

New Start 2010

A robust Christian faith: standing up to challenges

March 1st

Is the Pope Catholic?

Snippets from history (which resonate with our current situation)

1. Synod of Whitby
 - There was a church in England before Augustine (597 AD)
 - The first golden age of the English church, sending missionaries throughout Europe
2. Bad popes in the 9th century
 - Respect for the office, but not for teaching nor morals
3. The Investiture Controversy: who chooses and installs bishops?
 - Called to be more than national churches, and less than 1 spiritual Roman hierarchy
4. Schism with the Eastern Orthodox churches
 - Culture divides; theology later confirms the division
 - Churches beyond the east
5. Reformation
 - Protestant churches require direct access to scriptures, sacraments, God
 - Roman church maintains itself as the mediator (saints, sacraments, teaching)
 - The role of the Church as guide, or as necessary to salvation
 - The Counter Reformation
6. One religion, one territory
 - The start of tolerance as a key national virtue (14th Century Spain, 16th century England)
 - A different approach in national self-understanding held today in Russia, America
 - Loss of Papal States leads to Vatican 1: infallibility of Papal teaching; centralizing more

In what ways are Romans catholic?

- The seat of Peter; the keys of the Kingdom
- Worldwide Roman obedience
- The tighter the discipline the less they are catholic

In what ways is the Church of England catholic?

- Serve the nation without deifying the state
- All Christian tradition is ours (but not exclusively)
- How this influences a style of being Christian

March 8th

Is every life sacred?

As we discuss this, please be aware of profoundly held views rooted in deep emotions – and respect the passion and vulnerability of yourself and others as we discuss this.

March 15th

Do women belong in the kitchen?

A ridiculous question yet, 2 clergymen recently said: “women should remain silent if questions could be legitimately answered by their husbands” and “high divorce rate can be blamed on women no longer submitting to their husbands”.

March 22nd

Beyond sex: permanent, faithful, stable

‘Permanent, faithful stable’: is that a good starting point for describing what is good about any relationship? What other words might you want to use to guide those who are single or elderly or?

March 29th

The Passover Seder Meal

A Passover meal, drawing on our Jewish heritage, marking the Passover, and designed to help us prepare for Holy Week and Easter