

ICTS-RRI MATHS CIRCLE
July 25, 2026

Before we meet, spend a little time with the following:

Mathematics is often imagined as a solitary activity.

Yet mathematicians spend much of their lives talking to one another: asking questions, explaining and challenging ideas, listening carefully to one another, and through this, gradually enriching their ways of seeing.

Why might this be?

Some mathematical ideas are loud and immediate.
Others are quiet.

Some reveal themselves quickly.
Others reward those who stay with them and reflect.

Some need time.
Some need other people.
Some need to be protected for a while before they can grow.

Have you ever dismissed an idea, only to realize later that there was something important in it?
Have you ever carried a question with you for a long time before it slowly began to reveal itself?
Have you ever changed your mind because of something another person noticed?

Suppose a group wishes to understand an idea whose full shape none of them can yet see.
How should they behave toward one another?

What kind of world would you like mathematics to be?

Before we meet again, immerse yourself in the remaining explorations from the previous sheet.
Do you begin to sense a continuous thread running through them?

Watch [*Knots to Narnia*](#), by [William Thurston](#).

Does this remind you of ideas and journeys from the previous session?
