

As part of the 'Good life' series a panel of St Michael's members were asked the following questions:

Question

Tom Wright says in his book, '...left to my own inclinations... there are many things I wouldn't bear... wouldn't believe... wouldn't be able to hope for... wouldn't endure...' - What has helped you to **persevere** when the going is tough?

Aristotle thought of **maturing** in terms of 'human flourishing' - How has the Bible shaped your view of what maturity for Christians looks like?

Can you tell us about your struggle or success in seeing the '**fruit of the Spirit**' becoming real in your life?

How do you navigate the tension between **rules, consequences**, going with the flow, and being a **virtuous** person?

What has helped you most to develop good traits of character?

Who or what has influenced your own regard for the **importance of love** as the greatest virtue?

What advice would you give someone **starting out** as a Christian believer about the journey ahead?

Some further questions and comments were received afterwards:

If I continue to feel bad after I've confessed and repented am I sinning further by **denying God's grace**?

What did you find to be the hardest part of **starting out** in your faith?

Where do **ambition and asserting oneself** fit within the Christian framework?

To give God opportunity to teach us the fruits of the Spirit we need to **slow down**.

We need to work less, strive less, relax more, spend time walking, singing, listening to Him, watching the sun set and smelling the roses. Let God take time to change us little by little.

Re. Advice for Christians new or young in their faith:
Don't have **unrealistic expectations**. Things won't get better overnight. They might get worse. However, Christians have a framework for suffering (perseverance) and a hope.