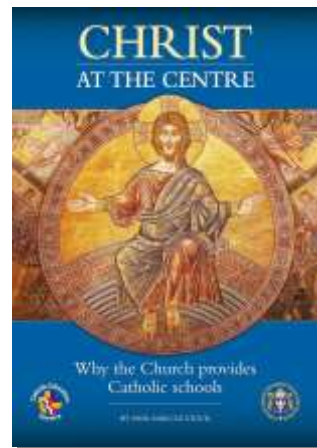









St. Peter's RC High School
 General Religious Education
 Lecture Programme
 2025/26



Number	Lecture Title	Background
1	Faith and Politics 	<p><i>‘Then Jesus said to them, ‘Give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s.’ And they were amazed at him.’ (Mark 12:17)</i></p> <p>Sir Edward Leigh has served as the Conservative Member of Parliament for Gainsborough since 1983, making him one of the longest-serving members of the House of Commons, currently holding the esteemed title of Father of the House.</p> <p>Throughout his distinguished career, he has held various significant roles, including Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Trade and Industry, and notably, Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee from 2001 to 2010. In this latter role, he was instrumental in scrutinising government spending, identifying waste, and advocating for value for money in public services, a critical oversight function vital for public accountability.</p> <p>Beyond his frontbench and committee work, Sir Edward is also a qualified barrister and has actively participated in numerous All-Party Parliamentary Groups, including those focused on relations with the Holy See and the promotion of Christianity in the Holy Land</p>

<p>2</p>	<p>Why I believe in the resurrection of Jesus</p> 	<p><i>'Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.'</i> <i>(John 11:25)</i></p> <p>Fr. Stephen Corrigan, who is an Assistant Priest at St. Peter's Presbytery. St. Peter's Church– the beautiful Catholic church right in the heart of Gloucester, with a long history of serving the community. Fr. Stephen is here today to talk about something incredibly central to the Christian faith, and something that people have debated and discussed for centuries: the Resurrection of Jesus.</p> <p>Whether you're someone who believes firmly, someone with a lot of questions, or someone who's just curious, today's talk is going to explore the various pieces of evidence that people consider when looking into the historical claims surrounding Jesus's resurrection. Fr. Stephen isn't just going to tell us what to believe; he's going to invite us to think critically and consider the arguments that have been put forward. So, get ready to engage your minds and hear a different perspective on this foundational event.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Exploring the World Faiths – Islam</p> 	<p>Being a Muslim in Gloucester and the U.K today.</p> <p>Atique Miah, Muslim pastor from the University of Gloucestershire, will discuss what it means to be a Muslim in the UK today, with a focus on our local area.</p> <p>The five pillars of Islam emphasise service, charity and reverence to God and this talk promises to be full of information and insight into one of the world's major faith traditions.</p>

<p>4</p>	<p>Exploring the World Faiths – Greek Orthodox Church</p> 	<p>Imagine Christianity as a really old tree with many branches. The Catholic Church is one huge branch, and the various Protestant churches are smaller, newer branches. The Greek Orthodox Church is another very ancient and distinct branch, deeply rooted in the earliest days of Christianity.</p> <p>The Greek Orthodox Church is one of many self-governing (autocephalous) Orthodox Churches around the world, all sharing the same faith and practices.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Exploring the World Faiths – The Baptist Church</p> 	<p><i>‘I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’</i> <i>(Mark 1:8)</i></p> <p>Baptist churches are found in almost every country in the world. As part of the world-wide Christian church, Baptists form one of the largest families of faith, alongside other trinitarian Christian traditions such as Anglicans, Methodists, Reformed, etc.</p> <p>For Baptists the concept of a family is important. The church is not so much a particular place or building, but rather a family of believers, committed to Christ, to one another and to the service of God in the world.</p> <p>Baptists are grass-roots people, with a particular emphasis on the local church. These local churches are self-governing and self-supporting, ranging in size from twenty or so members to many hundreds.</p>

<p>6</p>	<p>Exploring the World Faiths – The Church of England Church</p> 	<p>The Church of England, often referred to as the Anglican Church, emerged during the Reformation in the 16th century, distinguishing itself from the Roman Catholic Church.</p> <p>The Rt Revd Robert Springett, who is the Bishop of Tewkesbury, will be visiting us to reflect that at its heart, the Church of England upholds the Bible as the ultimate authority, alongside tradition and reason. The Church of England emphasises a balance between Catholic tradition and Protestant reformation principles.</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>Exploring the World Faiths – The Church of God (Seventh Day) International Federation</p> 	<p>Pastor Robert Crawford from the Church of God (Seventh Day) International Federation, is not only a spiritual leader but also someone deeply involved in spreading a message of faith and service around the world through his missionary work.</p> <p>Pastor Crawford, whose own children came to St Peters, will be sharing stories and experiences from his time working in different countries and cultures, bringing help and hope to communities in need. This isn't just about hearing interesting travel tales; it's about understanding how faith can inspire people to dedicate their lives to serving others, crossing geographical and cultural boundaries.</p>

8

Inter Faith Dialogue







'There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.'
(Galatians 3:28)


Gavin D'Costa is professor of Catholic theology at the University of Bristol, where he has taught since 1993. He advises the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue and in 1998 was visiting professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome.

D'Costa's publications include *Vatican II: Catholic Doctrines on Jews and Muslims* (2014), *Christianity and World Religions: Disputed Questions in the Theology of Religions* (2009), *The Meeting of Religions and the Trinity* (2000), and *Theology and Religious Pluralism* (1986).

Born in Kenya, he came to England in 1968 and completed a first degree in English and theology at Birmingham University. He studied at the University of Cambridge for his doctorate on John Hick's theology of religions and then taught in London.

<p>9</p>	<p>The Emmaus Charity</p> 	<p><i>'I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.'</i> <i>(Matthew 25:35)</i></p> <p>Emmaus Gloucestershire is a charity dedicated to helping people who have experienced homelessness</p> <p>We will gain insight into their unique approach to tackling homelessness, understanding not just what they do but also why they do it, driven by a profound belief in restoring dignity and offering second chances.</p> <p>Their work beautifully exemplifies the spirit of service to others, as they empower individuals to rebuild their lives, contribute actively to their community, and move towards a more stable future.</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>The Principal's Lecture – What is God calling you to be?</p> 	<p><i>'For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.'</i> <i>(Jeremiah 29:11)</i></p> <p>The late Pope Francis released a message for Vocations Sunday in which he focussed on the theme: "Called to sow seeds of hope and to build peace". In his message, Pope Francis called on everyone to: "Let Jesus draw you to himself; bring him your important questions; let him challenge you by his presence; More than anyone else, Jesus respects our freedom."</p> <p>Our Principal, Kevin McDermott, speaks on vocation, and God having a role planned for us all.</p>

<p>11</p>	<p>The Family Haven</p> 	<p><i>'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did it for me.'</i> (Matthew 25:40)</p> <p>The Family Haven is a charity based in Gloucester that provides vital support to vulnerable families, particularly those with pre-school children. Think of it as a day centre designed to help families facing tough times, such as homelessness, unsuitable living conditions, mental health challenges, or the effects of poverty.</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>The Sisters of St Joseph of Annecy at Llantarnam Abbey</p> 	<p><i>'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'</i> (Matthew 22:39)</p> <p>Sr Marie de Montfort and her fellow Sisters of St Joseph of Annecy, are based at the historic Llantarnam Abbey. In their talk, they will offer a unique insight into their lives and mission.</p> <p>The Sisters of St Joseph of Annecy are as a religious order within the Catholic Church, who will share their founding principles and their historical roots. Furthermore, they will delve into the practical aspects of what they do, discussing the various ministries and works of charity they are involved in, both locally and potentially globally. Most importantly, they will share the 'why' behind their vocations, explaining the spiritual motivation and call to service that drives their daily lives and commitments.</p>

<p>13</p>	<p>Ordo Sancti Benedicti</p> 	<p><i>'As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.'</i> <i>(Matthew 10:7)</i></p> <p>Br. Gregory is a Benedictine monk who lives at Prinknash Abbey, a beautiful monastery nestled in the Gloucestershire countryside. For nearly a thousand years, this land has been associated with Benedictine monks, a community dedicated to a life of prayer and work, following the ancient Rule of Saint Benedict. They are known for their quiet contemplation and also for their practical work, even producing things like incense!</p> <p>Monastic life, like the one Br. Gregory lives, might seem a bit removed from our everyday world, but it actually connects deeply with Catholic Social Teaching. This isn't just about charity; it's a huge part of what the Catholic Church believes about building a just and compassionate society. Principles like the dignity of every human person, caring for creation, and working for the common good.</p>
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