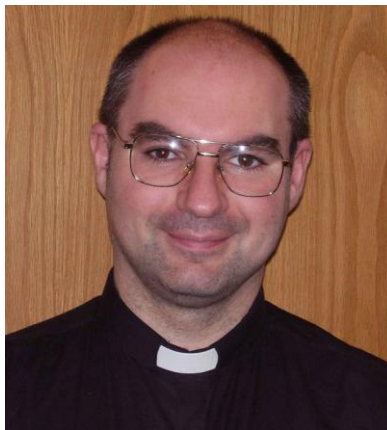
In the *Da Vinci Code* and his other recent popular novels, author Dan Brown has suggested the Catholic Church has long been hiding what it really believes.

Oxford biologist Professor Richard Dawkins campaigns vigorously against religious faith on the grounds that it is irrational and prevents young minds grasping the true workings of nature.

If you are a Catholic, how are you going to answer these charges? You might have a good idea of **what** it is that you believe, but be uncertain why.

Why do Catholics believe that Mary was assumed body-and-soul into heaven? What do we think about the Big Bang theory? (Hint: it was developed by a Belgian Catholic priest!) Is our faith irrational? How should we read the Bible?

Marking the 50th Anniversary of the Second Vatican Council and running throughout the "Year of Faith", you are invited to delve more deeply into the roots of the faith and discover, or remind yourself, **why** we believe, as Catholics, the truths which we hold dear. Our faith is not irrational, and there are good reasons to believe what we do. Academic debate can always provide reasons to *doubt*; this course does not focus on countering the Church's critics, but on providing the Church's reasons.



The main speaker for the course is Revd Dr Gareth Leyshon, who holds a PhD in Astrophysics and a first class degree in Theology.

Until recently priest-in-charge of St Dyfrig's, Pontypridd, and Associate Chaplain at the University of Glamorgan, Pastor Gareth is now Parish Priest of St John Lloyd Parish, Cardiff and leader of a project to develop talks to make the Catholic faith known to non-Catholics at the new Catholic city centre venue in Cardiff, the "Cornerstone at St David's".

Other guest contributors may make appearances in particular lectures.

This talk is offered freely by St John Lloyd Parish without any admission fee or donation basket.

St John Lloyd parish is part of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cardiff, Registered Charity 242380.

Catholic ROOTS

**Why we believe what
we believe: 10 talks
on the Catholic Faith.**



YEAR OF FAITH 2012
2013

Tuesday 16 October 2012:

We believe in a God Who Speaks

We believe that the Bible is God's Word. But what does that mean? Did God dictate it? How do we know God speaks in it? How should we approach the Bible? And how can we know Scripture better?

Tuesday 20 November 2012:

We believe in Faith and in Science

Can we believe in the Catholic Faith and trust in science? Aren't there contradictions if we try to believe in creation or miracles? Can prayer work?

Tuesday 11 December 2012:

We believe in the Virgin Mother

What do we really know about Mary? Why does the Church claim she was conceived without sin and assumed into heaven? Does it matter?

Tuesday 15 January 2013:

We believe in One Church of Christ

How does the Catholic Church see itself in relation to other denominations? How can and should we work together? Why has the Church treated other Christians in history both as dangerous heretics and as long-lost brothers and sisters?

Tuesday 19 February 2013:

We believe in One Catholic and Apostolic Church

How did Christ leave his church on earth to organise itself? Why do we make great claims for the infallible authority of the Pope? Could our church be unified without a central authority? Is the Pope always infallible?

Tuesday 19 March 2013:

We believe in a Suffering Saviour

Why do we claim that Jesus was fully God and truly human? Could God suffer – and if so, why would he? What are the implications for our prayers as individuals and as parish communities?

Tuesday 16 April 2013:

We believe in the Resurrection of the Body

Why do we believe that Jesus actually rose from the dead? What do we believe will happen to us when we die? How can we know whether a person has gone to heaven?

14 May 2013:

We believe in the Holy Spirit

Why do we believe in a Spirit distinct from the Father and the Son? Why do we celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation? How can we build a relationship with this Holy Spirit?

Tuesday 18 June 2013:

We believe in the Blessed Sacrament

Why do we claim a wafer is no longer bread, but truly the Body of Christ? Did the early Christians believe this? How has faith in the Blessed Sacrament shaped worship in the Church?

Tuesday 16 July 2013:

We believe in a God Who Heals

Jesus commissioned his disciples to preach the Good News and to heal the sick. But does God really have the power to heal? Why do so many of our prayers seem to go unanswered?

Each talk is given twice, at 1.45 pm and 7.00 p.m., at St John Lloyd Church, Glan-Y-Mor Road, Rumney, CARDIFF CF3 1RQ.

Usually the date is the Third Tuesday of the month, but it is brought forward in December and May.

If there are any last-minute alternations to arrangements, these will be posted on **www.stjohnlloyd.org.uk**

For info: **st.johnlloyd@rcadc.org**

Or telephone **(029) 2077 8631**