

## Glynnna's interview

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3 **Interviewer:** Thankyou, Glynnna, for agreeing to be interviewed. I hope you  
4 find this as interesting as I do. I'd like to start by asking you  
5 what you believe about God.

6 **Glynnna:** Well, like I believe that like God created the universe an' stuff.  
7 But like I don't really believe like the whole creation story an' that  
8 'cause I'm really like sciencey based type thing. So like  
9 evolution and God's role have sorta like combined, like God  
10 guided evolution type thing.

11 **Interviewer:** Have you always thought about God in that way?

12 **Glynnna:** No. Like when I was little I believed like God created the  
13 universe in seven days and he knew everything and all that type  
14 of stuff, but then like I sorta started to get more into like science.  
15 And I kind of realised that it was a bit like ignorant of me to just  
16 ignore that. Yeah.

17 **Interviewer:** What sort of words would you use to describe your relationship  
18 with God?

19 **Glynnna:** Um – up and down.

20 **Interviewer:** Yes. Would you like to talk about that a bit more?

21 **Glynnna:** Yeah, like, sometimes I feel as though like I'm just following  
22 mindlessly because like it's just what I've been told. And so I  
23 question why I believe. And like when people die an' stuff –  
24 because when we were in Year 10, one of the people from  
25 school, like a close friend of mine, like was in a car accident and  
26 he was on life support an' stuff and he died. And I just, - I knew  
27 it just seemed so pointless. Of all the people in the car, he was  
28 the one that died and he had like the most potential. So during  
29 that time, like I really questioned why I believed in God. But like  
30 over the past couple of years, I've like grown more stronger.  
31 Like I've sort of gone back to how it was a bit when I was little  
32 and returned to praying and stuff. I'm a Special Minister now as  
33 well and so it's like – yeah – and it feels cool when you're giving  
34 it out. Like you just feel all like – wow! afterwards. Yes.

35 **Interviewer:** Good. What image do you have of God?

36 **Glynnna:** (pause) I don't think I have one. Like, do you mean like what  
37 sort of persona does he have? Or –

38 **Interviewer:** Yes, it could be that.

39 **Glynnna:** God's just there.

40 **Interviewer:** And when you were little? Did you have any image then?

41 **Glynnna:** I thought he was – “it” was like a “he” and he was like big and in  
42 heaven and had really big shoes 'cause we could only undersee  
43 his feet.

- 44 **Interviewer:** Is God still a “he”?
- 45 **Glynnna:** I don’t think so. Like I would refer to him as a “he”. Like I would  
46 say “him” and “he” but God’s just an entity now like not a person  
47 as such. Like Jesus is a “he” obviously, but God is different.
- 48 **Interviewer:** Okay, let’s come to this issue: Is Jesus different from God?
- 49 **Glynnna:** Yes, because God is just like the one who knows everything and  
50 Jesus is just like a part of that, like the human side of it – and so  
51 he’s different.
- 52 **Interviewer:** Okay. Are you finding these questions difficult?
- 53 **Glynnna:** Not difficult. Just like I’ve never thought about it before so like  
54 it’s like “Wow!” Yeah!
- 55 **Interviewer:** Good. Anything else you want to talk about about the  
56 differences between God and Jesus? You said Jesus is the  
57 human side of God.
- 58 **Glynnna:** Yeah, because like God controls like everything, like that’s what  
59 I think, but Jesus is like the compassionate, like really caring,  
60 like emotional side, you know, the part that’s capable of rage  
61 and anger and disgust and all that kind of stuff. Whereas God’s  
62 like the more (short pause) administrative side.
- 63 **Interviewer:** That’s good. Okay. Are those differences important to you?
- 64 **Glynnna:** No.
- 65 **Interviewer:** So, it’s just “up there”?
- 66 **Glynnna:** Yeah. It doesn’t affect me. It’s just (pause) – yeah.
- 67 **Interviewer:** Okay. Do you think there was a time when you didn’t see any  
68 difference between God and Jesus?
- 69 **Glynnna:** Um – probably when I was little but like I didn’t understand like a  
70 lot of stuff like – (pause)
- 71 **Interviewer:** Can you remember back to there what you would have  
72 believed?
- 73 **Glynnna:** I’m pretty sure when I was really little I thought that God was  
74 really scary because my Mum used to get, y’know, those  
75 apocalypse pamphlet things, y’know, like “pray the rosary every  
76 day or you’ll go to hell” an’ stuff like that. And so she let me read  
77 them and that would scare me like so badly and so I thought that  
78 God was this really scary imposing person. And so I don’t think  
79 at that stage I like separated him and Jesus. So – yeah.
- 80 **Interviewer:** But God isn’t that big, scary, imposing figure anymore?
- 81 **Glynnna:** No.
- 82 **Interviewer:** Do you know what led you to change?
- 83 **Glynnna:** Probably school.

- 84 **Interviewer:** We'll come back to that. What about the Holy Spirit? How  
85 would you explain the Holy Spirit to a friend who doesn't believe  
86 in God?
- 87 **Glynnna:** Hmm. That – Okay. The Holy Spirit's not like a physical being.  
88 It's just like part of everyone, you know, everyone that has been  
89 confirmed, or baptised, or whatever, sort of has some remnant  
90 of God and Jesus as the Holy Spirit in them.
- 91 **Interviewer:** What about your friend who doesn't believe in God?
- 92 **Glynnna:** Hmm. (long pause) I don't know. I think that you kinda have  
93 to have somewhere to go from – maybe a bit like a conscience,  
94 but not really the same thing because it doesn't really affect your  
95 decision-making or anything. It just guides you and like, y'know  
96 – yeah, I don't really think if you didn't believe in God, I don't  
97 think you could understand the Holy Spirit properly.
- 98 **Interviewer:** What do you understand by the Holy Spirit?
- 99 **Glynnna:** I don't know – Um – but yeah, it's sorta like your conscience but  
100 different because it's more like – you have to have a lot of faith  
101 to believe that it exists because like – okay, Jesus there's proof  
102 that Jesus existed, y'know, like other religions an' stuff have that  
103 proof. And God is like, y'know, a given because most people do  
104 have something to believe in, but the Holy Spirit is like  
105 something that separates like Christianity and Catholicism from  
106 like other religions, so – yeah – um, I don't know.
- 107 **Interviewer:** That's okay.
- 108 **Glynnna:** I kinda lost my train of thought.
- 109 **Interviewer:** We're dealing with things that are really difficult to understand.  
110 Let's move on and talk a bit about prayer. Here are some  
111 questions: Do you pray? To whom to you pray? How often do  
112 you pray? How do you pray?
- 113 **Glynnna:** Um (pause) I usually pray to Mary or Jesus. But sometimes I  
114 like saints'n'stuff because my Mum's like really – like my Dad's  
115 not Catholic, but my Mum is and so she's really into like Padre  
116 Pio and that – those people because like of family stuff and – um  
117 – so I sometimes pray to them as well. I pray like, y'know, at  
118 school because we have to – and – well, nor really have to, but  
119 you know.
- 120 **Interviewer:** You have prayer times at school?
- 121 **Glynnna:** Like we have to say a prayer in the morning and I pray at night  
122 before I go to sleep. And that's like my set prayer times – and in  
123 Church. But I don't know, like usually when I'm thinking about  
124 stuff, like, I'll think, "Aw, what's the right thing to do?" and I kind  
125 of think about it as like sort of praying, but not really. Is that all of  
126 the questions?
- 127 **Interviewer:** To whom do you pray most often? God? Jesus? Holy Spirit?  
128 Mary?

- 129 **Glynnna:** Probably Jesus.
- 130 **Interviewer:** Jesus.
- 131 **Glynnna:** Yeah.
- 132 **Interviewer:** When you stop and think about the prayers you say ....
- 133 **Glynnna:** But like I don't really say like set prayers, 'cause like – (pause)
- 134 **Interviewer:** You make them up.
- 135 **Glynnna:** Yeah. Like, I'll just be like "Aw, can you help me through this  
136 test?" or like "Thankyou for not making it rain today." That kind  
137 of like –
- 138 **Interviewer:** So when you pray those prayers ...?
- 139 **Glynnna:** Probably God.
- 140 **Interviewer:** Yeah.
- 141 **Glynnna:** But like if I'm doing set prayers, it's more Mary because I say the  
142 *Hail Mary*, or the *Hail, Holy Queen*, 'cause I like the words of  
143 *Hail, Holy Queen* prayer because it says "exile" and I like like big  
144 words.
- 145 **Interviewer:** Okay. When in the *Hail, Holy Queen* it talks about hope, what  
146 does that mean for you?
- 147 **Glynnna:** I kind of think that that's what like having a religion and faith  
148 offers you. Like, I think that they're really really related like  
149 'cause sometimes we talk about it in school and like our teacher  
150 doesn't really think that they're so interrelated, but I think that  
151 like what religion offers you is hope. Yeah.
- 152 **Interviewer:** Do you have rosary beads?
- 153 **Glynnna:** Yep, I have – I have these cool ones that are made out of  
154 pressed rose petals, like real swish and they smell real nice and  
155 they came from like the San Giovanni Rotundo. Yeah.
- 156 **Interviewer:** How does your belief in God influence or shape the way you live  
157 your life? Just generally, how do you think it does that, if it  
158 does?
- 159 **Glynnna:** I – I think it does. I think it kind of like (pause) it makes me have  
160 more confidence in people, like it makes me think, y'know, a  
161 person's good until they've done something like that proves  
162 they're otherwise, and I think it like in certain situations, it sorta  
163 stops me from like doing stuff that you know is wrong. Yeah.
- 164 **Interviewer:** You're a good thinker. Alright. I want to ask you about suffering  
165 and death. How do you think your faith helps you to deal with  
166 suffering? Does it?
- 167 **Glynnna:** (long pause) It didn't help me like when my friend died because  
168 I kind of just got really angry and I could like see any way of like  
169 that – 'cause we had Masses at school and I was – like I really  
170 prayed like I've never been like that focused on praying and stuff

171 and he still died. And it just made me so angry that something  
 172 like that could happen. And then my Mum tried to rationalise it  
 173 by saying, "Well, you know, maybe he would have been like a  
 174 vegetable if he had lived." And I'm like, "But, you know, God is  
 175 all powerful. He could have stopped that from happening." And  
 176 so he didn't help me then, but (pause) I don't know, kinda  
 177 praying is sorta like meditating sometimes like it just clears  
 178 y'mind and stuff, so it – that's like good because like, y'know –  
 179 when I'm like not thinking about stuff, too – like too focused an'  
 180 stuff, like in like see other alternatives 'n' that, and so – and it's  
 181 calming. So I s'pose that's kind of a way.

182 **Interviewer:** Does that work for you?

183 **Glynnna:** Yeah.

184 **Interviewer:** 'Cos is the TEE a form of suffering?

185 **Glynnna:** (sigh) No. Oh God that is. It's terrible.

186 **Interviewer:** Is it?

187 **Glynnna:** Yep. It – so stressful.

188 **Interviewer:** When does it stop being a challenge and become suffering?

189 **Glynnna:** When – when my bum aches. It – no, now it's challenging, but I  
 190 think like (pause) just like (short pause) because I know that in  
 191 the future like in the next few months, it's just gonna make things  
 192 so much harder because like I won't have time to do all the  
 193 things I need to do. And like – like friends that aren't doing TEE  
 194 like are gonna get angry 'cause I'm not there and my family isn't  
 195 gonna understand, but I can't go to my grandmother's house  
 196 every Sunday because I need to study. And, I think I might get  
 197 fired because I'm gonna have to take time off work, but (short  
 198 pause) so when all of that combines it sorta just stops being a  
 199 challenge and just starts getting like miserable.

200 **Interviewer:** Would you like to reflect further on how your faith can be helpful  
 201 when that happens?

202 **Glynnna:** I think but like if I just like use prayers the way to like meditate  
 203 and stuff 'cause that's kind of what I do 'cause like we have a  
 204 prayer room at home. It looks so funny because like we have  
 205 posters of Jesus on the walls an' stuff that my Mum sticks up  
 206 and that amuses me. I don't know why but it does. An' like we  
 207 like have candles and stuff and so like it's just like a really  
 208 peaceful atmosphere and if I just sit in there for a while it kinda  
 209 just like de-stressafies me which is like what I really need  
 210 sometimes.

211 **Interviewer:** Okay. What about the impact your faith has had on your attitude  
 212 towards death?

213 **Glynnna:** (long pause) It's less final, like death isn't the end of everything.  
 214 (pause) It's (pause) it's not something I can control because if I  
 215 were – not like that I'm suicidal or anything, but if I had

- 216 committed suicide it wouldn't – that's like a sin, so I can't have  
 217 control over my li - my death. And yeah, like it – but more that  
 218 it's less final, like there's still hope, you know, that stuff can  
 219 happen after I've died.
- 220 **Interviewer:** Do you pray to your friend?
- 221 **Glynnna:** I pray for the soul of my friend but not to my friend 'cause like  
 222 yeah (short pause) like with the whole Purgatory thing 'cause I  
 223 don't know if I believe in Purgatory or not, but my Mum, my Mum  
 224 has like had a big impact on my faith and like –
- 225 **Interviewer:** We're going to get to talk about that later.
- 226 **Glynnna:** Okay.
- 227 **Interviewer:** Do you think your faith has helped you get a sense of purpose  
 228 and direction in your life?
- 229 **Glynnna:** Not really. Like it helps me like make decisions 'n' stuff, but  
 230 what I do isn't based on what I believe.
- 231 **Interviewer:** Okay. Would you like to talk about what it's based on?
- 232 **Glynnna:** It's more what I want. I'm more selfish. And – but it like does. It  
 233 like (pause) because like I would never be able to do stuff – like  
 234 you – like murder or – like, like I could never be so ambitious  
 235 that I put like my friends and my family like out of place, like in  
 236 *Harry Potter*. How – do you read *Harry Potter*?
- 237 **Interviewer:** Yes.
- 238 **Glynnna:** Like how Percy, like you know – like segregated himself from his  
 239 family. I could never do that 'cause like because like religion  
 240 and faith has taught me that family and friends are really  
 241 important and – yeah.
- 242 **Interviewer:** So, obviously you had a dream, a dream, a vision of yourself in  
 243 the future. True?
- 244 **Glynnna:** Sort of. (pause) Kind of. Sort of vague and far away.
- 245 **Interviewer:** Okay. How do you get that sense of purpose? You know: "My  
 246 life has meaning because ...."?
- 247 **Glynnna:** I don't think I think my life has a meaning.
- 248 **Interviewer:** Oh, okay. But do you think your life is meaningless?
- 249 **Glynnna:** No, not necessarily, but I think that like (pause) – I don't carry  
 250 out like I start thinking that I'm gonna achieve this and this and  
 251 this. I kinda just do it – aimlessly.
- 252 **Interviewer:** Aimlessly?
- 253 **Glynnna:** Sort of, well, not really aimlessly, but to do the best I can but  
 254 with no real like goal to aim for. Like I want to do well but I don't  
 255 know why I want to do well.
- 256 **Interviewer:** So you don't know why you want to be involved in  
 257 nanotechnology?

- 258 **Glynnna:** Nup!
- 259 **Interviewer:** Okay.
- 260 **Glynnna:** Aw like, yeah, because it's like interesting and stuff, but that's  
261 more of like a selfish reason than any greater purpose.
- 262 **Interviewer:** Why would you call that selfish?
- 263 **Glynnna:** Because I'm not doing it for anyone else's benefit but my own.
- 264 **Interviewer:** Okay. Do you see that there's anything wrong with that?
- 265 **Glynnna:** No, but, ah, I suppose like selfish is like – has like negative  
266 connotations type thing.
- 267 **Interviewer:** I see.
- 268 **Glynnna:** It's not like, y'know, how some people like "Oh, I wanna be a  
269 missionary in Zimbabwe." or something. That's like totally  
270 selfless. And I don't have, y'know, such noble goals.
- 271 **Interviewer:** Some people with noble goals do it for selfish reasons.
- 272 **Glynnna:** Yes.
- 273 **Interviewer:** Alright. What events in your life have led to changes in your  
274 relationship with God? You've spoken about the death of your  
275 friend and it's obvious that it's a key story in your life. Are there  
276 any other events in your life that you see have had an impact?
- 277 **Glynnna:** Well, one is like those booklets my Mum used to read, like they  
278 really like they scared the crap out of me. Like they really made  
279 me think that like 'cause it said in the year 2000 like the sun's  
280 gonna go black and all this stuff. And I was just so scared I  
281 used to like pray the rosary like twice a day an' stuff and like  
282 that's like a lot of commitment from a seven- year-old type thing.  
283 And so that's something. Um – my aunty like had a brain  
284 tumour before I was born and like she had that removed like  
285 twenty years ago or something. And then like it came back  
286 when I think I was in Year 7 an' like that's like when the Padre  
287 Pio like stuff comes from because like – I don't know, like they  
288 my family thinks that she went to the place where he lived or  
289 whatever, and like that cured her, but like I think it was the  
290 operation she had to remove it that cured her, but, you know,  
291 either way. And so that like indirectly has influenced me  
292 because like it's made my family's faith stronger, so it affects me  
293 because –
- 294 **Interviewer:** Okay. Are there any words that you can recall from – You've  
295 told me two stories, actually three, that are really important so  
296 far. Are there any words that keep coming back to mind  
297 associated with those?
- 298 **Glynnna:** Scared.
- 299 **Interviewer:** Yeah, that's your reaction, isn't it?
- 300 **Glynnna:** Yeah.

- 301 **Interviewer:** And that's the word you put to it?
- 302 **Glynnna:** Yeah.
- 303 **Interviewer:** Are there any words that anyone would have said to you along  
304 the way?
- 305 **Glynnna:** My Mum would say, you know: Have some faith, have – like, you  
306 know, there's always hope. And my Dad would be like, you  
307 know, more rational like, you know, you know, Phil is in a better  
308 place now. But like he would just say that to console me. He  
309 didn't really believe it. And – yeah. Dad would be "Be realistic.  
310 It's not the end of the world."
- 311 **Interviewer:** Okay. Good. Do you think your faith's grown stronger or weaker  
312 in the last twelve months?
- 313 **Glynnna:** Stronger. Definitely stronger. Yep.
- 314 **Interviewer:** Why?
- 315 **Glynnna:** When like Phil died I really thought like "Nuh, I'm gonna give up  
316 this religion stuff. I can't handle it anymore. It's just a load of  
317 crap." And like I know it's not probably like the greatest thing to  
318 say, but I really just couldn't stand it. I just stopped going to  
319 Church for like, y'know, a month. I know that that's not that long,  
320 but like I just thought (pause) And then like (pause) Um, I don't  
321 know, I think I went for Christmas because he like died a couple  
322 of months before Christmas and I went to Christmas Mass and I  
323 kind of realised that, you know, like there was this whole  
324 community of people that like would support me if I needed it.  
325 And so that sort of started me getting back into (pause) And then  
326 like I wanted to become a Special Minister 'cause like I wanted  
327 another badge like (laughter) so terrible, but like that was kind of  
328 like the initial reason why I wanted to do it. And then like I  
329 actually gave out the communion like at the – at the first Mass,  
330 like it just felt so amazing like, It was like wow! All these people  
331 I'm like giving something to them. It's o – ah – it just felt so good  
332 and like we did it – I – I did it like a couple of weeks ago and I  
333 just had that like, y'know, glowing feeling and – I think that like  
334 has really, really strengthened my relationship with like God an'  
335 stuff.
- 336 **Interviewer:** I can relate to that.
- 337 **Glynnna:** It's so great.
- 338 **Interviewer:** Isn't it. Yeah. It really is. Okay, so what do you think of when  
339 you're holding the host? What's the host mean to you?
- 340 **Glynnna:** It's a piece of bread that has like (pause) When like – When we  
341 got put into the session for those who were new, Fr Chris was  
342 like "You, what do you believe in it?" And I'm like, "Oh, it's not  
343 like Jesus' flesh, or anything. Like I don't believe that. It's just  
344 like his Spirit sort of thing like residing in it – in like the piece of  
345 bread, like infused into it." And, y'know, that's kind of what I – I



346 think about like (pause) How amazing it is that this tradition has  
 347 been passed on for so long as well like sometimes I just words  
 348 an' stuff, you know, they've been these ritualistic stirred for like  
 349 two thousand years. That's pretty amazing.

350 **Interviewer:** Okay. What about the impact of the school on your faith?

351 **Glynnna:** (pause) Like high school? or primary school? or both?

352 **Interviewer:** High school.

353 **Glynnna:** Okay, high school? Initially, it made me like less inclined to be  
 354 like all religious-like, which is, you know, which wa – isn't cool.  
 355 An' I s'pose I kinda gave in to like the peer pressures type thing,  
 356 y'know, I sort of (pause) like and I got into witchcraft an' stuff  
 357 like, like I was always interested in that type of stuff. But for a  
 358 while I was pretty into that. I was still like a Catholic. I would  
 359 never would have said like I was pagan or anything. But I got  
 360 into that an' so (pause) Like until like Year 11 I wasn't really like,  
 361 you know, "Oh yeah, I go to Church every week." I wouldn't – I  
 362 would try to avoid mentioning that to people an' stuff, but then I  
 363 kind of realised that it was like a good thing, you know. It show  
 364 that like I'm committed to something an' (pause)

365 **Interviewer:** Was there anything that sparked that off – that realisation?

366 **Glynnna:** I think it was just like a lot of things, like – like the kind of going  
 367 back to the Church, even though I didn't really leave for that  
 368 long, like after my friend died. And like (pause) wanting to be  
 369 more involved in the school and like that kind of stuff it kind of  
 370 (pause) like going to Church, and, y'know, being a Catholic, like  
 371 not just in name, y'know, but by my actions an' stuff that would  
 372 make me like a better person, y'know. (pause) Like yep. I think.  
 373 I dunno.

374 **Interviewer:** Very good. Yeah. Any significant people or moments in your  
 375 school life that have led to changes in the ways you think about  
 376 and relate to God?

377 **Glynnna:** (pause) In primary school, we had like a priest and like he died,  
 378 an' like that had no effect on me 'cause I didn't really know him  
 379 really, or anything, an' then we had this really cool priest for like  
 380 seven years or something and I used to go to that church. And  
 381 then like, like he did all these renovations an' stuff and then he  
 382 just left and it kind of made me think like, y'know, he was only  
 383 here to make the money and for the grandeur, and like being like  
 384 the priest that changed everything. He wasn't really in it for what  
 385 it should be for, like, y'know, to help people an' stuff. So that's  
 386 like ....

387 **Interviewer:** Is that Fr Tom Cohen?

388 **Glynnna:** Yeah.

389 **Interviewer:** Yeah, he had to move on.

390 **Glynnna:** Yeah, I – I know that. I know he had to. And also like – um – Fr  
 391 Paul – like the Archbishop now. So I shouldn't really bad-mouth  
 392 him really, or anything, but he like really stuffed my Grandmother  
 393 over because he wasn't the nicest person, I don't think. Yeah.

394 **Interviewer:** Okay.

395 **Glynnna:** But like in high school, sorry. I got off the track. Um (pause)  
 396 my Year 11 religion teacher like I really hated her at the start  
 397 because she was so arrogant. And like I just thought, y'know,  
 398 aw, how could someone be so like ignorant. You know, she  
 399 refused to believe in evolution, y'know. How could she like  
 400 (short pause) you know – There's so much evidence, you can't  
 401 just say that it didn't happen and she made me so angry. But  
 402 like because she made me so angry, it made me like really get  
 403 into like details of stuff an' read more an' all that kind of stuff.  
 404 An' like I kind of realised how like I don't know if she was doing it  
 405 on purpose to make us question ourselves more. Or if she was  
 406 doing it because she really believed it. But it really kind of made  
 407 me think more about stuff.

408 **Interviewer:** Did she give you any clues at all that maybe she was just trying  
 409 to trick you into – ?

410 **Glynnna:** I think sometimes she was, but, I don't know, sometimes I'm  
 411 pretty sure she was being serious.

412 **Interviewer:** How can you tell when a teacher has your best interests at  
 413 heart?

414 **Glynnna:** (pause) I don't know.

415 **Interviewer:** Okay. That's all right.

416 **Glynnna:** Um (pause) No, I think you just do.

417 **Interviewer:** Is Year 12 different from Year 11 when it comes to RE?

418 **Glynnna:** Yep!

419 **Interviewer:** What's the difference?

420 **Glynnna:** Last year, I was in a class that started off thirteen people and  
 421 that ended up with four. And now – and I was like really good  
 422 friends with like – like half way through the year there was only  
 423 six of us left. An' like that was the main class that lasted. An'  
 424 we were all really close and we felt really comfortable discussing  
 425 like personal issues and this year I'm in the INSTEP class and  
 426 like with – like it's like segregated an' – Mrs Thomas, she's a  
 427 really nice lady an' stuff, but sometimes she gets angry and we  
 428 don't really have class discussions an' stuff. So, it's really  
 429 different.

430 **Interviewer:** INSTEP people are often out of the school.

431 **Glynnna:** Yeah.

432 **Interviewer:** They're on a different learning programme from you.

- 433 **Glynnna:** An' sometimes like 'cause there's three of us like TEE students  
 434 an' like, you know – Sometimes Mrs Thomas would be like  
 435 “Which one of you does History?” And it would be like me only  
 436 and so she sort of singles me out and makes me explain stuff  
 437 an' like I s'pose, y'know, she doesn't realise she's doing it, but it  
 438 kind of just adds to like the barrier between all of us. Yeah.
- 439 **Interviewer:** Which is a lot different from the experience of Year 11 with the  
 440 six of you.
- 441 **Glynnna:** Yeah. Last year's religion class was the greatest class ever.
- 442 **Interviewer:** Okay. All right. Is there anything that has happened, or been  
 443 said, in RE that you think has influenced you in your faith? You  
 444 talked about the teacher who wouldn't accept that evolution was  
 445 real. That would have happened in RE, so, obviously that has  
 446 led you to sort of re-assess what faith is and what to believe and  
 447 what not to believe. Would that be true?
- 448 **Glynnna:** Yes.
- 449 **Interviewer:** Is there anything further that you would want to add to that?
- 450 **Glynnna:** With that situation it kind of made me realise that some people  
 451 just can follow something mindlessly and that like that is not a  
 452 good thing. Like I really disagree with people that just do that  
 453 and so it kind of made me, y'know, aware that there were really  
 454 people like that out there.
- 455 **Interviewer:** Okay. Good. To just round that off, what impact do you think  
 456 your RE teachers have had on your relationship with God?
- 457 **Glynnna:** (long pause) They've ma – they've brou – brought up interesting  
 458 points to like think about. 'cause in Year 9, I remember we had  
 459 like this question like we had a class debate and it was like  
 460 “Does the ends justify the means?” I had to argue that the ends  
 461 justify the means. And, you know, like my ultimate point was like  
 462 well Jesus died to get us into heaven, so the ends do justify the  
 463 means. And like, I wouldn't have thought of that if the ar – like  
 464 the debate hadn't been put forth. Some said, “Wow! That's  
 465 cool!”
- 466 **Interviewer:** Okay. The last thing I wanted to ask you to reflect on was about  
 467 the people who've played a significant part in your faith  
 468 development. And you spent a little bit of time talking about your  
 469 Mum and your Dad. I suppose the thing I'm interested in getting  
 470 you to reflect on is firstly whether or Mum or your Dad or both  
 471 have prompted you to move closer to God, or away from God,  
 472 and then to reflect further on the differences between your Mum  
 473 and your Dad.
- 474 **Glynnna:** Well, okay, my Mum like kind of made me be Catholic. You  
 475 know, like my Dad didn't really get a say in it. And my Dad's  
 476 atheist. He doesn't believe at all. And like um (pause) –  
 477 because my Dad would be like – like he didn't used to do this  
 478 when I was younger, he would like let my Mum be responsible

479 for my faith. But, like lately, he will say stuff like, aw, you know,  
 480 "Catholics blah, blah, blah." And because like I find myself  
 481 backing mostly – y'know, like my entire religion up, it's like  
 482 (pause) Yeah, we are right, y'know, we have the right to believe  
 483 what we want. So that's like a way my Dad has – But my Dad  
 484 sort of like because he's more of like the rational type person,  
 485 he's kind of impacted in my, you know, weird melding of science  
 486 and religion, so that's like the major part he's played in my –  
 487 Yeah.

488 **Interviewer:** Mum? Where does Mum come from?

489 **Glynnna:** Mum's from Burma. And she came out like about thirty-five  
 490 years ago. And my Dad's from England, and he came out like  
 491 about twenty-five years ago. Yeah. And like when – in Burma  
 492 like – I don't know if like Catholicness – Catholicism (laughter) is  
 493 like the major religion, or anything, but – I just make up words all  
 494 the time, so – um, that a lot of like the Burmese community is  
 495 Catholic, and so sometimes I feel as though like she wants me  
 496 to be like a Special Minister an' all that kind of stuff so that she  
 497 can show me off to her friends an' stuff which kind of irritates  
 498 me.

499 **Interviewer:** That's part of the culture, yeah.

500 **Glynnna:** Yeah.

501 **Interviewer:** It comes with the territory, doesn't it.

502 **Glynnna:** Yeah, it's really annoying.

503 **Interviewer:** Okay. So obviously you Mum has influenced you to be Catholic  
 504 and you're trying to forge your own understanding of it, aren't  
 505 you?

506 **Glynnna:** Yes.

507 **Interviewer:** And to co-exist. But there are some things that you are finding  
 508 useful. Is that right?

509 **Glynnna:** Yeah. I would say so. She's like kind of instilled in me that like  
 510 it's important to believe in something like, 'cause like whenever  
 511 she has a problem she'll pray. And like, I'm not like that, like not  
 512 – 'cause she says the Rosary like – six times a day, or  
 513 something. An' I just can't concentrate for that long.

514 **Interviewer:** I couldn't either.

515 **Glynnna:** I don't know how she does it, but – she's kinda shown me that  
 516 like, yeah, there's always some way to like express myself, you  
 517 know, like through religion.

518 **Interviewer:** Okay. Your Mum gives you a way of thinking about things.

519 **Glynnna:** Yeah.

520 **Interviewer:** What about your Dad? You talked about your Dad and you've  
 521 said a number of times that he's a rational sort of person.

522 **Glynnna:** Okay. Like my Mum like is a bit of an idiot, like, not to be mean  
 523 to her or anything, but she's not like as educated as I am, and  
 524 she – she – she thinks like really stupid things sometimes, like,  
 525 y'know, she'll jump to really illogical conclusions an' stuff. So  
 526 sometimes I like think that aw Mum's a bit of an idiot, I think.  
 527 And my Dad's, y'know, like the logical one. My Dad kind of  
 528 gives me the logical side to stuff. He's encouraged me to think  
 529 stuff through reasonably rather than (pause) If I see a car on the  
 530 side of the street, it's not a stolen car. It could just be that the  
 531 person is having a party type thing. Like that type of thing.  
 532 Yeah.

533 **Interviewer:** I think that's probably given me enough to work with. Lastly, is  
 534 there anything that you would want to say that I haven't asked  
 535 you about?

536 **Glynnna:** (pause) That like books an' stuff has like impacted a lot on what  
 537 I think, like – like fictional books. Yeah.

538 **Interviewer:** Is there a book that sticks in your mind more than any other?

539 **Glynnna:** All the Raymond D. Vice books, like science fictiony stuff, like –  
 540 it's sort of all magical an' stuff and so, like they have their gods  
 541 that – (pause) There's this guy that has this theory that the  
 542 universe is a living entity and that like everything – that all the  
 543 mistakes we make, an' stuff, it's just the universe learning. And  
 544 that made me think about stuff in such a different way, you  
 545 know. I was like, "Wow! That's so cool!" And *Harry Potter*  
 546 probably happens in some way "cause I love *Harry Potter* and  
 547 *Lord of the Rings* – I'm such a nerd! (laughter) Like I always  
 548 read. Yeah.

549 **Interviewer:** Okay. We will stop here. Thanks for sharing your story with me,  
 550 Glynnna. I have enjoyed meeting with you and listening to you.