

THE THING

Here is a random list of the kind of questions that are important and demanding, and which, I feel, one ought to try to answer. University is the time to think about them - indeed, it may be the last time you have to think about them!

1. **A Faith question** Is it possible to **know** about God - as opposed to a vague feeling, a tangle of other people's beliefs, and a lot of traditions?
2. **A Morals question** Does believing in God involve consequences for us - what are they?
3. **Jesus** What rôle do Jewish Scripture and belief, and the events of the life of Jesus of Nazareth, play in the forming of my faith (as compared with, say, Buddha, Ghandi, Manic Street Preachers, Richard Branson, or whoever)? Does God care about differences in religious belief?
4. **A Church question** How should the Church have weight in our decisions and perceptions?
5. **A Question of Values** Is there such a thing as absolute truth, absolute right, absolute wrong, or are all values a matter of one's moral opinion? Does belief in right and wrong not offend against the freedom of the individual, and lead to oppression and improper judgments on others?
6. **The Mystery of Suffering** Why does evil enter into people's lives, apparently regardless of what they have deserved? Is God not in charge? Or is he not good?
7. **Word and Sacrament** What is the Church's way of teaching - from tradition and from Scripture? What is the Liturgy about? Is it important?
8. **Prayer** Does it make any difference, and if so how?
9. **Politics** What does our faith demand of us in the world of power and politics?