

George - Lived religion and belief

My parents are not Catholic. We had been at a Catholic primary school. Typically what would happen if you were not Catholic is that you would leave in Year 5 instead of in Year 6 when everyone else does, and you would go to the local secular school.

Me and my sister did not want to do that, so we asked the priest at the time if we could become Catholic and he said 'No.' He was probably quite right – [we were] probably not really doing it for the right reasons. Then we went to St Paul's Catholic secondary school. I was a troublesome child at school. I was quite naughty, and I had lots of teachers that were people of faith, that tried to sit with me, accompany me and I felt really called to that as a way of life. So at the age of 16, both me and my sister asked our school chaplain if we could become Catholic and we did. We were baptised in the school chapel. Then I went off and studied philosophy and theology and just delved deeper into the world of what it meant to be a Catholic.