

# The Society's Year of Faith

## An introductory note

The year 2025 marks the 1,700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, a landmark meeting of Christian bishops in a city which stands in the modern-day country of Turkey. The Council gave rise to the Nicene Creed, also known as the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed, which is routinely said or sung in churches on Sundays, and on principal holy days, as an integral part of the liturgy of the Eucharist.

The Society is an ecclesial body within the Church of England which emphasises the catholic roots of the faith which we have inherited as Anglicans. We rejoice in being able to share in the celebrations of the anniversary of Nicaea with those from the widest possible range of Christian traditions. Further, we hope and trust that the resources we have to offer to mark that anniversary will be of interest to English speakers far beyond The Society.

For reference purposes, I am reproducing the three English translations of the Nicene Creed used in Society parishes – those found in the Book of Common Prayer, in Common Worship, and in the Roman Missal. They follow on page 2 of this note.

I am greatly indebted to a small group of Society priests who have assisted me in researching, and reflecting on, the theological issues arising from our recitation of the Nicene Creed. The fruits of their efforts have given rise to both an Advent Course and a Lent Course. The details for those two courses follow on page 3 of this note. You will see that the Advent Course picks up general themes relating to faith, the creeds and liturgy, while the Lent Course looks specifically at the Nicene Creed,

You will see that for each course there is a lead author of the written material being offered and also the name of the presenter of a short and accessible video associated with that same material. The resources for each stage of the course will be released just before each of the Sundays in the seasons of Advent and of Lent.

I should add that there is also a video to accompany this introductory note. The Bishop of Oswestry, who is the Chairman of Forward in Faith – the charity which supports the work of The Society, and I were delighted to find time during this year's Walsingham Youth Pilgrimage to discuss matters of faith with a group of pilgrims.

Whichever Christian tradition you represent, please join us in praying that the church's creeds may be better known throughout our world so that many more people, of all ages, nationalities and ethnicities, may come to embrace the Christian faith.

**The Right Reverend Jonathan Baker**

*The Bishop of Fulham and the Chairman of The Society's Council of Bishops  
November 2024*

## The Nicene Creed

<b>Book of Common Prayer</b>	<b>Common Worship</b>	<b>Roman Missal</b>
<p>I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible: And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, Begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made: Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, And was made man, And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead: Whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and giver of life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one Catholick and Apostolick Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the Resurrection of the dead, And the life of the world to come. Amen</p>	<p>We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.</p>	<p>I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. And one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.</p>

### **Advent course – faith, the creeds & liturgy**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Author of the material</b>	<b>Presenter of the video</b>
1	The nature of faith	Fr Robin Ward	Fr Robin Ward
2	The history of the Church's creeds	Fr Robin Ward	Fr Robin Ward
3	Why the creeds matter	Fr George Westhaver	Fr George Westhaver
4	The role of creeds in liturgy	Fr Ian McCormack	The Bishop of Fulham

### **Lent course – the Nicene Creed**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Author of the material</b>	<b>Presenter of the video</b>
1	God the Father	Fr Christopher Trundle	Fr Christopher Trundle
2	God the Son – Incarnation	Fr George Westhaver	Fr George Westhaver
3	God the Son – Redemption	Fr Christopher Johnson	The Bishop of Fulham
4	God the Holy Spirit	Fr Robin Ward	Fr Robin Ward
5	One holy catholic and apostolic church	Fr Philip Corbett	Fr Philip Corbett
6	The last things	Fr Philip Corbett	Fr Philip Corbett