# Don't Try To Imagine God

***Fr.Ronald Rolheiser OMI***

If we try to imagine God, it's easy to become an atheist. Why?

Try imagining this: We believe that one Person, God, is the sole creator of all that exists. Now, all that exists, although itself finite, is already beyond what we can imagine – billions of galaxies, trillions of planets, and billions of people stretching back through thousands of years. As well, we believe that God knows every rock, insect, animal, and plant not just on earth, but everywhere in the universe. How can we wrap our minds around that? We can't. And there's the further issue of trying to picture the scope of God's love. Today there are more than eight billion people in the world and our faith asks us to believe that God loves each one of those eight billion individually and intimately, as if he or she was the only person in the world. Moreover, through millions of years God has loved intimately every man, woman, and child on this earth, right back to our ancestors who lived in caves. How can one mind, one heart, one person do this? It's beyond the mind.

However, and this is the point, *it's not intended to be imagined or conceptualized*.

God is infinite. Infinity, by definition, is impossible to imagine. (F*or example, what's the highest number it's possible to count to?*) Infinity takes us beyond what can be conceptualized. To conceptualize something, the mind needs to start somewhere and God has no beginning. Indeed, to the extent that we do create for ourselves an imaginative picture of God, we always have something less than God, and often an idol. And the problem is that we are forever slimming down God to fit the size of our imagination when, by its very essence and definition, God is ineffable, unable to be pictured, imagined, or captured in a concept. This is a dogmatic teaching in of all Christian Churches and in Judaism. As the prophet Isaiah says, God is *holy*, meaning, beyond all visualization and all conceptualization, beyond anything that can be imagined. That's why scripture asserts that in this life "no one can see the face God and live."

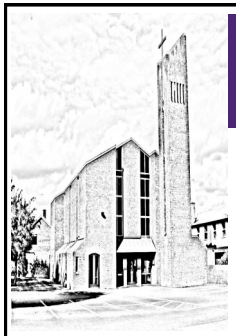
However, as Christians, we believe that Jesus came to us and in his person and teaching gave concrete expression *(incarnation*) to God so that we can grasp, imagine, and speak truly about certain aspects of God. To know Jesus is to know his "Father." However, that's not the same thing as capturing God in a concept. Indeed, we can "know" God, but we can't "think" God. We can never create a "picture" of God. Why is this important? Because whenever we do create a picture of God, we always end up with something less than God – and invariably something that works for our self-interest. Critics of Christianity accuse us of forever *creating God in our own image and likeness*. There's a lot of truth in that. That's why the God we create for ourselves invariably likes the same people we do, hates the same people we hate, makes the same judgments we make, likes us better than other races, favours our country over others, and assures us that our religion (and our own interpretation of it) is the true way to heaven. Whenever we capture God in a concept, we end up with a God who is no more intelligent and compassionate than we are, whose heart isn't larger than ours, and who is unworthy of Jesus and Christianity. For a dozen years I taught a course to seminarians entitled *A Theology of God*. The course looked at many things: how God is presented in scripture, the historical development of our dogmatic creeds about God, theological speculation about the nature of God, the salient critiques atheists have made about our Christian belief in God, and insights from the mystics and popular piety vis-à-vis how we might relate more affectively to God.

But throughout the course and particularly at its end, I would say this to the seminarians: *Whatever else you do in your teaching, preaching, and pastoral practice, try not to make God look stupid!*

In essence: try not to make God look tribal, racist, nationalistic, legalistic, denominational, sexist, rigid, petty, vengeful, angry, defensive, and anything less than unimaginable wisdom, unimaginable love, unimaginable embrace, and unimaginable forgiveness. Try not to make God just another imaginable human person with all our flaws.

I know sincere, good-hearted atheists and agnostics who don't believe in God because when they try to imagine a Person who is creating millions of universes, billions of people, and trillion upon trillions of minerals, plants, and animals, and who is knowing and loving each element in existence intimately as if it were the only thing in existence, they can't imagine it. Neither can we. It's not meant to be imagined. It's meant to be known in a cloud of unknowing, to stretch our minds and hearts beyond their natural limits and bring us to an awe that bends our knees in genuflection.

**Pob Bendith. God bless you&Keep you. Fr Pius CMI**



# Eglwys Catholig Dewi Sant, Yr Wyddgrug
# St.David's Catholic Church, Mold


Parish Priest: Fr. Pius Mathew CMI,
St.David's Presbytery, St.David's Lane, Mold. CH7 1LH
Email: **priestmold@rcdwxm.org.uk** Tel: 01352 **752 087**
Deacon John Goggin : dcn1mold@rcdwxm.org.uk Ph.01352757121
SVP Contact No:07938 749450 LSUConvent:01352 700121
Website: www.stdavidsmold.org
https://www.rcdwxm.org.uk/ http://www.cmi.org.in


## 1st November 2026 All Saints

LITURGY OF THE WEEK: Psalter Week III

**Livestreaming (From Mold on Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays 5.30pm & Sundays 11am)**
**https://www.churchservices.tv/mold**

**Confessions (in Mold)** On Saturdays and Sundays before the Mass (Saturdays **5pm** to **5.20** and Sundays **10.30am** to **10.50**). Weekdays after the Mass, on Request.

**31st October Saturday 5.30pm**
Freda Jones RIP *(Kate Monaghan)*

**1st November Sunday 11am**
Edward, Jonathan & Derek Hannaby RIP
*(Charlotte Hannaby)*

**Monday** 2nd Nov — **All Souls : Buckley 9am & Mold 7pm**

**Tuesday:** 3rd Nov — Liturgy of the day **Mold 7pm**: Rosary at 6.35pm
Cox, Hatfield & Taylor Families RIP *(Frances Taylor)*

**Wednesday:** Liturgy of the day **Buckley 7pm**
4th Nov

**Thursday** 5th Nov — Liturgy of the day **Buckley 9am**
Eucharistic adoration until 10am

**Friday** 6th Nov — Liturgy of the day **10am**
Bisesta&Boldino Paletta RIP *(Paletta Family)*
Antonio&Filomena Lommano
&Jacurti Maria RIP *(Lommano Family)*
***Eucharistic Adoration until 11am***

QR Code To Donate

## 32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time A

**7th November Sat 5.30pm**
Anne Gillespie RIP
*(John Gillespie)*

**8th November Sun 11am**
Alan Moyes RIP
*(Eileen Moyes)*
*Int.Christine Evans (Teresa Hughes)*

FAITH IN FOCUS:

# THE VASE

There is a children's story about a woman who went to buy a vase. When she found the one she wanted she exclaimed, "What a beautiful vase!" To her surprise the vase spoke to her and said, "Thank you for calling me beautiful but I have not always been like this. I used to be an ugly lump of clay and one day a man poured water all over me and threw me onto a potter's wheel. He started to spin me round and mould me with his hands. When I asked him to stop he said I wasn't ready yet. Then, even worse, he put me into a very hot fire and it burned so badly that I asked him again to stop. But he said I still wasn't ready. He took me out of the furnace and let me cool down. Then he painted me all these wonderful colours. Only then was I truly beautiful."

All Saints is the feast of life. Saints are not born they are made and God uses many different paths of life to mould us into reflections of his own image. Only people with experience can look back at certain stages of their life, crisis points and turning points, and see the hand of God working through the everyday events of their journey in faith. This is because to be a saint is a vocation from God. And it is given to every baptised Christian. God offers us the chance to make the right choices at all stages of our existence. Of course, we don't always take the right option and we go through difficult periods but these are opportunities for us to refocus on becoming what God wants us to be.

The feast of All Saints gives us a chance to realise that God has not finished with us yet. Through the ups and downs of our daily existence God can fashion us into better people, into saints. But little by little we can respond to God in small ways that make us closer to his will and his plans for our ultimate beauty. By celebrating today's feast we agree to be shaped by God into saints. But we also give thanks to God for all those who have gone before us in faith and who now enjoy the happiness of seeing God face to face. We remember all the "official" saints in the Church's calendar as well as those who are known to God alone, people like our parents, brothers and sisters and friends who have died believing and hoping in God's promises made to us through Christ. May we, who aspire to share in their joy, be filled with the Spirit who blessed their lives.

**QR Code for Today's Readings.**

# News, Notices and Events

## CHRISTMAS GIFT BAGS 2026

The Christmas Gift Bags, in aid of Hope House Hospice and Nightingale House Hospice will be available again this year.

Gifts for Adult Male, Adult Female £5.00
Teen Male, Teen Female £5.00
Child Boy, Child Girl £4.50
Grandma and Grandad £5.00
Amazing gifts, beautifully wrapped, worth street value approx.. £20.

Order forms are available in the porch. A text order is also acceptable. Details on the order form.

Please give your order forms to Sr Helen or Sr Una. ALL PROCEEDS from these gift bags are donated to the charities. Thank you for your support. **Sue Norris-Clamp, Sr Helen and Sr. Una .**

**Can you help? :** If any parishioner has a sewing-machine they would be happy to donate to a family in need, please get in touch with a member of the SVP. Many thanks. **Mary McCarry**

**We remember in our prayer**
*Those whose anniversaries Occur this week*

(**31st Oct**) John Neil Wilson, (**1st Nov**) Ben Rowley and Nellie Rees, Moira Griffiths, Stephen Plunkett (**2nd Nov**) Francis Roden, Sarah Rowlands, Anthony Williams, Joseph Frederick Shannon, Anne Tallant (**3rd**) Cyril Halford, Antonio Lommano, Fred Battersby, Anne Gillespie (**4th**) Kathleen Lewis, Gertrude Carroll (**5th**) John James Geraghty, Robert Owen, James O'Neill, Joseph Gavaghan, Michael Murphy (**6th**) Mary Fox, Kevin Morris, Winifred Parry, Thomas Halton, Patricia Hough, Joseph Fleming

**Let us Pray for the sick**:
Terry Wilson, Chris Jeffrey, Pam Cox, and Franciszek Williams

## John Hughes RIP

John Hughes has gone home to the Lord. Requiem Mass will take place here on 18th November Wednesday at 11am followed by committal in Mold cemetery.

Our sympathies and prayers to his wife Maureen and to their family and friends at this time of loss and pain.

*May John rest in peace and rise in glory.*

## 200 CLUB OCTOBER 2026 WINNERS

I'm pleased to say that the draw for OCTOBER has been made, and the winners are as follows:

OCTOBER 2026
FIRST PRIZE - £50 – MARY KATERAGA (18)
SECOND PRIZE - £25 – BERYL FAZAL (16)
THIRD PRIZE - £10 – MARY KATERAGA (4)

The Draws for November and December will be done over the last weekend of November. Many thanks for all your continued support God bless. ***Tony***

## Next Sunday: REMEMBRANCE DAY

"I have always felt that marking Remembrance in the original way - at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month - was a full tribute to those who have died serving their country, fighting to preserve freedom and sustain justice. It is good to see this coming back into use once more, but however it's done, whether on weekday or Sunday, putting ourselves out in a small way - by making time to be still and to 'remember' - not only honours the fallen; it gives us an opportunity to commit ourselves to work for peace and justice in our own lives. The solidarity of mourning can turn into the solidarity for peace and the determination to find a better solution than war for the ills of the world." *(Idris Jones, Primus of Scottish Episcopal Church)*