

## What Does Faith Mean?

### Alpha Course @ St. Bede's and St. Paul's

St. Bede's is joining forces with St. Paul's, Port Adelaide, to run the Alpha course, a discussion-group series created to outline the core principles of the Christian faith.

Alpha comprises a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith, including topics such as: How Can I Be Filled with The Holy Spirit? How does God Guide us? How do I Resist Evil? Why and How Should I Read the Bible? Why and How Do I Pray? How can I have Faith? Who is Jesus? Is There More to Life than This?

Last year, approximately 39,500 churches and organisations ran the course, with almost 1.9 million participants, according to Alpha.

Although originating from the evangelical Anglican tradition, Alpha is now used in various denominations around the world. Its supporters include many Catholic cardinals, Anglican archbishops and bishops (including Archbishop Geoff Smith), and leading figures of all denominations. Former Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, described the courses as "superb." Rowan Williams was an enthusiastic supporter when he was Bishop of Monmouth and Archbishop of Wales, and he continued his support as Archbishop of Canterbury, opening an Alpha conference and accepting an invitation to speak at an Alpha supper in London in 2004. He has described it as "a very special tool" and "a unique mixture of Christian content and Christian style". Father Raniero Cantalamessa, a monk of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin and Preacher to the Papal Household for Pope Benedict XVI, wrote a document praising Alpha in June 2005.

For St. Bede's, the course provides an opportunity re-vitalize your faith by going back to the basics, and for newcomers, it's the chance to learn the fundamentals of Christianity.

The series begins at St. Paul's with a BYO meal *at 6pm on February 17* and will then alternate with St. Bede's each Monday at the same time over a 10-week period. The online presentation (everything is done using the audio-visual link through the Alpha website) starts at 7pm and runs for about an hour.

Please add your name to the sign-up sheet at the church entrance if you'd like to be part of this valuable discovery series **by no later than February 14.**

