What do you believe?

During the early centuries of the Church’s life there was a great concern for defining the orthodox faith of the Church. Such a need arose because of controversies developing within the Christian Church. For example, questions about the relationship of Jesus to God the Father, about whether God could suffer, and about the way the Holy Spirit worked in people’s lives, had led different Christians to different conclusions.

So, at particular times in the history of the Church certain statements of Christian belief (creeds) emerged. The two most important of these are the Nicene Creed (from the fourth century A.D.) and the Apostles’ Creed (which is more difficult to date but its development is thought to have begun prior to the Nicene Creed).

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth. (From the Apostles’ Creed)

I wonder what sort of creed you might draw up if you took time to do so. What do you believe about God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit? What are the essentials of your belief? What would your creed contain from the traditional statements of belief mentioned here?

For our sake [Jesus] was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again … (From the Nicene Creed)

You may ask what has led me to think about creeds. Well, we are in the year 2025 which marks the 1700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicaea (from which the Nicene Creed owes its origin). So, I thought that I could challenge you to reflect upon your own beliefs, as we approach Holy Week and Easter, and then to write your own creed. If you do so, you might like to seek out someone else who has done the same and share your creeds with each other. I wonder how similar or different they might be.

Wishing you a time of fruitful reflection,

