

# Dear Padre,

## What is the rationale for believing in God?

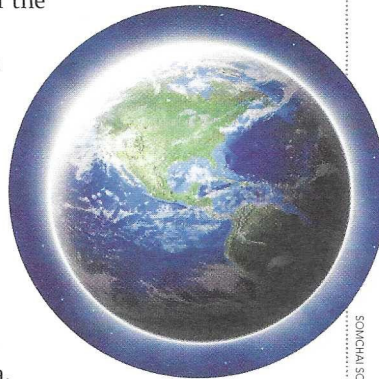
**W**hile Scripture tells us in story form how God created heaven, earth, and humanity, science tells how he has really done so: from a Big Bang of unharnessed energy; to the formation of Earth and the universe; to the evolution of life; and finally, to us! Creation's unfolding is like a magnificent 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.

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SONICHAH SOM/SHUTTERSTOCK

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

Go to [DearPadre.org](mailto: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

**Monday**  
MARCH 14  
*Lenten Weekday*  
Dn 9:4b–10  
Lk 6:36–38

**Tuesday**  
MARCH 15  
*Lenten Weekday*  
Is 1:10, 16–20  
Mt 23:1–12

**Wednesday**  
MARCH 16  
*Lenten Weekday*  
Jer 18:18–20  
Mt 20:17–28

**Thursday**  
MARCH 17  
*Lenten Weekday*  
Jer 17:5–10  
Lk 16:19–31

**Friday**  
MARCH 18  
*Lenten Weekday*  
Gn 37:3–4, 12–13a,  
17b–28a  
Mt 21:33–43, 45–46

**Saturday**  
MARCH 19  
*St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary*  
2 Sm 7:4–5a, 12–14a, 16  
Rom 4:13, 16–18, 22  
Mt 1:16, 18–21, 24a or  
Lk 2:41–51a

**Sunday**  
MARCH 20  
*Third Sunday of Lent*  
Ex 3:1–8a, 13–15  
1 Cor 10:1–6, 10–12  
Lk 13:1–9

**Know Someone Overly Anxious About Sin?**  
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