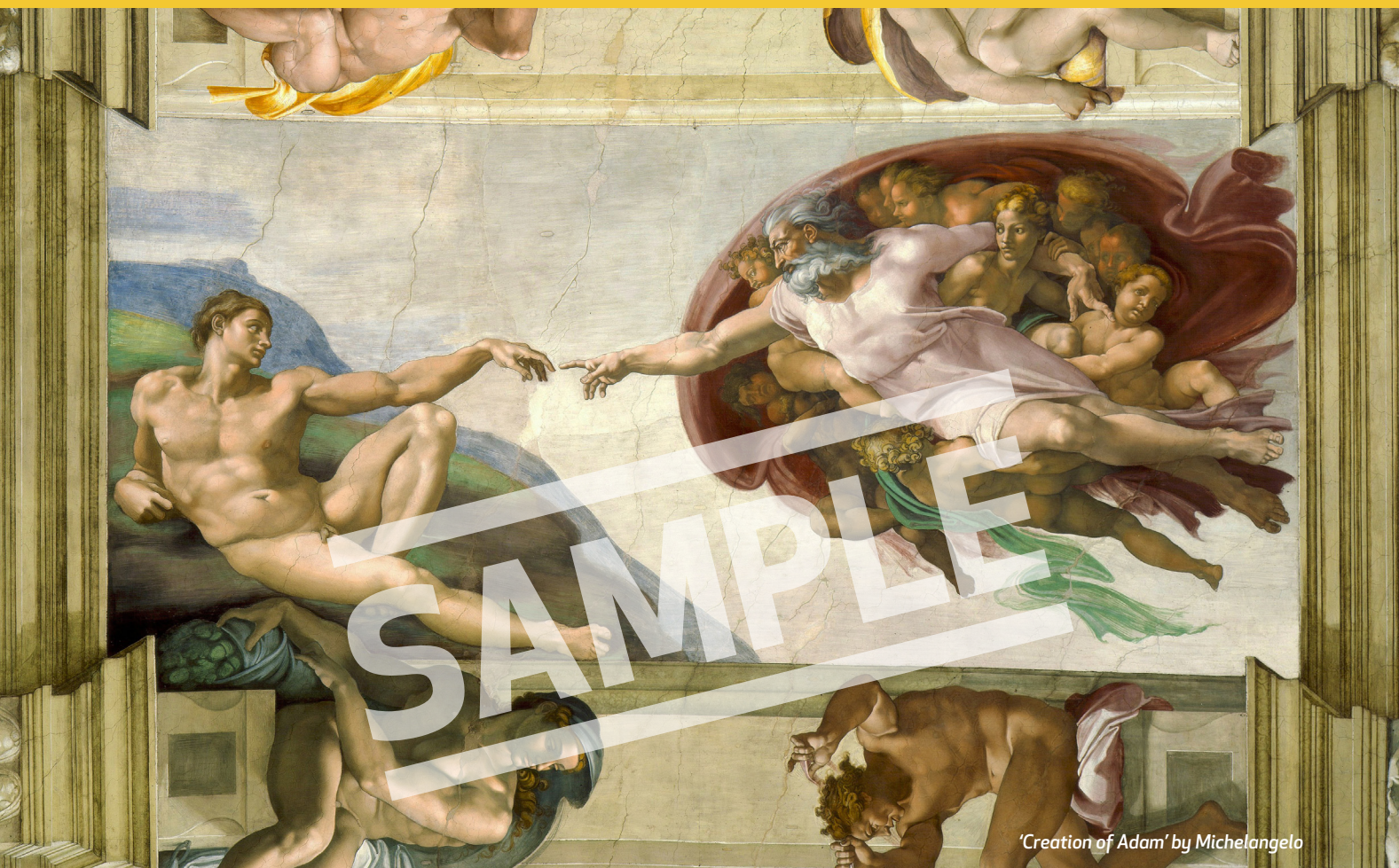


# 1: MADE FOR GOD

"Do you believe in  
God the Father Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth?"



'Creation of Adam' by Michelangelo

YouCat 1-6, 20-24



Liturgy of the Word  
& Proclamation

## FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of Exodus

Exodus 33:7-10, 18-23; 34:4-9

Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp; and he called it the tent of meeting. And every one who sought the LORD would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp. Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people rose up, and every man stood at his tent door, and looked after Moses, until he had gone into the tent.

When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the door of the tent, and the LORD would speak with Moses. And when all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the door of the

tent, all the people would rise up and worship, every man at his tent door. Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL**

A reading from the Gospel of St. John

Jn 1:1-4

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**



**PROCLAMATION**

**From the beginning, God the Father wanted to share his endless joy with us. He sent his Son and his Spirit to draw us into his love. We are made for God.**

**CATECHESIS 1: On how we can reason God’s existence**

God created us so that we could share in his endless joy with him. We are made for God.

**? Why do you believe in God?**

**Someone asks you, ‘Why do you believe in God?’  
What would you say to them?**



**Write the answer** and share with the person next to you.



**Fill in the blanks** to recap the key points we’ve just learned

**! KEY POINTS**

The existence of God is not self-evident - we need to use our reason to discover that He exists.

**DEFINITION**

**REASON:** \_\_\_\_\_

We can know God exists through the evidence of \_\_\_\_\_ and the evidence of the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Write out Psalm 19:1:** \_\_\_\_\_



**Discuss** these points in your small groups then write your thoughts in your workbook

**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION:  
Why do you believe in God?**

Your catechist will help you with these questions. Please be prepared for someone in the group to give feedback.

**1. Why do you think some people do not believe in God? What are some of the challenges to your faith? What responses are there?**

**2. Some people might say that we cannot ‘prove’ God’s existence and therefore it is pointless to believe. Is this a reasonable thing to say?**



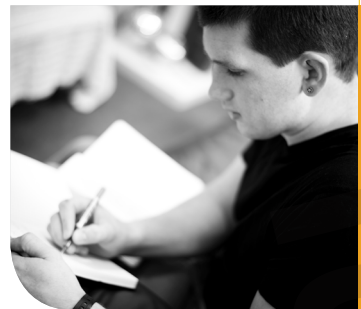


Use your YouCat to fill in the blanks

Complete the sentences

using these words:

- Father
- believe
- unconcerned



### IN SPIRITUAL JOURNALS (to prepare for the time of prayer)

Read YouCat 34. Do I want to put God in first place in my life?

**Think of one way you are going to put God first in your life this week.**

*"I would not believe if I did not realise that it is reasonable to believe."*

– St Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274) –  
One of the greatest theologians of the Church.

## CATECHESIS 2: Faith – What is it?

### ! KEY POINTS

**YouCat 21:** Faith is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

When we say, "I \_\_\_\_\_ in God", it is not like saying, "I believe in some force or creative power that is \_\_\_\_\_ with us."

We believe in a heavenly \_\_\_\_\_.

## FURTHER MATERIAL

**Q. Faith involves our mind and our will. Are we free when we submit our mind and will to God?**

**A.** If someone tells us something about themselves, or if they promise something, is it contrary to our dignity and freedom to believe them? No! When we say Yes to God - accept his revelation and his promises - it is a free choice, and leads to our true freedom. God is the truth (Jn 14:6). God does not force us. He leaves us free to choose, Yes or No, for him or against him.

**Q. Is faith a feeling? What if I don't feel like I believe in God?**

**A.** Where do feelings come from? From outside us, e.g. The way people make us feel, music, films, our surroundings. Our faith is a gift given inside us, in our soul. Our feelings are often unfree - sometimes we can't control what we feel. But our faith is free. We make decisions which either strengthen or make us lose our faith.

**Q. Is everyone offered the gift of faith?**

**A.** Yes. The question is, how free are we in choosing to accept it? If we don't know the faith, how can we freely choose to accept it? To the extent that we know it, we have the free will to accept or reject it.

## HOW AWESOME CREATION IS...

The first thing that should amaze us about the universe is its size. Earth itself is huge in comparison to the tiny beings called humans, but if the Earth were reduced to the size of a peppercorn, the extent of our solar system (from the Sun to Uranus) would be about half a mile! Then if all the Solar System were reduced to the size of a coin, the nearest star in our galaxy would be two football fields away. In our galaxy alone (the Milky Way) there are several hundred billion stars (all at similar distances from each other), and in the whole universe, there are several hundred billion galaxies... If your brain isn't fried at the thought of the scale of the universe, it should be. But leaving size aside, consider how finely-tuned the whole thing is. The laws of physics are observed regularly wherever you are in the universe and there are basic 'constants' (like the speed of light, or Planck's constant) which form part of these laws. If the values of these constants were ever so slightly different, the universe would be a very different place, and would

## MAKE SURE YOU CAN:

- ☐ Recall a definition for reason.
- ☐ Recall a definition for faith.
- ☐ Summarise why God created us.
- ☐ Argue for the existence of God from the evidence of Creation and of the human person, and defend your own belief in God.
- ☐ Critique reasons for not believing in God.
- ☐ Reflect on how you can give God first place in your life, and consider what obstacles to God are present in your life.

not be able to support life. So it's not just the size of the universe that's awe-inspiring, it's that out of all the billions of possible universes (with different constants and laws), the one that actually exists is one that can support life. The chances of such an outcome are vanishingly small, and seem to point to a divine Creator. An even more basic reason to be awestruck by the created universe, though, is the simple fact that it exists at all. 'Why is there something rather than nothing?' is a question we should return to again and again when we doubt the existence of God. The universe doesn't need to exist, but it does, and it didn't create itself, so we look, naturally, for a Creator.

