# The Big Questions of 2020

Do you know someone for whom the events of 2020 have raised questions?

Perhaps there is someone in your family who is starting to consider changes in their life choices. Maybe furlough or redundancy is making them re-think their priorities.

If so these three new videos may help with these questions and provide a space in which to pause and reflect. Dealing with questions about *Relationships, Belonging, Faith and Church, the Environment and Black Lives Matter,* they may be useful for anyone wondering if Catholic Christianity might be an option for them and lead to further 'enquiry', perhaps with a small group of parishioners willing to accompany them at this time.

Each video stands alone – just one may be appropriate or indeed, all three, and they can be shown in any order.

The following two quotations overleaf were a starting point for this resource and capture the essence of what we feel are some of the Big Questions of 2020.

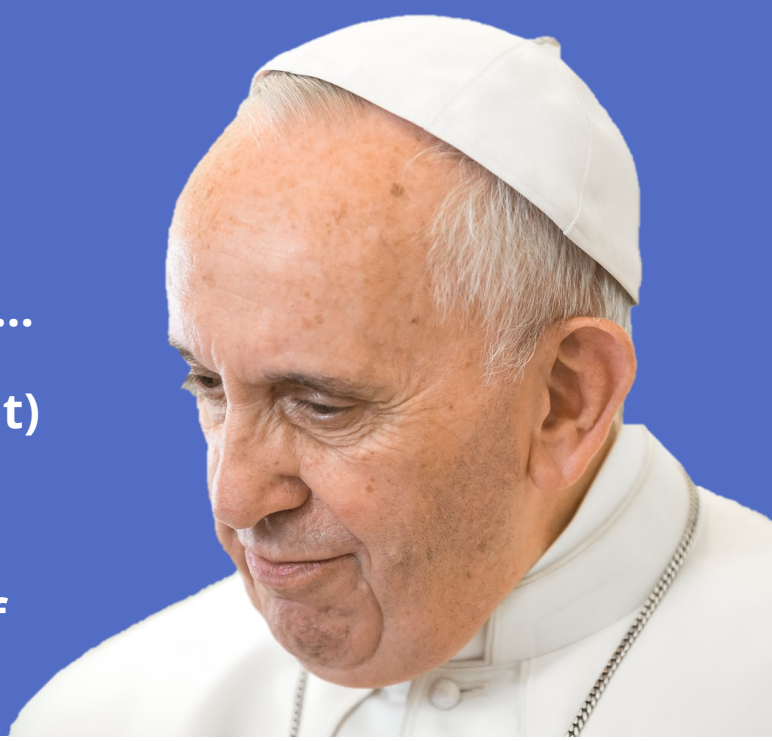
Archdiocese of Liverpool

Dominic is in his late 20s and lives with his partner and two children. Asked to share his lockdown experience he offered this reflection:

**“It has helped me see the goodness of the people in my community. I have seen neighbours offering help to those who need it and coming together using technology to keep each other informed and safe. The biggest learning, I have taken from the whole experience is how much I adore belonging to a great family. The past few months has opened my eyes to what life should be like. I have always been focused on working and trying to provide the best that I can, that I’ve forgotten to enjoy time with my family properly. Over the last few months, I have spent every hour of every day laughing and loving life, watching my children grow up and having fun with them. Now that things are going back to normal, I am focused on changing my life so that I can spend more time with the people I love and not spending my time thinking and worrying about work. I am grateful for this time I have been given with my family but hugely saddened by the many lives lost and ruined.”**

Throughout 2020 Pope Francis has continued to inspire with his encouraging but challenging comments on the state of our world today as in this recent plea for change.

**"The pandemic has exposed the plight of the poor and the great inequality that reigns in the world. And the virus, while it does not distinguish between people, has found, in its devastating path, great inequalities and discrimination… It is essential to find a cure for this small but terrible virus, (but) … we must also cure a larger virus, that of social injustice, inequality of opportunity, marginalisation, and the lack of protection for the weakest…"**



The Big Questions videos can be accessed at www.liverpoolcatholicresources.com/rcia.

A suggested process for using the videos via Zoom is included overleaf.

Please note – these sessions are not suitable for a first meeting with enquirers – some preparatory introduction between the leader and each participant is recommended to find out at least part of the enquirer's story and interests. This may be in person, by social distance, or by telephone.

Please also note the guidelines in Setting up and running online Sacramental Preparation Sessions.

# Suggested process for The Big Questions of 2020 using Zoom

The parish/pastoral area RCIA team lead this 75 minute session.

**For 10 – 15 minutes**
If the total group size is larger than 6 people, the leader welcomes everyone. Once all are gathered on screen, explain that they will be sent to a small group for 10 minutes to introduce themselves. A member of the parish team should be in each small group.

If 6 or less, then the leader invites everyone to introduce themselves saying name and where they live and ONE other fact about themselves.

**For 5 minutes**
After this a member of the parish team leads a short and simple prayer.

**For 20 minutes**
The Big Questions Recording (MP4) is played and pauses at the reflection questions allowing time for people to reflect alone about these.

**For 20 minutes**
People are invited, either in their smaller groups, or together to share their responses to the video and perhaps talk about one of the questions in particular (this should be at the leader's discretion depending on the range of people's experience).

**For 5 minutes**
Final comments and thoughts are offered, and the session closes with a simple prayer led by one of the RCIA team.