

Who is Jesus?

Many people question if God exists. But no credible historian doubts Jesus existed. Around the 1st century AD, Roman and Jewish writers, Tacitus and Josephus, wrote about Jesus. Jesus definitely existed.

In the gospel today, Jesus asks his disciples “who do people ... [and] who do you say I am?” The most important question that everyone must answer, religious or non-religious, is ‘who is Jesus?’ Despite popular opinion, Jesus could not merely have been a “great moral teacher.”

CS Lewis, a great Christian writer of the 20th century, put it this way: “A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic... or the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice... Now it seems to me obvious that He was neither a lunatic nor a fiend ... I have to accept the view that He was and is [who he said he was] ... the Son of God.”

Christians have a duty to help people answer the question ‘who is Jesus?’ Just before Jesus ascended to God, he told his disciples to “go, make disciples of all nations.” (Mt. 28:19) In other words, ask them the question “who is Jesus?”, and help them make a decision about him.

We are starting alpha next Sunday 22nd Sept 6-8pm in the church hall. Alpha is an 11 week series where people (both non-religious, and Catholics who want to learn how to share their faith) can explore freely (no cost, commitment, or call back) who Jesus is. It involves food and drink, a short video, and open discussion (you can say as little or as much as you like, and you can say whatever you like). Alpha is about 3 L's: Love, listening, and laughter!

We do alpha for many reasons. A big reason is because the Catholic Church is dying. It's dying because it has forgotten it's true identity: to make disciples of Jesus; to help people answer freely the question ‘who is Jesus?’ I believe

that as you parishioners commit to the parish vision to both try and invite others to try alpha, you will help transform the whole world, and the Catholic Church. You will be helping the world to answer the most important question 'who is Jesus?' You will help the church to come to life. You will help the church remember who we are and why we exist: to help all people encounter Jesus.

I'd like to invite Keira / Kenneth / Lucas to come forward to share how they encountered Jesus on alpha.

Sharing a public testimony is very nerve-wracking, and takes a lot of courage. As a sign of encouragement, please, give them a round of applause.