



**Image of the day -  
The Chapel of the King's College, Cambridge**

## Reports

### **Bishop Monahan offers blessing to Bishop Kearon and Bishop Rooke on their retirement**

**Bishop Fintan Monahan responded to the announcement of the retirement of the Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe, the Rt Rev Dr Kenneth Kearon, and of the Bishop of Tuam, Killala and Achonry, the Rt Rev Patrick Rooke, who have both announced their intention to retire on 31 October next.**

Bishop Monaghan said, “I offer every blessing to both Bishops Kenneth and Patrick on their retirement. I have always enjoyed meeting Bishop Kenneth on the various functions and ecumenical occasions together between our dioceses. Bishop Kenneth has made a huge contribution to the work of ecumenical dialogue nationally and in pastoral development in the mid-west region since being elected bishop in 2014.

I also had the pleasure of meeting Bishop Patrick on a number of occasions in Tuam down through the years and congratulate him on his good work there also. I wish them both a happy and peaceful retirement and may God continue to bless them and their families in every way. I also offer a blessing on the process of amalgamation of the groups of dioceses and the election of a successor in the new year.”



## Intention to retire

The Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe, the Rt Rev Dr Kenneth Kearon and the Bishop of Tuam, Killala and Achonry, the Rt Rev Patrick Rooke have both announced their intention to retire on 31st October. Ordained by the Bishop of Connor in 1978, Bishop Rooke served curacies in Mossley Parish, Newtownabbey and in Ballywillan Parish, Portrush. His first incumbency was in Craigs Group of parishes before transferring to the Diocese of Armagh for six years as Rector of Ballymore, Tandragee. He returned to the Diocese of Connor in 1994 and the Parish of Agherton, Portstewart before being appointed Dean of Armagh in 2006. Five years later he moved to the West on his appointment as Bishop of Tuam, Killala and Achonry.

Bishop Kearon was ordained in 1981 and served his curacy in the Parish of All Saints' Raheny and St John's Coolock in Dublin. He was Dean of Residence at Trinity College, Dublin from 1984 to 1991 when he became Rector of Tullow in Dublin. He was appointed Director of the Irish School of Ecumenics in 1999 and Secretary General of the Anglican Communion in 2005, and was elected Bishop of Limerick



**Bishops Rooke and Kearon**

and Killaloe in 2014. With the agreement of the two united dioceses, in 2019 the General Synod voted to amalgamate them under the oversight of one bishop upon the next episcopal vacancy. With both bishops retiring at the same time, a new bishop will be elected, probably early in the new year.

## **Welby apologises for bishop's 'never trust a Tory' comment**

**The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has admitted his “deep embarrassment” for the “absolutely unacceptable” behaviour of a bishop who told her congregants to “never trust a Tory”.**

Dr Joanna Penberthy apologised and subsequently deleted the message posted on Twitter

In a letter to the Government, the Archbishop said he was “truly sorry” for the behaviour of Rt Rev Dr Joanna Penberthy, the Bishop of St Davids. He said it was “intolerable” to “be trolled in this way”.

The letter, seen by The Daily Telegraph, will heap further pressure on the bishop to quit. Her comments were also condemned by the senior bishop in Wales who expressed regret for the “hurt it caused”.

Dr Penberthy had posted on Twitter, in March, “never, never, never trust a Tory” in response to another Twitter user who had alleged that the Conservatives were planning to abolish



## Dr Penberthy

the Senedd. The posting came to wider public attention earlier this month, prompting the bishop to delete her account and issue a humiliating apology, admitting that it was not the policy of the Conservative Party to close down the Senedd.

She said she “of course, trust and have trusted Conservatives” and said there were “many honourable people” in the party, but one Tory MP branded her “disgracefully divisive” and “not fit to be a bishop”.

Simon Hart, the Welsh Secretary, subsequently wrote to the Archbishop of Canterbury on June 8, raising the Government’s concerns over Dr Penberthy’s politically motivated messaging.

In his response sent on Thursday, the Archbishop told the Cabinet minister he was adding his apology to those already given by the Bishop of Bangor and the Archbishop of York.

Archbishop Welby went on: “I... am deeply embarrassed by the use of such language by a church leader. It is absolutely unacceptable, and I am truly sorry. I am especially sympathetic because I am very well aware of what it is to be trolled in this way (including by people of all shades of political opinion). It is intolerable, and I am determined to work with my sisters and brothers to find better ways to express disagreement.”

He said reconciliation was a key theme of his ministry and that meant people from different backgrounds and beliefs need not also agree with each other, but needed to learn how to “disagree well”.

The Bishop of Bangor, the Rt Rev Andy John, in his reply to the Secretary of State, said: “The Bishop of St Davids has apologised for the hurt she has caused as a result of her posts on Twitter and the Church in Wales has welcomed her statement. I add my apology on behalf of the Church in Wales; I regret the intemperate language that she used and the hurt it caused.”

He said he believed the bishop’s apology was ‘sincere’ and that she had expressed a desire to improve “the way in which her ministry operates in the public domain”. He added it was clear that there was no distinction for senior clergy between “personal and public statements” and that bishops furthermore needed advice and help in using social media.

Dr Penberthy, a mother of four and a grandmother, is the 129th bishop of St Davids and was the first female bishop appointed by the Church of Wales.

## **People seeking help with grief during pandemic ‘struggled to access support’**

**The majority of people seeking help with their grief have struggled to access bereavement services during the coronavirus pandemic, early research suggests.**

Many people struggling after a bereavement faced long waiting lists for support or were told they were not eligible, according to a study by Cardiff University’s Marie Curie Palliative Care Research Centre and the University of Bristol.

Others reported discomfort asking for help and were unsure how to access services, researchers found.

The survey, of 711 adults bereaved between March and December 2020, is believed to be the first to highlight the experiences of those trying to get support after the death of a loved one during the pandemic.

It is published as a pre-print on the MedRxiv website and funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) as part of UK Research and Innovation’s rapid response to Covid-19.

The survey found that the pandemic has had a major impact on quality of support and has “disrupted collective mourning practices”, which has increased people’s feelings of isolation.



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Most participants had not tried to access support, but more than half (56%) of those who did experienced difficulties.

More than half (51%) of those surveyed were assessed as experiencing high or severe vulnerability.

But almost three quarters (74%) of this group said they were not accessing formal bereavement or mental health support.

And four in 10 respondents (39%) reported difficulties in getting support from friends and family.

The authors are calling for information on grief and bereavement services to be proactively provided after a death, and for GPs to be better resourced so they can signpost people to such support.

They also want to see more help to combat isolation, including flexible support bubbles for the recently bereaved if restrictions on social contact are in place.

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**There wasn't the physical presence of people, which has delayed my grief. It's been a year now and I feel stuck**

**Sarah Candlish, who lost loved ones during the pandemic**

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It comes as plans for a UK Commission on Bereavement were announced last week.



The independent commission, made up of 15 commissioners and supported by charities including Marie Curie, will explore issues faced by people bereaved during the pandemic and make recommendations on how better to support them.

Its chairwoman, the Bishop of London Dame Sarah Mullally, said: “To have to choose a very small number of people to be present at a loved one’s funeral, not to be able to hug and to hold one another, to be unable to gather with a large group of family and friends in someone’s home or a restaurant or pub afterwards is another series of losses, heaped on top of the raw grief.

“In some cases this has included the additional trauma of having been physically separated from the person we love as they have died.

“In the wake of so much loss, we now risk a post-pandemic bereavement crisis.”

Dr Emily Harrop, from the Marie Curie Palliative Care Research Centre based at Cardiff University, said: “It is incredibly upsetting to know that even when people did reach out to access support they desperately needed, they still faced difficulties such as long waiting lists or being told they are ineligible.

“We really need politicians and policy-makers to take a thorough look at how we can make changes to support people both before and after a death in the future.

“The survey results show that many people faced significant challenges in dealing with bereavement during the pandemic and highlights that more awareness of support options, information on grief and bereavement services should be provided proactively following a death and made available online and in the community.”

Dr Lucy Selman, from the Palliative and End of Life Care Research Group and the Centre for Academic Primary Care at the University of Bristol, said: “The pandemic is going to impact on millions of people’s grief for many years to come. It is imperative we ensure that bereaved people receive the correct support for their needs to prevent prolonged grief disorder and other problems.” Report courtesy of Press Association.

## **Christian Aid appoints new International Programmes Director**

**Christian Aid has appointed a new director to lead its International Department. Ojobo Ode Atuluku will be joining the international development charity as International Programmes Director on 25th July.**

Ms Atuluku has thirty years' experience spanning the public sector, private sector and within civil society. She is a social development and democratic governance specialist with wide experience in human rights, women and children rights, humanitarian issues such as conflicts and emergencies, gender, basic education, HIV/AIDS and rural livelihoods issues.



In 2015, she became Country Director for ActionAid Nigeria before moving to her current role of Head of Country Support (Regional Director) Africa for the same organisation.

Ms Atuluku will be based in Abuja, Nigeria, and will be the first Christian Aid director to be based outside the UK.

Ojobo Ade Atuluku said: "I feel honoured and excited, not only

because I am joining Christian Aid as the Director of International Programmes, but also that I am joining a global group of committed and passionate people who believe, like me, that extreme poverty can be eradicated.

"These are unprecedented times and the gains against poverty and injustice have witnessed some erosion in the past year because of the impact of Covid-19. However, the pillars of poverty, power and prophetic voice remain relevant as we try to interpret, understand and act to contribute to the change that is inevitable if we are to avoid self-destruction as a human race."

Amanda Khozi Mukwashi, the CEO of Christian Aid, said: "I am delighted that we have appointed Ojobo Ode Atuluku who has extensive and relevant experience in the sector. She brings a huge amount of expertise to the leadership team and I know she will be a great asset."

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"Ojobo's appointment strengthens our vision of being one Christian Aid with a truly global strategy and a prophetic voice to expose and rid the world of extreme poverty."

Ms Atuluku is a Solicitor and Advocate of the Supreme Court of Nigeria; a member of the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA); a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Mediators and Conciliators; Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria; and the Financial Secretary in the Board of the Body of Fellows of the Institute of Strategic Management of Nigeria.

## People and places

### Revd Mark Harvey installed as Canon

Revd Canon Mark Harvey (Rector of Shankill Parish Lurgan) has joined the Chapter of Dromore Cathedral as Prebendary of Dromara.

The new canon was installed by the Dean of Dromore, The Very Revd Geoff Wilson, on Friday evening 18 June. Revd Simon Genoe, Rector of Magheralin and a young parishioner of Mark's when he was rector in Monaghan, gave the address.

Dean Geoff Wilson welcomed Mark to the Cathedral Chapter saying:

"Mark brings many qualities to his new role as a Canon of Dromore Cathedral, not least his ability as a leader and his depth of character. I very much look forward to sharing in





ministry with Mark and seeing the witness and mission of the Cathedral broaden and deepen in the years to come with Mark as part of the Chapter here.”

At the close of the service Mark said again what an honour it was to have joined Dromore Cathedral Chapter. He continued:

“The challenge for our parishes and diocese at this time is the greatest we have faced for many generations. The pandemic has changed so many things, not least people’s engagement with church, and has caused a re-evaluation of the place of faith in our personal and corporate lives. We need to support and encourage one another as never before, and it’s my prayer that the chapter in Dromore can be an example in building up the body of Christ.”

Since ordination in 1993, Mark has served in St. Columba’s, Portadown as Curate Assistant, as incumbent of the Monaghan Group of Parishes (1996–2001) and St Mary’s Ballybeen (2005–17) and on the staff of CMS Ireland (2001–05). He became rector of Shankill in June 2017.

Before moving to Dromore Diocese Mark was a canon of Down Cathedral (2015) and served as Clerical Honorary Secretary of Down. He is married to Joanne, and they have a daughter, Lydia. Prior to ordination, he worked as a primary school teacher in Bangor.

## **Membership of the Methodist Church's New Governance Board**

Conference 2021 saw the announcement of members to the new Governance Board for the Methodist Church in Ireland who are as follows;

Chair - Mr Tony O'Connor; President - Rev Dr Sahr Yambasu; President designate - Rev David Nixon; Ex-President - Rev Dr T R McKnight; Lay Leader - Mrs Hazel Loney; General Secretary - Rev Dr Heather Morris; Chair of Standing Committee of Statutory Trustees - Mr Thomas H Millar MBE

Elected members - Rev Harold Agnew; Mr David Best, Rev David Campton, Mr John Clarke, Mr Paul Cummings, Mrs Laura Griffiths, Rev Andrew Irvine, Mrs Gillian Kingston

**“Leading us toward structure that better supports mission today”**

The Working Group on Governance Reform was set up in 2018 to examine the national-level governance structures of the Church. In December 2020, General Committee, acting as Conference 2020, voted to accept the report and recommendations of the Working Group. These

recommendations came before Conference 2021 and were approved. Conference members were hence asked to vote on members to the new governance board from the list of nominees which was circulated in advance of Conference proceedings.

## **Change of route for Kevin's marathon walk for Macmillan**

A marathon walk by the Rev Canon Kevin Graham and his sons Jamie and Luke is going to look a little different, but will still bring in thousands of pounds for Macmillan Cancer Support.

And the change of plan means the family has something very special to look forward to on the day, because at the half-way point, Kevin and his wife Cheryl will be renewing their wedding vows.

Due to ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, Macmillan Cancer Support has had to cancel the 'Mighty Hike' which was due to take place along the north coast on June 26.

Kevin, rector of St Bartholomew's, Stranmillis, was inspired to sign up for the marathon hike after Cheryl received a terminal cancer diagnosis last November, and Jamie and Luke agreed to undertake the challenge with their dad.

Although Macmillan has had to cancel the official walk, the charity has approved the Graham family's independent marathon walk in lieu of the 'Mighty Hike.'

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“We will complete a marathon hike on June 26, walking from St Bartholomew’s, Stranmillis, to St Colman’s, Kilroot, in Carrickfergus, a distance of 13.1 miles – a half marathon,” Kevin said.

“Cheryl and I will renew our wedding vows, with Bishop George officiating, in St Colman’s, before Team Graham returns to Stranmillis, completing a marathon hike (26.2 miles). All monies raised will go to Macmillan Cancer Support as before.”

To date, the Graham family has raised more than £6,300 – and anyone wishing to sponsor Kevin, Jamie and Luke can do so via JustGiving.

[[] <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/grahamfamily2021>  
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## **Ballynure churches come together for prayer walks**

Regular prayer walks are now taking place in Ballynure involving all three churches in the village – Presbyterian, Church of Ireland and Methodist.

Around 25 people gathered on Wednesday June 16 to pray, maintaining social distancing throughout.

The rector of Ballynure and Ballyeston Parish, the Rev Jonny Campbell-Smyth, said: “We walked to various locations and prayed God’s blessing and guidance over different aspects of our village – the churches, the primary



school, shops and businesses, the village park, and our neighbourhoods.”

Jonny and the other church leaders led the group to each prayer point, encouraging people to never stop praying. “It truly makes a difference to our towns and villages,” Jonny said.

“The plan is to meet every fortnight, forging relationships and unity as God works through the three church communities,” he added.

### **Pope Francis: Don't forget that Jesus is praying for you — right now and always.**

Jesus not only wants us to pray as He prays, but assures us that we can always count on His prayer. We must be aware of this: Jesus prays for me.

## **Books, Broadcasts, Resources and Webinars**

### **New Release from Keith & Kristyn Getty**

How can we express the wonders of the love of God? This classic hymn by George Matheson focuses on how God's love reaches us in the most difficult seasons of life. When our souls are weary, Christ gently gives us rest and never lets us go. When we walk through darkness, God lightens our path with the sunshine of his presence. Even in the midst of deepest pain, he ministers his promises to us, so that we might “trace the rainbow through the rain.” This is a love so strong, so sure, so beyond anything we could ever



imagine or deserve, that all we can do in response is to devote ourselves fully to him.

Sing along with Keith & Kristyn Getty and guest artist Dana Masters in this new arrangement of a song beloved through the generations—the first in an upcoming series reimagining timeless hymns for the 21st century.

[[] [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vt1Us8Ryt\\_s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vt1Us8Ryt_s) ]

## **International team prepare for Lambeth Bishops' Conversations**

An international team of facilitators held a preparatory session last week to prepare for pre-Lambeth Conference Bishops' Conversations - which start in July.

"We are a family, not all of the members of which we have yet met. And so I think for me, that the hope is that [through

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online Bishops' Conversations] ... we might look each other in the eyes and hear each other's stories."

In the next part in the film series about Bishops' Conversations, Bishop Emma Ineson discusses with the Archbishop of Canterbury about the chance the conversations provide to meet fellow bishops as a global family - ahead of the full event in 2022. (Conversation starts from around 56 seconds).

To watch more in the series visit:

<http://bit.ly/BishopsConversationsFilms>

## **Emerging Christian leaders course applications open**

The Public Leader is a 10-month course which has been developed and delivered by the Evangelical Alliance to equip emerging Christian leaders to make a significant impact in every area of UK public life.

Delivered for the third year in Northern Ireland and beginning in autumn 2021, EA seek to help each of our participants grow into their unique roles of leadership as they follow Jesus wherever they are called. The course consists of two residencies and monthly gatherings to learn and eat together!

Find out more here or spread the word -

[[] <https://www.eauk.org/what-we-do/initiatives/public-leadership/public-leadership-course?>]

## Summer Issue of Search

The larger than usual summer issue of the Church of Ireland journal, *Search*, edited by Canon Ginnie Kennerley, is largely devoted to the proceedings of the Search Colloquium which was held last April.

Obligated by the pandemic to conduct this year's Colloquium online, the organizers were able to draw in contributors from three continents to ponder how we can serve the world in interreligious solidarity, as per the World Council of Churches' document of the same name. The Colloquium was titled, 'Who is my Neighbour?', the parable of the Good Samaritan being key to the WCC's text.

A group of powerful and appropriate keynote speakers was assembled and introduced by the Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Revd John McDowell. The Revd Dr Peniel J R Rajkumar, the WCC's Coordinator for Interreligious Dialogue and Cooperation, introduced the first session with a rundown on the thinking of his team, which included key personnel of the World Council of Churches and the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. Dr David Ford, Cambridge's Regius Professor of Divinity Emeritus, led the 'Wider Vision' session, reflecting on the rise of Scriptural Reasoning and its contribution to mutual respect, understanding between members of world faiths. Brother Jean-Marie of the Taizé Community led the session 'Response to the Challenge', drawing from the experience of Taizé brothers working in deprived areas around the world.



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These speakers were supported by contributors which included Professor Esther Mombo from Kenya, Canon Delene Mark from South Africa, and Brother John Martin from India, as well as Irish academics and members of world faiths and members of Irish missionary organisations.

The Archbishop of Dublin, Dr Michael Jackson, led the final session, drawing together the thinking and challenges of the day.

The material has been arranged in four sections as delivered and discussed on the day, rather than as a series of academic papers, to give a flavour of the Colloquium.

The proceedings of the Colloquium are complemented by a 'Liturgica' contribution on the use of hymns by the Revd Dr Ian Mills, former Organist and Master of the Choristers in Derry cathedral and now a vicar in the Diocese of Bath & Wells, and by a short selection of book reviews by Professor Ann Loades, the Very Revd David Godfrey, the Revd Darren McCallig, Dr Raymond Refaüssé, the Revd Chris West and George Woodman.

Subscription details at

[ [www.searchjournal.ireland.anglican.org](http://www.searchjournal.ireland.anglican.org) ]

Courtesy C of I Correspondent, Irish Times.

## **Message of hope for people in nursing homes**

Dublin and Glendalough Council for Mission has put together a short 'Message of Hope' video to share with those in nursing homes and care settings. Please feel free to use this Message of Hope in group or personal settings.

Link at -

[churchnewsireland@gmail.org](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.org)

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[[] <https://dublin.anglican.org/news/2021/06/15/watch-message-of-hope-for> ]

## **Clogher online fellowship evening**

Tuesday 22nd June – Online Fellowship Evening hosted by Fivemiletown Parish at 8.15pm with speaker, Val Gibson. To request the zoom link, contact [ [fivemiletownparish2@gmail.com](mailto:fivemiletownparish2@gmail.com) ]

## **Media review**

### **BBC**

Coverage of judgment in appeal over an Irish language inscription on a gravestone in the Diocese of Coventry.  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-coventry-warwickshire-57516612>

### **Church Times**

Report following the decision to hold the July sitting of C of E General Synod remotely.  
<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2021/18-june/news/uk/general-synod-to-meet-remotely-in-july>

### **Guardian**

Photographic story to mark Refugee Week, featuring the Bishop of Croydon, Jonathan Clark.  
<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/gallery/2021/jun/14/no-human-survives-alone-misan-harrimans-portraits-for-refugee-week-in-pictures>

### **Church Times**

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Coverage of comments by the Archbishop of York in webinar on the vision and strategy for the Church of England in the 2020s entitled 'A church that is younger and more diverse'  
<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2021/18-june/news/uk/treasure-inter-generational-friendships-webinar-on-youth-and-diversity-is-told>

ITN

Coverage of a cycle relay visiting all of England's 42 cathedrals.  
<https://www.itv.com/news/meridian/2021-06-16/why-are-cyclists-riding-2000-miles-taking-in-some-of-the-souths-cathedrals>



## Pointers for prayer

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,  
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:  
Increase and multiply upon us your mercy;  
that with you as our ruler and guide,  
we may so pass through things temporal  
that we finally lose not the things eternal:

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Grant this, heavenly Father,  
for Jesus Christ's sake, our Lord. Amen

That you would drive out the shadows of doubt that paralyze our growth in Christ as a congregation, we pray. Prosper your reign and rule among us.  
Amen.

That those being instructed in the Word of God and the Christian life may not be discouraged or turned away by difficulties, we pray. Prosper your reign and rule among us.  
Amen.

That all who pursue peace and justice in our community may not grow faint of heart, we pray. Prosper your reign and rule among us.  
Amen.

That those who practice the healing arts in our hospitals, clinics, private offices or homes, may be strengthened in mind and body, we pray. Prosper your reign and rule among us.  
Amen.

That those who grieve may not be isolated despair and loneliness, but may be daily undergirded by our prayerful support, we pray. Prosper your reign and rule among us.  
Amen.

Take from us the selfishness that thinks only of ourselves and forgets the distress of those nearby. Let your Spirit dwell in us fully and awaken our love, dear God. Prosper your reign and rule among us.



Amen.

O God, grant us the wisdom to observe your workings  
among us  
and cherish the same with humility and praise.  
Amen.

## Speaking to the Soul

**“My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the Lord. “And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.”**

Isaiah 55:8-9 NLT

Life is full of mysteries. Every day tragedies occur and people scream out to God that life is not fair. As we reach out to others in their times of loss we would love to be able to offer an explanation, but we cannot. The problem of suffering has challenged humankind since the dawn of time and will continue to do so. But the mysteries of life are not only at that end of the spectrum, because the wonders of life are just as mysterious. How can you explain the beauty of a flower, or the wonder of a sunset, or the majesty of the night sky? All these things are beyond our ability to understand. However, we worship a God whose understanding is infinite and whose love knows no limits.

How should we respond to the knowledge that God is infinitely greater and wiser than we are? It would be easy to be overwhelmed by this. But a far better response would be

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to turn to God in worship and adoration, with the knowledge that in this life we will never have the ability to understand everything. To use the language of the apostle Paul, at the moment “we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity.” (1 Corinthians 13.12)

God doesn't want us to trudge through our lives burdened by all that we do not understand. He wants us to expand our understanding but always with the humility that acknowledges that he is infinitely beyond us. His desire is that we should live at peace with him and ourselves and with the confidence of knowing that, at the right time, we will be given the understanding that we need. In the meantime, we need to focus our energies on worshipping him.

## QUESTION

How do you respond to the fact that God is infinitely wise?

## PRAYER

Great God of wonders, I worship you. Thank you for this awe-inspiring world that you have created. Help me to worship you with the whole of my life. Amen

