

# Dear Padre,

## What is the rationale for believing in God?

**W**hile Scripture tells us in story form how God created heaven, earth, and humanity, science tells how he has really done so: from a Big Bang of unharnessed energy; to the formation of Earth and the universe; to the evolution of life; and finally, to us! Creation's unfolding is like a magnificent symphony formed from nothing by a powerful, omniscient composer. This "musical score" of evolution rises and falls, inexorably leading to its culmination—intelligent beings who can ponder the beauty and awe of God's creation.

The odds are totally against an accumulation of "lucky breaks" that make creation possible: our Earth being in a narrow habitable zone, neither too near nor too far from the sun; the appearance of oxygenating plants, allowing us to breathe; a dinosaur-destroying asteroid collision permitting mammals—and eventually us—to evolve. How could all of that be accidental?

Indeed, multitudes have dedicated their lives to God's existence. For more than two millennia, our Church has taught about a loving God in the person of Jesus Christ. Not only do we learn Jesus' teachings regarding God's compassion, forgiveness, and the promises of eternal life, but we see that compassion and forgiveness at work in today's ministry.

A loving relationship with anyone is impossible without trust and faith. So it is with God. We must entrust ourselves to him, opening ourselves to knowing and loving him. For this reason, belief in God is always a grace, a gift freely given from God, which we ask for ourselves.

Fr. Gary Lauenstein, CSsR / [Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)

### Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



### A WORD FROM Pope Francis

*Belief in God and the worship of God are not enough to ensure that we are actually living in a way pleasing to God. A believer may be untrue to everything that his faith demands of him, and yet think he is close to God and better than others.*

ON FRATERNITY AND SOCIAL FRIENDSHIP  
(FRATELLI TUTTI), OCTOBER 3, 2020



SONJA SOM / SHUTTERSTOCK



## Our Parish Community

March 13, 2022

Second Sunday of Lent (C)

Gn 15:5–12, 17–18

Phil 3:17–4:1 or Phil 3:20–4:1

Lk 9:28b–36

## Who Was This Man?

**P**eter, John, and James must have asked this question themselves. This Jesus was certainly not the man they had come to know. Here he was radiant, and his clothing was dazzling. Furthermore, he was in deep conversation with two of the greatest heroes of the religious tradition: Moses, the agent of the law, and Elijah the prophet. And then there was that voice that identified Jesus as "my chosen Son" and commanded them to "listen to him" (Luke 9:35). What were they to think? What would anyone think? Who was this man?

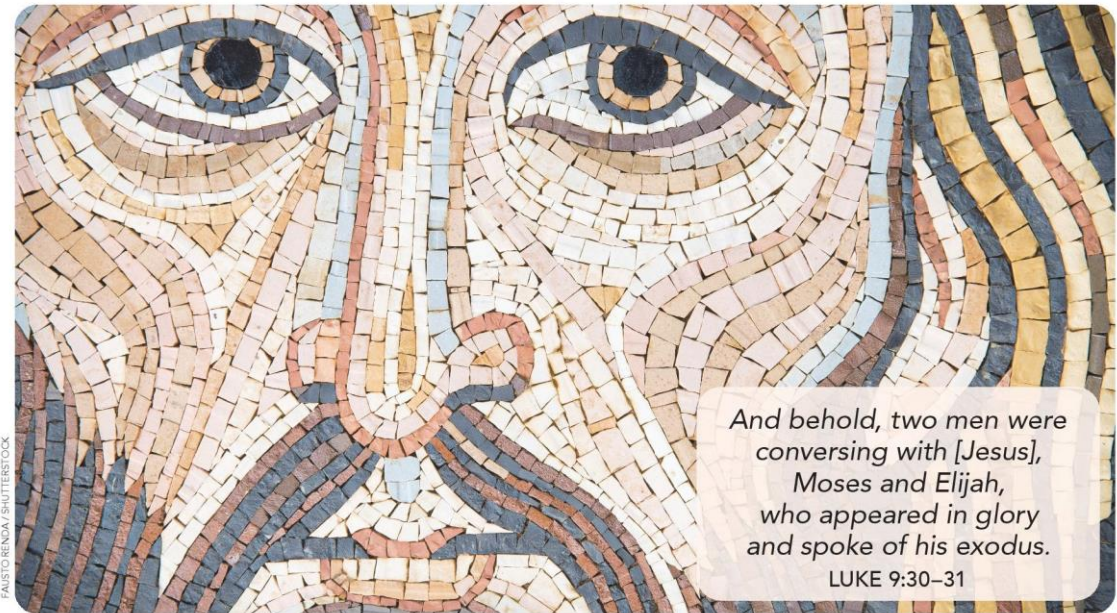
Jesus' own experience was quite different. While he prayed, he was transfigured, and in that transformed state he engaged Moses and Elijah in conversation. They discussed his future death in Jerusalem, his exodus, his deliverance. It is important to note that they maintain that his exodus was to be his own accomplishment—not a deed done to him. Who was this man?

It was the mysterious voice from the cloud that provided an answer to that question: "This is my chosen Son." But what did "my Son" mean? Unlike we who profess faith in the Trinity, it's likely the disciples still had to learn what being God's Son was all about. However, they must have realized that it meant something about Jesus' relationship with God. Every aspect of this mystifying experience told them so. When they came to their senses, the light had disappeared, the ancient men were gone, the voice was silent. And there he was again, the man they had come to know. But who was this man?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

### FOR Reflection

- ★ Give praise and glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
- ★ What does Jesus mean in your life?



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And behold, two men were conversing with [Jesus],  
Moses and Elijah,  
who appeared in glory  
and spoke of his exodus.  
LUKE 9:30–31