

Religious Studies Revision Guide



EDUQAS SYLLABUS B

Component One:

**“Foundational Catholic
Theology”**

COMPONENT ONE IS DIVIDED INTO TWO CLEAR SECTIONS:

- Origins and Meanings
- Good and Evil

COMPONENT ONE WILL BE EXAMINED AT THE END OF YEAR 11 AND WILL MAKE UP 37.5% OF YOUR RE GCSE. THIS EXAM WILL BE 90 MINUTES IN LENGTH.

The exam will be made up of a variety of “styles” of question:

- a) style **DEFINE:** You will need to define one of the Key Concepts you are given at the start of each section.
(2 marks)
- b) style **DESCRIBE:** You will need to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a belief, teaching, practice, event etc.
(5 marks)
- c) style **EXPLAIN:** You will need to compare two religious beliefs on a topic eg; Catholic, Church of England, Fundamentalist, Judaism etc. You may NOT discuss Non-Religious beliefs on these questions (*this only applies to Component One*).
(8 marks)

d) style

DISCUSS: You will be given a controversial statement and will be expected to present differing arguments in favour of and against this statement. You MAY refer to religious arguments AND Non-Religious/humanist arguments.

(15 marks)

EDUQAS EXAM BOARD RECOMMENDS THAT YOU SPEND “A MINUTE A MARK” ON EACH QUESTION.

WHO'S WHO?!

A CHRISTIAN:



There are 2.2 billion of these people living in the world today. They ALL follow the teachings of Jesus Christ (most of which are written down in their holy book, the Bible).

There are MANY different types of Christian who choose to worship God and follow Jesus' teachings in different ways.

A CATHOLIC:



These are one type of Christian (*there are many more!*)

There are 1.1 billion of these living in the world today.

They believe God has given authority to the Pope to lead his people. They also believe that when the bread and wine are blessed at Mass ("*consecrated*"), they ACTUALLY become the body and blood of Jesus, so Holy Communion is sacred.

A FUNDAMENTALIST CHRISTIAN:



This type of Christian believes that the Bible is the inspired word of God and is therefore totally accurate.

They reject modern interpretations of biblical stories and treat the accounts within the bible as actual, literal facts that happened exactly as they are described in the bible.

AN ATHEIST:



These are non-religious people who do not believe in the existence of God.

They look towards science, reason and logic and refuse to accept anything that relies on faith.

They believe the Big Questions in life must be answered with scientific evidence, and reasonable explanation.

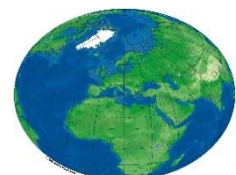
COMPONENT 1 ~ 1.1: ORIGINS & MEANINGS

KEY CONCEPTS

Creation ex nihilo	creation out of nothing. Before God created the universe, nothing existed. Only God can create out of nothing.
Evolution	the process of mutation and natural selection which leads to changes in species over time to suit particular environments.
Imago Dei	in the image of God. The belief that human beings are uniquely a reflection of God's personhood. Unlike the other animals, human beings are rational, free and moral.
Inspiration	"God breathed" The belief that the Spirit of God guides an individual to act or write what is good and true.
Omnipotence	the belief that God is all powerful.
Revelation	the word used to describe all of the ways in which God makes <i>himself</i> known to human beings. Christians believe that God does this finally and fully in the person of Jesus Christ.
Stewardship	the duty to care for creation responsibly, as stewards rather than consumers, and to protect it for future generations.
Transcendence	existing outside of space and time; God exists in a way that makes him nothing like anything else that exists, above and beyond creation.

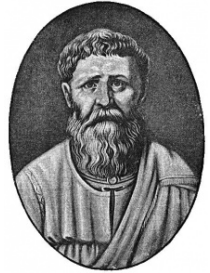
What do **Catholic Christians** say about the creation of the universe?

- The Universe was created by God ~ various sources back this up which we will look at individually.
- The Universe was created Ex Nihilo (out of nothing) ~ St Augustine also expressed this idea in his book "Confessions".
- **The two accounts of creation in Genesis** (Ch1: The 7 Day Creation & Ch2: The Creation of Adam and Eve) **tell us some truths about the Creation** (It was God, it was deliberate, it was good etc.) BUT should not be interpreted as historical, literal or factual ~ it is more like a parable, expressing deeper truths!
- The Big Bang and Evolution are the most likely explanations.



- One of the two men responsible for the big Bang Theory was in fact a Catholic priest and scientist Georges Lemaitre!

CREATION EX NIHILO



This is the Christian belief that God created the world out of nothing. St Augustine expressed it best in his book called "Confessions". He said that before the Creation of the Universe, NOTHING existed *except* God. Therefore, being logical, he said the ONLY two POSSIBLE things that the Universe could be made out of were NOTHING and GOD because there was nothing else!

Augustine believed that God was perfect ~ he also recognised that the Universe was not perfect therefore they could not be made from the same substance...SO...the Universe must be made from nothing!

you, O Lord.... **You created heaven and earth but you did not make them of your own substance. If you had done so, they would have been equal to yourself...**

But besides yourself, O God, who are Trinity in Unity, Unity in Trinity, **there was nothing from which you could make heaven and earth. Therefore you must have created them from nothing, the one great, the other small. For there is nothing that you cannot do. You are good and all that you make must be good, both the great Heaven of Heavens and this little earth. You were, and besides you nothing was. From nothing, then, you created heaven and earth, distinct from one another;** the one close to yourself, the other close to being nothing; the one surpassed only by yourself, the other little more than nothing.

If there was only God in the beginning, and he made the heavens and the earth, but he didn't make them out of his OWN substance...

...then he MUST have made them out of nothing (because there WAS nothing else!!!)

THE TEACHINGS OF THE CATHOLIC POPES

For the last 70 years, Roman catholic pope's have accepted that The Big Bang and Evolution are the most likely explanations for the origins of the Universe. However, this does not take away the need for a God. They believe that God ~ The Intelligent Designer ~ is at the heart of these events ~ sparking them off and controlling them.

- ✓ **POPE PIUS XII** (12TH) wrote “*Humani Generis*” in **1950**. It **did not reject Darwin’s work on evolution**.
- ✓ **POPE JOHN PAUL II** (2ND) spoke to the **PONTIFICAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES** (the Vatican scientists) in **1996** and said “**There is no conflict between evolution and faith**” and said that evolution was “**worthy of serious study**”.
- ✓ **POPE FRANCIS** spoke to the **PONTIFICAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES** again in 2014 and said we must not run the risk of “**imagining God was a magician, with a magic wand**”. But rather accept that “**He created human beings and let them develop according to the internal laws that he gave each one**”.

What do Fundamentalist Christians say about the creation of the universe?

- The Universe was **created by God**
- The Universe was **created Ex Nihilo**
- The two accounts of creation in Genesis are **literal, historical accounts** of how the world came into being. They are NOT parables!
- The world was therefore **created in six 24 hour periods**, exactly as it states in Genesis.
- Adam and Eve were actually the first man and woman on earth.

WHY DO THEY BELIEVE THIS?

Fundamentalists, like Roman Catholics, believe that the bible is the Word of God, dictated by him to the prophets. However, where Catholics believe the bible has many styles ~ some fact, others parable / poetry, Fundamentalists believe the word of God **MUST** be exact.



Therefore, they use the details of the Bible to date the Creation of the Universe to 6000 years ago.

Adam was formed from dust and Eve was formed from the rib of Adam.

As the Big Bang and Evolution are theories (not fully proven), Fundamentalists refuse to accept them as truth but rather just “ideas”.

They claim that if the first few chapters of Genesis are not literal truth; the rest of scripture is thrown into question.

What do **atheists** say about the creation of the universe?

We will look at two main atheists here:

1. **STEPHEN HAWKING:**

An astrophysicist who has studied the origins of the Universe for years.

"Before we understood science, it was natural to believe that God created the Universe, but now science offers a more convincing explanation"

"We are just an advanced breed of monkeys on a minor planet of a very average star"

"the laws of physics are enough to trigger the Big Bang, 'God' is not needed for this"

Hawking has previously stated that it is possible that the universe did not have a beginning and stated *"if the universe had neither beginning or end: it would simply be. What place then for a creator?"*

2. **RICHARD DAWKINS:**

A professor of genetics, he has been referred to as "the most famous atheist in the world".

He looks to Darwin's Theory of Evolution and believes it poses no need for a God.

He argues that all organisms are just "survival machines"

Evolution is a scientific process of reproduction and mutation

He claims unlike religion, his work is based on evidence

Belief in a creator God is merely proof-less faith!

Dawkins wrote a book called "The God Delusion" in which he said *"One of the truly bad effects of religion is that it teaches us that it is a virtue to be satisfied with not understanding"*

(We should not be content with not fully understanding things!)

ATHEIST VIEWS IN SUMMARY:

As Roman Catholic Christians do, atheists point to The Big Bang and Evolution as to how the world began.

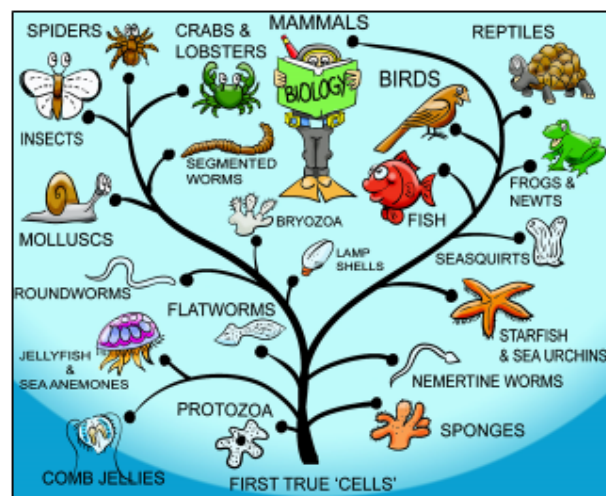


Unlike Roman catholic Christians, they do not believe that there is the need for a creator God at the heart of Creation ~ science alone is sufficient.

EVOLUTION IN SUMMARY:

Evolution is the idea that over millions of years creatures can and do change.

This theory says that **all life has a common source**: a single-cell organism (*amoeba*) in the sea and that life-forms **evolved** (developed) and **mutated** (changed) into more complex creatures over millions of years.



WHAT IS IMAGO DEI?

This is the Christian belief that god made human beings in His own image and likeness.

WHAT DID ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA SAY ABOUT IMAGO DEI?

- She existed in the 14th century
- She was a nun and a “doctor” of the church (expert in the church)
- She believed she had the stigmata (the wounds of Christ)
- She died aged 33 after a long period of ill health
- One of her writings was called “The Dialogue of St Catherine of Siena”

In her Dialogue, she said that when we know we are made in the Image of God (IMAGO DEI), it gives our soul a great dignity and we should be thankful to God for this.

St Catherine said that looking at God is like looking in a mirror ~ a mirror shows up our imperfections clearly ~ they are the first thing we see! Looking on the perfection of God highlights our soul's imperfections to us clearly ~ we are clearly stained, compared to His purity.

Catherine ends her Dialogue by proclaiming her surprise and delight that God loved humans so much that he made them with dignity, worth and the possibility to experience His great goodness.

CATHOLIC BELIEFS ABOUT THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE

As we are made in the image of God, unlike any other creature, this makes human life precious, holy, and sacred, according to Roman Catholic Christians.



The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) which is the “rule book” of the Catholic Church states that:

“Human life is sacred because from the beginning it involves the creative action of God and it remains for ever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end”



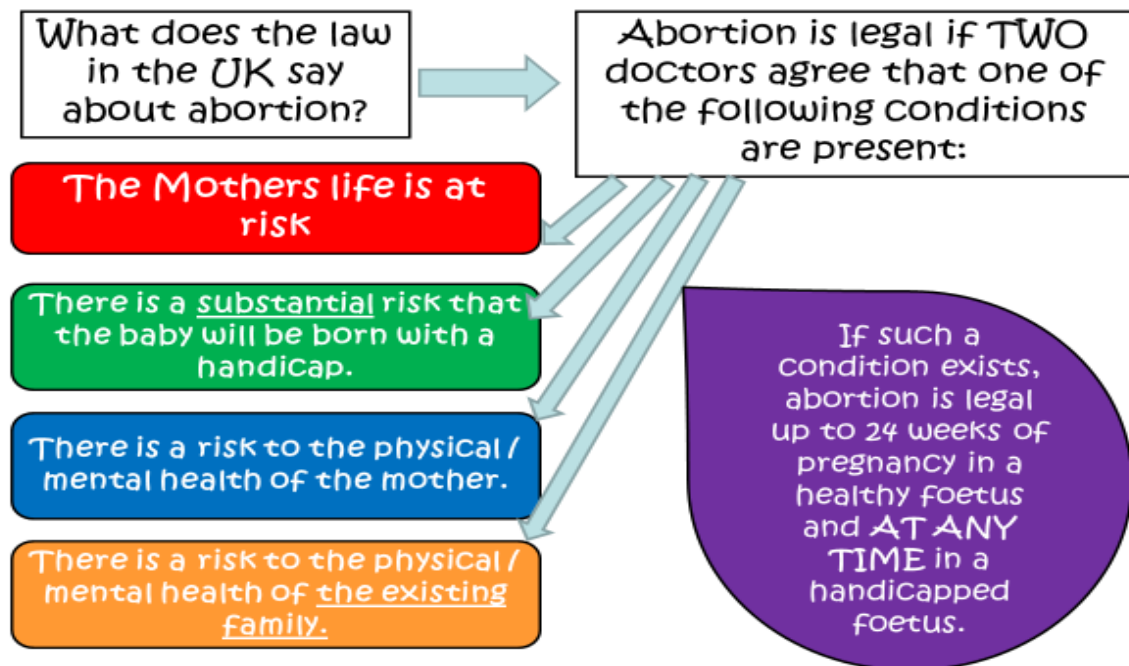
This means that God is involved in the process of conception...whether an egg is fertilised or not lies in his hands! It also means that God is the sole being who can end human life

Catholics use the writings of Catherine of Siena to help them explain the three reasons for the belief that life is sacred:

- **ORIGIN:** Life is a gift from God ~ it originates from Him so is holy.
- **DIGNITY:** Humans are made in God's image and have immortal souls
- **DESTINY:** The goal of this life is eternal joy with God in heaven.

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT CATHOLIC BELIEFS ON ABORTION?

Firstly, let's take a quick look at what the UK law says about abortion:



It became legal in 1967 up until 28 weeks so that women would not seek backstreet abortions ~ this limit was reduced in 1991 to 24 weeks when medical advances in premature births progressed.

HOWEVER...

As all humans are made in God's image and therefore SACRED, Catholics do not accept abortion under **any** circumstances.

Catholics believe life begins at the very moment of conception...the Catechism of the Catholic Church says...

“Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception”

Catholics would also look to biblical scripture when completely forbidding abortion. The Ten Commandments tell us “Thou shall not kill” and Jeremiah says we have been “knitted together by God in our mother's womb”

DO ALL CHRISTIANS FEEL THE SAME?

No!

LIBERAL CHRISTIANS (including some members of the Church of England) believe that there are individual tragic circumstances in which an abortion might be justified. For example, in the case of a rape, or the health of the mother or the serious handicap of the unborn baby, some Christians would accept an early abortion as **THE MOST LOVING ACTION** ~ after all, God is omnibenevolent, isn't he?

Such Christians would point to scripture such as "Treat other people as you want to be treated yourself" ("The Golden Rule")

However...

FUNDAMENTALIST CHRISTIANS share the views of Roman Catholic Christians in not allowing abortion in ANY circumstances whatsoever.

HUMANIST BELIEFS ABOUT THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE

A HUMANIST:



These are non-religious people who will only follow science, logic and reason and reject any kind of supernatural or spiritualism.

They believe in the importance of human life and human beings and although they don't accept any kind of afterlife, they believe humans should work to give their own lives happiness and meaning

THIS IS WHAT A HUMANIST IS. ALL HUMANISTS ARE ATHEISTS, BUT HAVE SPECIFIC BELIEFS ABOUT THE GREAT VALUE AND IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN LIFE

- Humanists **respect the human need for happiness and personal choice.**
- They also recognise that humans have a duty to respect life.
- However, **they would not say that life is sacred** because sacred means "belonging to God" and they **DON'T BELIEVE IN A GOD!**
- They believe that life must be **of a reasonable quality** to be worth living

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT HUMANIST BELIEFS ON ABORTION?

Humanists would believe that the woman has absolute rights over her own body and these override any rights that the unborn foetus has.

Humanists do NOT believe in the SANCTITY of Life, but they DO believe in the QUALITY of life ~ therefore:

- They accept abortion because Backstreet abortions cause misery, injury and death
- They accept abortions when the pregnancy or birth would bring harm to the mother's mental / physical health
- They accept abortion because a handicapped child may have a reduced quality of life
- They accept abortion because they value the freedom of humans to make their own decisions.

WHO IS PETER SINGER AND WHAT IS SPECIESISM?

Peter Singer is a humanist with very particular views on the value of human life. His views do NOT represent humanism as a whole.

SPECIESISM: This is defined as giving one particular species more importance than other species. (*This is usually done when human life is considered more important than other life forms*) The VAST majority of religious people would claim to be speciesist ~ considering humans to have more worth and value than anything else.

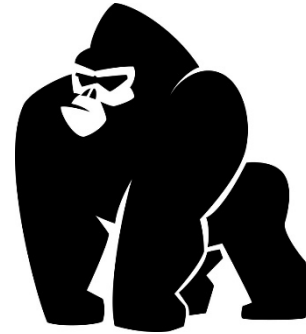
Peter Singer, an Australian philosopher believes that we should help as many people as possible to enjoy life and eliminate the suffering of as many people as possible. He says that **quality of life for all animal species** (including humans) **is related to the amount of suffering/enjoyment** (or pleasure) **they have** – those who suffer more have a worse quality of life, and those who enjoy more have a better quality of life.

Based on this, Singer believes that **it is okay to kill some human beings**, as it will reduce suffering. When working out what is right and wrong, we must put aside factors such as feelings and emotions, and base our decisions on cool, critical thinking.

Singer makes a **clear distinction between a “human” and a “person”**. A person is a human who can think and be rational and make decisions. A “human” is a biological human! He claims foetus’, new born babies and dementia sufferers are merely “humans”, NOT “persons”.

Killing such “humans” is acceptable if it reduces suffering in humanity.

ONE MORE POINT: Singer believes that some animals have a similar mental capacity to some humans and we should not prioritise humans over them just because of their species. A good example of this is the case of HARAMBE, the gorilla killed in Cincinnati zoo to save the life of a small child.



CATHOLIC & HUMANIST VIEWS ON PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

CATHOLICS AND HUMANISTS BOTH BELIEVE THAT THE ENVIRONMENT MUST BE PROTECTED

HOWEVER...

THEY HAVE VERY DIFFERENT REASONS FOR THIS BELIEF...

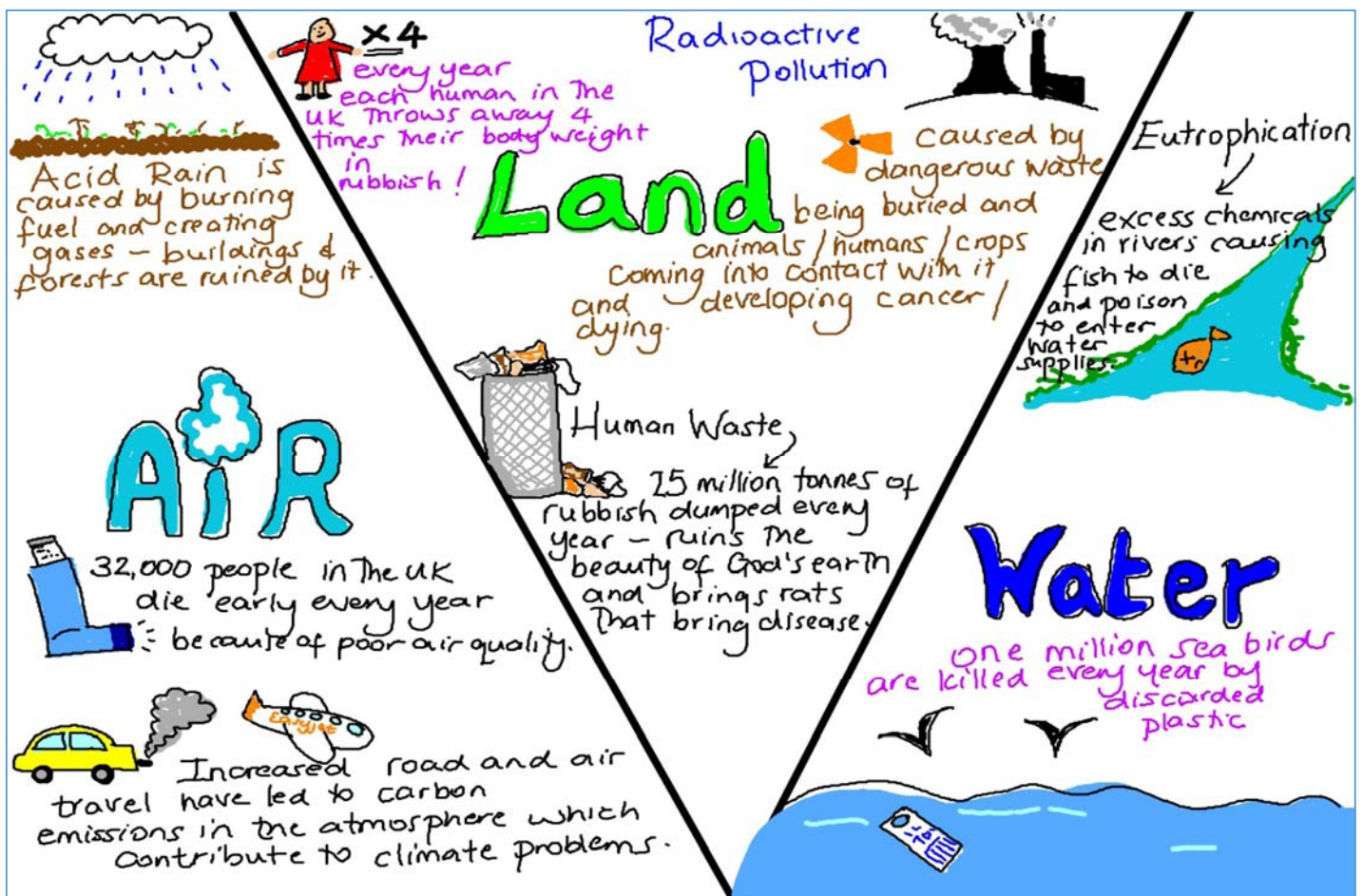
ROMAN CATHOLIC BELIEFS:

- Humans are important in protecting the environment **because** God instructed us to do so in Genesis when he created us *in his likeness*.
- Humans should protect the environment **because** God gave it to us to be **stewards** ~ *it does not belong to us*.
- Humans should continue to populate the world **because** God said in genesis ***“Go forth & multiply, populate the earth and multiply in it”***
- All Catholics recognise the **superiority of humanity** as a species because we are made in God’s image.

HUMANIST BELIEFS:

- Humans are important in protecting the environment **because** we have the intelligence to preserve and cultivate the land.
- Humans should protect the environment **because** it must be kept in a way that benefits all of humanity and makes them happy in their world.
- **Unlike Catholics**, Humanists support birth control programmes (eg one child policy) **because** overpopulation threatens the happiness and safety of humans.
- Some humanists believe that animals **may sometimes be more important than humans** (they're only one kind of animal after all!)

WHAT **PROBLEMS** ARE CAUSED **WHEN THE ENVIRONMENT IS NOT PROTECTED?**



...AND WHY SHOULD CHRISTIANS CARE?

- Remember what we said before...Christians believe themselves to be stewards of God's creation ~ it's our duty to look after it. In Genesis, we were commanded "to tend the earth and cultivate it".
- Christians believe that we have been "knitted together" by God ~ we are precious and sacred. Anything that endangers human life is unacceptable.
- God made the world to be "good" (Genesis) ~ we have no right to make it bad.

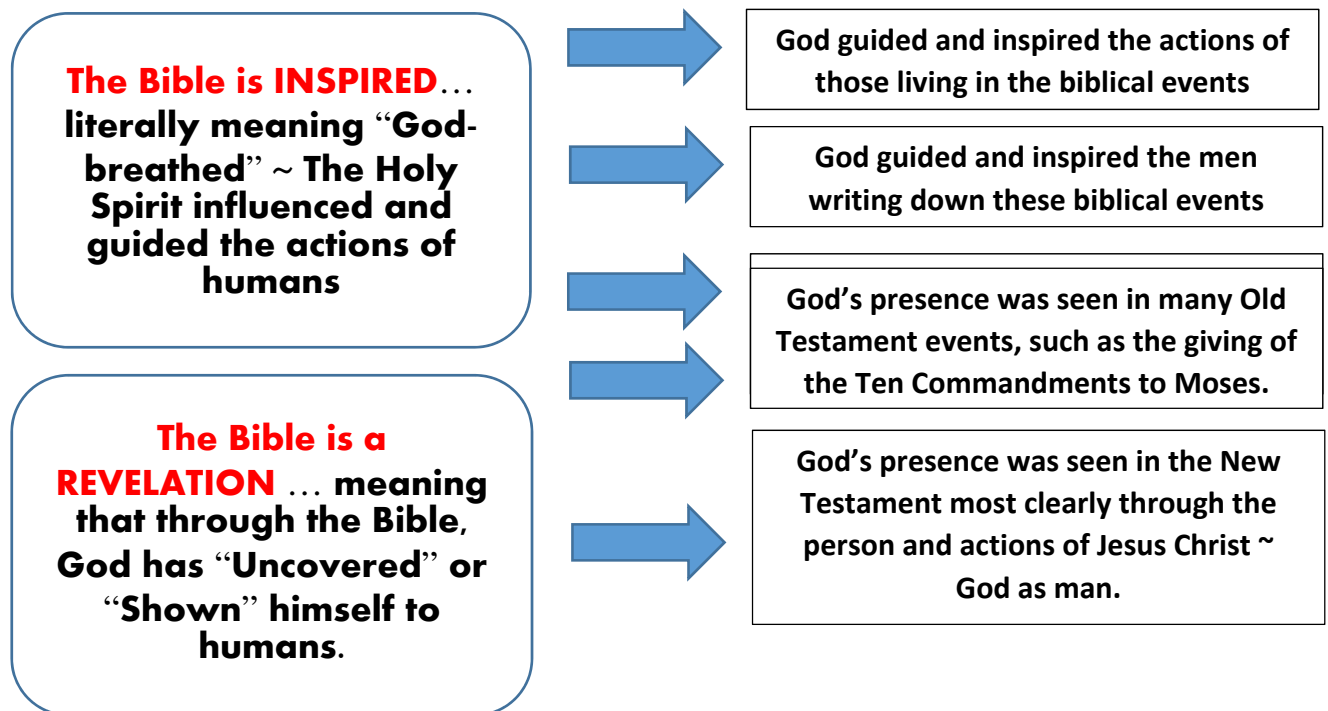
WHAT IS THE BIBLE & WHERE DID IT COME FROM?



Roman Catholic Christians believe that the Bible is a collection of books, written in different styles including;

- ✓ Law
- ✓ History
- ✓ Poetry / song / parable
- ✓ Prophecy
- ✓ Letter

CATHOLICS believe that the Bible is the Word of God for two main reasons:



DO ALL **CHRISTIANS** HAVE THE SAME **BELIEFS ABOUT THE BIBLE?**

No!

CATHOLIC:

The Bible is written in different styles, so we have to take this into account (e.g. poetry / history etc)

The Bible was written in a different culture so may contain sexism / homophobia etc

The Bible often contains MORAL truths rather than ACTUAL truths (e.g. Good Samaritan / Creation etc)

FUNDAMENTALIST:

Every passage should be read in the same way. There are no different literary forms.

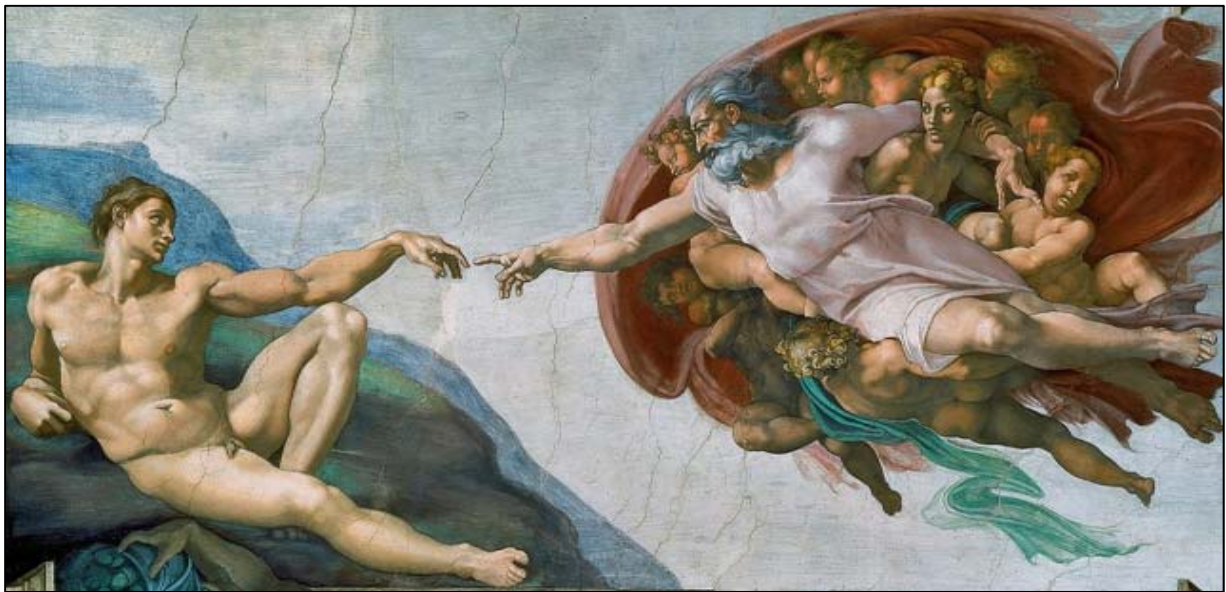
The Bible contains the literal truth. There is no need to interpret its meanings, it is all true.

INTERPRETING RELIGIOUS ART

For this section, you will need to analyse TWO pieces of Religious Art:

- ✓ The Creation of Adam (On the ceiling in the Sistine Chapel, Vatican)
- ✓ The Tree of Life Apse (in the basilica of St Clements, Rome)

1. THE CREATION OF ADAM:



WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

- One of the main messages of Michelangelo's paintings in the Sistine Chapel is that **God is the creator of everything**. Nothing comes into being without God.
- The **hands** of Adam and God are **reaching out to each other** to reflect the longing for a close relationship between God and man ~ they almost touch ~ reinforcing **Imago Dei**.
- Adam and God are **lying in similar positions**, which reinforces the idea that **humanity is made in the image of God**.
- Look at the hands... **God's hand is dominant**, pointing to his creation whereas Adam's is bent in subservience. **God is Omnipotent, man is not!**
- God is shown being **carried through the air by a group of angels**, reflecting his **transcendence**, while Adam is shown firmly on the ground. This is an attempt to show the greatness and majesty of God.
- The painting represents the moment when God makes Adam come to life. Michelangelo is showing that **Adam depends on God for his life**.

2. THE TREE OF LIFE APSE:



WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

- The “Tree of Life” stood in the Garden of Eden when Adam sinned and brought about the downfall of humans... Jesus is now crucified on “The new Tree of Life” and has saved humans by allowing them eternal life So Jesus has become the “New Adam”!
- The Crucifixion scene is the centre point ~ it IS the Tree of Life ~ the tree from which humans gained Eternal Life!
- The vine throughout the apse represents Christ who said “*I am the vine and you are the branches*”
- Both the 12 **doves** on the cross and the 12 **lambs** at the bottom represent the **12 apostles of Christ**.
- At the top of the image is a representation of **the four “evangelists”** (Gospel writers):



MARK:

THE WINGED LION

Mark’s Gospel begins in “The Wilderness” ~ associated with Lions and wild beasts. Also, Lions symbolise kingship ~ Mark’s gospel speaks of Christ’s kingship.



MATTHEW:
THE WINGED
MAN
(ANGEL)

Matthew's Gospel begins with Jesus' family tree from Abraham onwards. **This symbol represents the humanity of Christ.**



LUKE:
THE WINGED OX

Luke's Gospel begins with a sacrifice being made in the temple ~ Oxen were often sacrificed by priests in the Temple. **This represents the sacrifice of Christ on the cross.**



JOHN:
THE EAGLE

John's Gospel is full of mystery and deep religious teachings such as Christ existing with God before time! **The high soaring eagle is a symbol of these difficult spiritual teachings!**

There are also a couple of important Christian symbols included within the apse and you must also show an understanding of their symbolism:



ALPHA & OMEGA: These are the first (Alpha) and the last (Omega) letters of the Greek alphabet. The symbol therefore refers to **the Christian belief that Christ is at the beginning and end of everything.** In the bible, God is recorded as saying *"I am the Alpha and the Omega" says the Lord, who is and who was and who is to come*" (Revelations).



CHI-RHO: this is made up of two other Greek letters, Chi and Rho. They form the first two letters of the Greek word for Christ (X = Chi and P = Rho). It is a statement of belief ~ **Jesus is the Christ, The Messiah, The son of God!**

WHAT IS CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING? (“CST”)

- CATHOLIC:** The teachings of the Roman Catholic Church
- SOCIAL:** About key issues in society (poverty, human rights, war, justice etc.)
- TEACHING:** Given to the people of the Church, from various popes, through special letters called “ENCYCLICALS”.

There could be two arguments as to when CST began...many would claim it began with Jesus who, when told by his disciples that “the people are hungry” (*before the Feeding of the 5,000*) said:

“YOU GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT!”

This is an instruction that all Christians are still expected to follow!



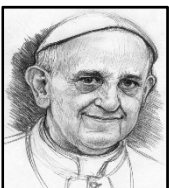
Others would say it began in **1891** when oppressed workers (during the Industrial Revolution demanded fair Rights and rich factory owners refused to treat them fairly...Pope Leo XIII (13th) criticised this and said:

“THE STATE SHOULD WATCH OVER THESE SOCIETIES OF CITIZENS...IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR RIGHTS”

Then in the 1960s, while on his travels, Pope Paul VI witnessed great poverty. In a letter to the Church he said:



“THE EARTH BELONGS TO EVERYONE, NOT TO THE RICH!”

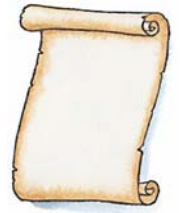


Today, Catholic Social Teaching continues to challenge the world about the way we speak out and fight against injustices. Pope Francis said in one of his encyclicals, *Evangelii Gaudium*:

“MONEY MUST SERVE, NOT RULE”

In December 1965, Pope Paul VI (*the one who witnessed great poverty on his travels!*), issued an important encyclical (*letter*) to the world. It was called

GAUDIUM ET SPES (Latin for JOY & HOPE)



ITS BASIC MESSAGE IS THAT, AS HUMANS ARE MADE IMAGO DEI, IN THE IMAGE AND LIKENESS OF GOD, SO THEY MUST ALL BE GIVEN BASIC EQUALITY.

Equality

Dignity

Courage

Love

Justice

Imago Dei

“Since all men possess a rational soul and are created in God's likeness, since they have the same nature and origin, the basic equality of all must receive increasingly greater recognition... with respect to the fundamental rights of the person, every type of discrimination, whether social or cultural, whether based on sex, race, colour, social condition, language or religion, is to be overcome and eradicated as contrary to God's intent. For we must all be concerned that basic personal rights are still not being universally honoured... Therefore, although rightful differences exist between men, the equal dignity of all people demands that a more humane and fair condition of life be brought about... Human institutions, both private and public, must work to minister to the dignity and purpose of man. At the same time let them put up a stubborn fight against any kind of slavery, whether social or political, and safeguard the basic rights of man under every political system.”

GAUDIUM ET SPES
POPE PAUL VI (6th)
1965

WHAT ELSE DOES GAUDIUM ET SPES SAY?

- Peace does not mean the absence of war ~ **peace is the result of men** and God **thirsting for greater justice** (fairness) in the world
- **World peace** can only come about **when all men freely share their talents with others** and respect the dignity of all.
- Real peace is the “**fruit of human love and kindness**”
- We must **recognise our “brotherhood”** with all people.

GAUDIUM Et SPES

“Peace is the result of all men thirsting for justice”



“Imago Dei” ~ we’re created in the image of God



POPE PAUL VI: 7TH DEC. 1965

As we can see from Gaudium et Spes, CST is about a whole range of issues and urges Catholics to consider the dignity of each human who is made "IMAGO DEI". Such beliefs should affect our attitudes to:

- ✓ War & conflict (can it ever be justified when it results in death and destruction?)
- ✓ Poverty (How can we sit back and allow humans to starve?)
- ✓ The Arms Trade (how can we justify making money by selling weapons that kill?)
- ✓ Refugee Crisis (We cannot turn away those desperately fleeing danger ~ they are made in God's Image too)

THE WORK OF ONE GLOBAL CATHOLIC CHARITY

CAFOD

This organisation stands for **Catholic Agency For Overseas Development**.

It is the official charity of the Catholic Church in England and Wales and was **set up in 1963**.

Their work underpins the values of Catholic Social Teaching.

CAFOD
Just one world

CAFOD works to provide **dignity** to the poor because they are made in the **image of God**.

They do this by providing opportunities for the poor to find a way out of poverty.

They provide vocational training and adult education. **They DEVELOP communities to stand on their own two feet.**

They provide an **Option for the Poor**, which means that they turn society on its head by placing the poorest and most vulnerable people first and the wealthy and privileged last. *(after all, God said this is how it would be in His Kingdom!!)*

They also promote the belief in the **Common Good**. This means that they include EVERYONE equally in society, with an equal responsibility to promote the community's good AND to benefit from it. For example, CAFOD don't just provide food (unless it's an emergency), they help all members of the community to produce their own food!

CAFODs main development projects:

- ✚ Food Production & farming techniques
- ✚ Water wells & irrigation techniques
- ✚ Preventative medicine
- ✚ Adult education (literacy / basic numeracy / health education etc.)
- ✚ Vocational Training (mechanics, building, plumbing, farming etc.)
- ✚ Community projects (e.g. Setting up trade deals between villages)

THE WORK OF ONE LOCAL CATHOLIC CHARITY

SVP

This organisation stands for the **St Vincent de Paul** society.

It is a society, working to **relieve poverty** within the UK (and other places)
St Vincent lived 1580 – 1660 and dedicated his life to prisoners and the poor.
It has **16,000 volunteers** in the UK alone ~ often attached to Catholic Parishes
It carries out **over 1,000,000 visits annually** in the UK



SVP works to provide

dignity to the poor because they are made in the image of God.

They do this by visiting the sick, lonely and housebound, providing much needed friendship.

They also visit prisoners who have no one else to visit them.

They also provide low cost housing for those otherwise in danger of homelessness.

They also promote the belief in the **Common Good**. This means that they include EVERYONE equally in society, with an equal responsibility to promote the community's good AND to benefit from it. For example, SVP work with parishes and school groups to encourage EVERYONE to be responsible for looking after the vulnerable in the community.

WHAT ELSE DO SVP DO:

- ✚ They collect and distribute furniture and household items to distribute to families in desperate need
- ✚ They provide hostels for those recently released from prison or on bail
- ✚ They provide a counselling service and a debt management service
- ✚ They provide youth camps for vulnerable young people

HOW CAN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH PROMOTE GOOD RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN OTHER FAITHS?

There are 6 main World Religions within Britain:

- ✓ Christianity (60%)
- ✓ Islam (4.4%)
- ✓ Hinduism (1.3%)
- ✓ Sikhism (0.6%)
- ✓ Judaism (0.4%)
- ✓ Buddhism (0.3%)

In a recent survey, 25.7% of the UK population identified themselves as "Non-religious"



In 2001, riots broke out in Burnley, Bradford and Oldham, related to racial and religious intolerances. The Catholic Church in Burnley, along with local Muslim leaders and council officials, developed a programme called “Building Bridges in Burnley” to help mend broken relationships

AND promote greater understanding between faiths.

WHAT DID THEY DO?

- Burnley Youth Theatre have been involved putting on multi faith / ethnic plays and workshops to discuss the issues raised. This has been jointly led by the Muslim and Christian leaders.
- “Faith Friends” are employed to work in schools with classes and small groups to work on issues of tolerance. In our school there is a Muslim and a Christian worker.
- The local priest works closely with the leader of the central mosque to arrange joint events and celebrations (they often have joint celebrations at Easter and Eid)
- Our Catholic school takes Year 8 groups to the local Mosque to learn more about the Islamic faith and build understanding

WAS / IS IT SUCCESSFUL?

- Burnley still has some issues of intolerance **HOWEVER**, there is **far more understanding and less tension than there was ten years ago**. Pupils in Catholic schools are also more knowledgeable about other cultures and religions than they have ever been, hopefully moving forward into the next generations.

COMPONENT 1 ~ 1.2: GOOD & EVIL

KEY CONCEPTS

Conscience	Human reason making moral decisions. The knowledge we have of what is right and wrong and the God-given compulsion within all human beings to do what is right and avoid evil
Evil	The absence of good and the impulse to seek our own desires at the expense of the good of others, which often results in suffering.
Free-will	The decision making part of a person's mind is called the will. A will is free if a person is able to choose right from wrong without being controlled by other forces.
Goodness	The quality of being like God: seeing the well-being of others selflessly.
Incarnation	Literally "Made flesh". The Christian belief that God became man in the person of Jesus, fully human and fully divine.
Natural Law	The moral laws of right and wrong which are universal and not dependent on human laws. The belief in natural law is the belief that the moral law is discoverable by every human being as is the same for all human beings in all places at all times.
Privation	The loss or absence of a quality of something that is normally present. Evil is a privation of good.
Suffering	Pain or loss which harms human beings. Some suffering is caused by other human beings (moral evil) some is not (natural evil).

CATHOLIC BELIEFS ABOUT THE TRINITY

Roman Catholics believe that God is "Three persons in One". The word "Trinity" literally means "Three" ("Tri") "in One" ("Unity").

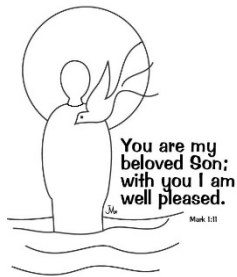
Catholics believe that God takes the form of

- ❖ FATHER
- ❖ SON
- ❖ HOLY SPIRIT

DOES IT SAY THIS IN **THE BIBLE?** **NO!**

The word “TRINITY” does **NOT** appear in the Bible ~ it doesn’t appear as a word until about 100 years AFTER Jesus’ Resurrection!

However... The **IDEA** of the Trinity ~ of God taking three different forms ~ **does** appear in the Bible...



When **Jesus was baptised** in the Jordan by John the Baptist, The **FATHER** was present in the “voice from heaven” which said “**YOU ARE MY SON WITH WHOM I AM WELL PLEASED**” The **SON** was present in the person of Jesus and The **HOLY SPIRIT** was present in the form of a “Dove descending from heaven”.

Shortly before He ascended into heaven, Jesus gave his apostles the instructions to “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them ***IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT***” ~ This is called “**The Great Commission**” (Matthew: 28: 19)

FINALLY, **St Paul** also referred to the three parts of the Trinity in his letter to the people of Corinth. He greeted them with:

“...the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all”



So the belief in One God having three distinct forms runs right through Christianity to its very beginnings!

THE DISCIPLES ALSO SEEM TO HAVE ACCEPTED THE EXISTENCE OF THE TRINITY BEFORE THEY HAD THE WORD TO EXPRESS THIS BELIEF:

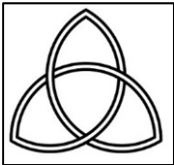
- They were Jews, so believed in **ONLY ONE GOD**
 - They claimed Jesus was God (“you are the “Messiah”)
 - They watched Jesus pray to god the Father and accepted this
 - They received God the Spirit at Pentecost who gave them courage.
- AND THEY ACCEPTED THAT ALL OF THIS WAS POSSIBLE!**

DESCRIBING THE TRINITY:

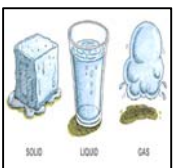
There have been various attempts at describing the Trinity over the years. The most common examples are:



THE SHAMROCK ~ used to describe the three in one nature of God by St Patrick.



THE TRIQUETRA ~ used throughout history as a symbol of the Trinity and used by our own school as our emblem of Blessed Trinity



H2O ~ commonly used to illustrate that one substance can take three completely different forms

All are really seen as inadequate as they are of this world and therefore do not relate at all to the transcendence of God.

BELIEF IN THE TRINITY HIT A DIFFICULTY IN THE LATE 3RD CENTURY

WHY?

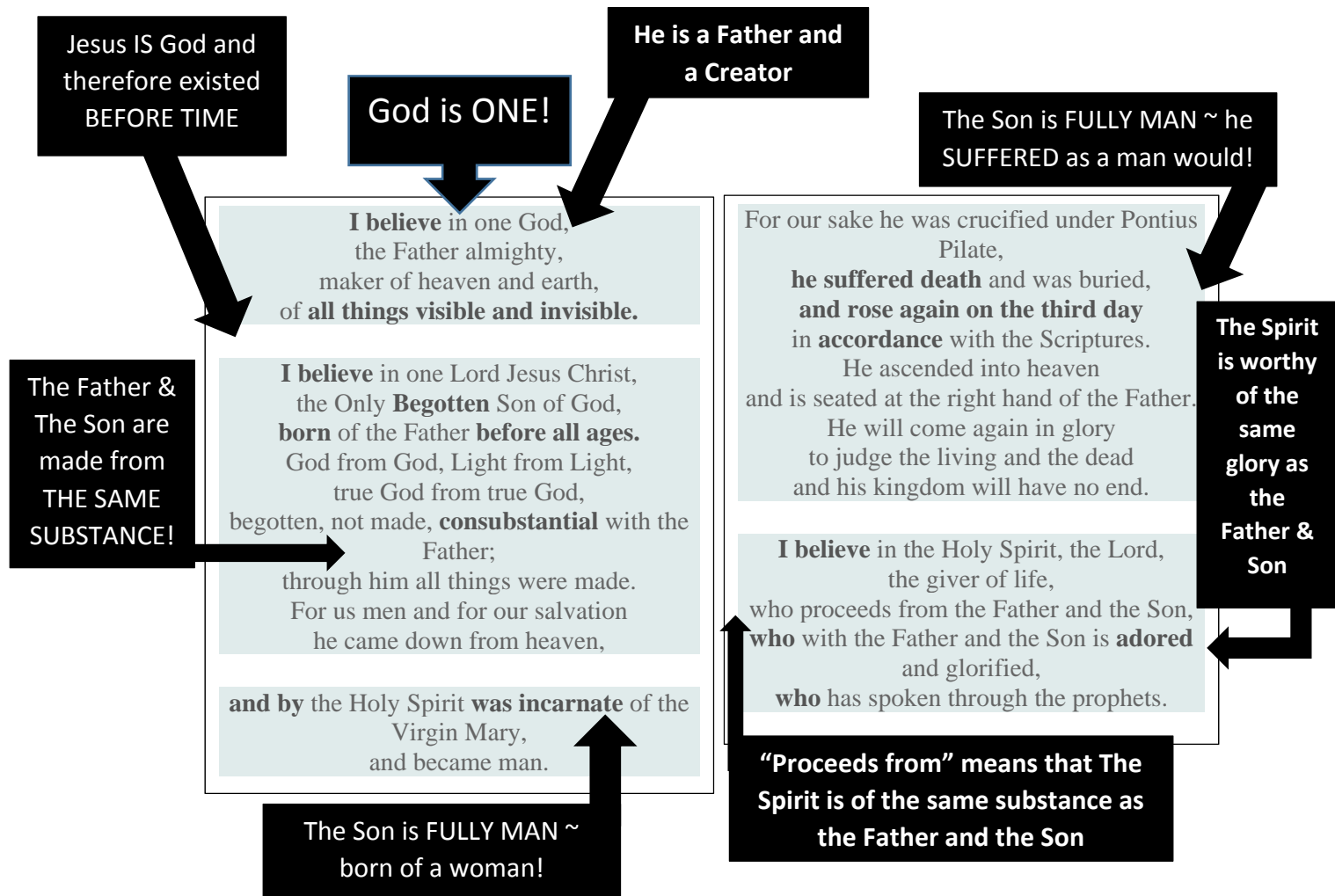


It is to do with this man...a priest named **ARIUS** (256 AD – 336 AD). He told his people that the persons of the Trinity were separate ~ NOT one!

He also told them that God the Father was the more superior of the three!




HOW DID THE **CHRISTIAN CHURCH** RESPOND?

They held a meeting called “The Council of Nicaea” in 325 AD. At this meeting, they wrote an official creed called **“THE NICENE CREED”** which laid out very clearly what Christians should believe about the TRINITY:



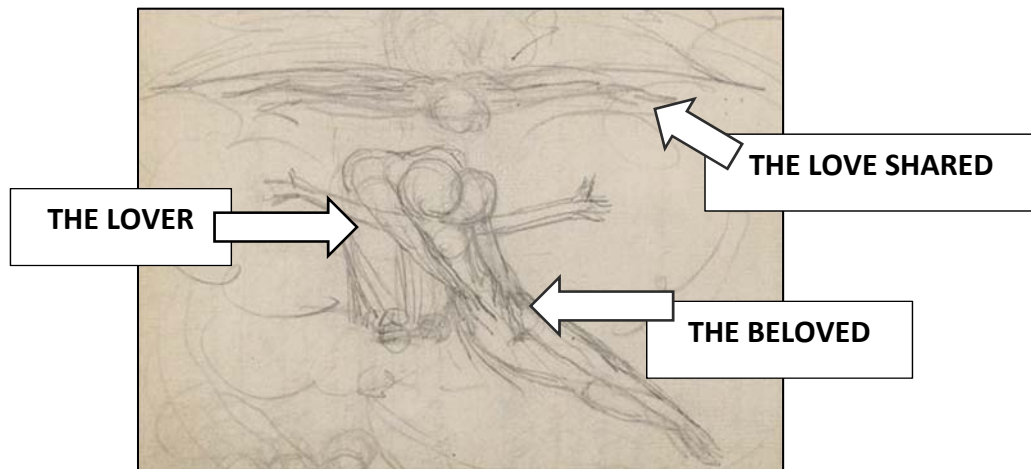
WHAT DID ST. AUGUSTINE SAY ABOUT THE TRINITY?

He said that the best way to define the Trinity was through the concept of love. Think about a situation where you love someone ~ within that relationship, three things exist:

-  **The Lover** (He / She who is doing the loving)
-  **The Beloved** (He / She who is being loved)
-  **The love itself**

Augustine argued that each of the three are co reliant on each other ~ one could not survive without the others ~ all three elements are needed.
THIS is like the Trinity!

This idea of Augustine's was highlighted through a painting by William Blake centuries later in the late 18th Century:



The nature of evil

There are two types of evil present in the world ~ MORAL and NATURAL:

MORAL EVIL



ACTIONS DONE BY HUMANS WHICH CAUSE SUFFERING, E.G. MURDER, RAPE, RACISM ETC.

Many Christians recognise there is also a **"grey area"** where it is unclear if the cause is moral or not. For example, **Poverty** can be caused by natural means such as drought, but can also be caused by greed and selfishness.

Also, **war** seems to be natural, but some Christians would argue NOT to fight against injustice is actually the moral

NATURAL EVIL



THINGS WHICH CAUSE SUFFERING BUT HAVE **NOTHING TO DO WITH HUMANS.**

THE EXISTENCE OF EVIL AND ITS PROBLEM FOR CHRISTIANS

The existence of evil in the world has caused a problem for Christians over the years.

It has become known as **THE PROBLEM OF EVIL**. How can a **BENEVOLENT** God who is also **OMNIPOTENT** possibly co-exist with a world where there is suffering and evil? He should **BE ABLE** to stop it (omnipotent) and **WANT** to stop it (benevolent).... **Yet it still exists!**

There are three important men that you need to know for this part of the unit and it is ESSENTIAL that you can comment in detail on WHAT they said and WHY they said it:

J.L. MACKIE



A philosopher of the 20th Century. Mackie talked about the **INCONSISTENT TRIAD**. An inconsistent triad is where you have three statements but only TWO of them can be logically correct:



Mackie stated that all three cannot be true ~ God would not want suffering and could get rid of it (but He hasn't!). He then stated that we KNOW evil exists as we experience it, therefore, logically, at least one of the other two statements is false and therefore God does not exist!

DAVID HUME

A Scottish philosopher and atheist of the 18th century. He claimed that The Problem of Evil was "**THE ROCK OF ATHEISM**". He believed that there was no logical way of explaining how a benevolent God can allow suffering to happen to good people (or even bad)!



**RICHARD
DAWKINS**

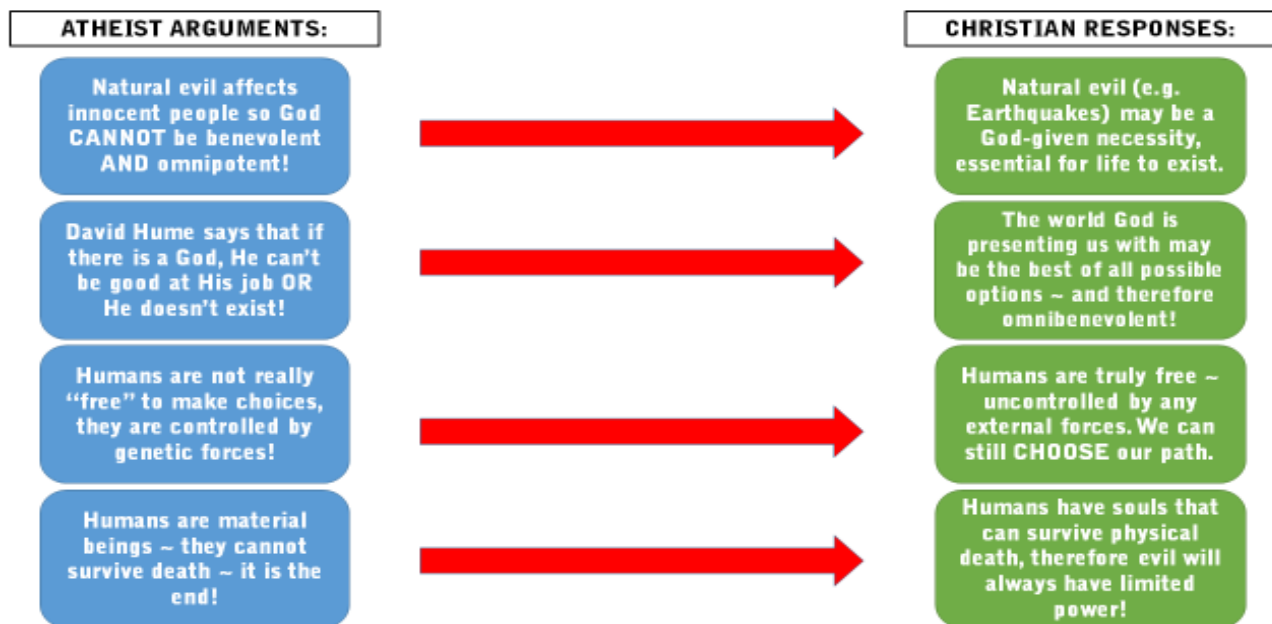
Called "the most famous atheist of our time", Dawkins claims that the randomness of natural evil and disease is **PROOF ENOUGH** that **A GOD CANNOT EXIST!**



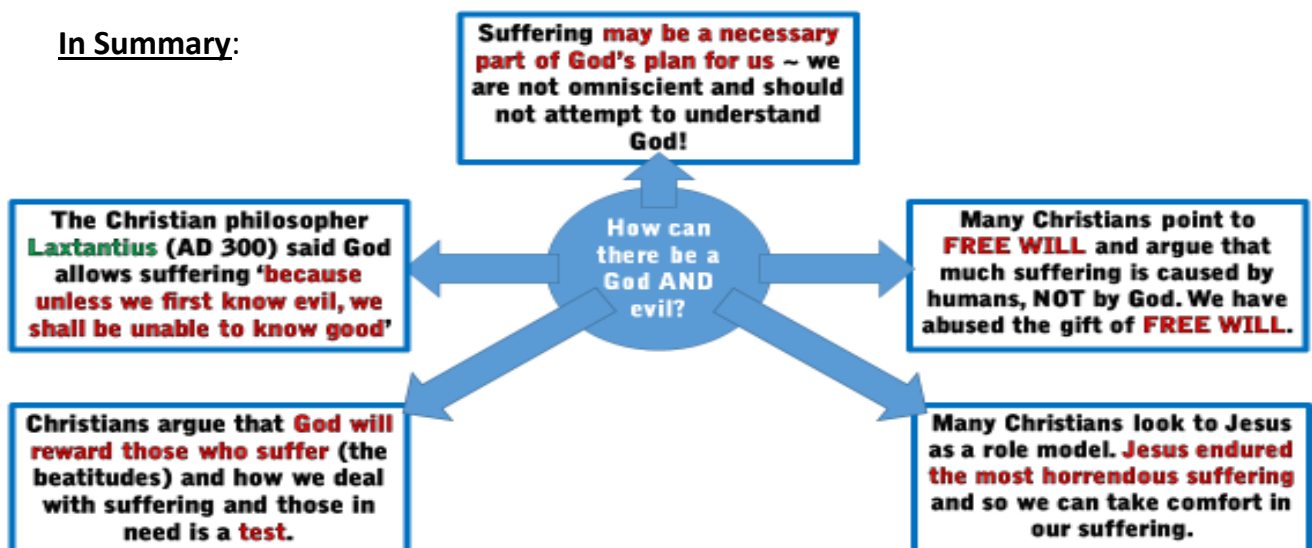
Christian responses to **the existence of Evil**

Christians refuse to accept the beliefs of Mackie, Hume and Dawkins and have a clear response to each atheist challenge.

The table below highlights the main responses:



In Summary:



Where does evil come from? (originate)

There are two main views on this.

TRADITIONAL PROTESTANTS: Believe that it comes from "**Original Sin**". **St Augustine** said that "***all evil is either a consequence of sin or a punishment for sin***". He looks back to the story of **genesis** for this and sees a core truth of the story is regarding the origin of evil. Humans always want more! Deep down, we don't seem to believe we are made IMAGO DEI and so we spent our time grasping at things to make us more god-like! The sadness of this is that such things often take us further away from god!

LIBERAL PROTESTANTS: Don't speak of Original Sin, but rather believe that evil & suffering are **God's way of making humanity wiser**! They follow the belief of **St Irenaeus** who said that "**our souls are made more perfect through suffering**". Look back to the spidergram over the page and see how suffering can actually be of a huge benefit to humans.

St Augustine's thoughts on evil...

Augustine has THREE points to make about evil in his book called

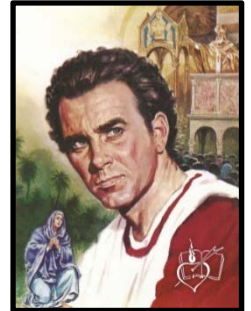
THE ENCHIRIDION (literally meaning "handbook"):

- Remember the story of Genesis? When God made the whole of Creation he **"saw that it was good"**. Therefore, St Augustine says, **evil was not a created "thing" so it is simply an absence** ("a privation") of goodness. When we experience evil and suffering...we are not really experiencing anything at all, **we are just being deprived of the good things we usually have**! God doesn't really WANT us to be deprived, but either **human free will has led to it OR God has allowed it for the greater good.**

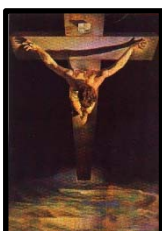
"For what is that which we call evil, but the absence of good" (St Augustine, "The Enchiridion")

- Secondly, Augustine says that **evil helps us to appreciate the good in the world** that we otherwise might not notice. Sometimes we do not appreciate the good we have until it is not there...
- Thirdly, Augustine points to the fact that **sometimes suffering can be good for us**! Our sufferings can lead us to a place of greater good that we wouldn't have arrived at without the "evil" and suffering! Therefore, God is being benevolent to us in our sufferings.

"Almighty God would never permit anything evil if were not so omnipotent and good that he can bring good even out of evil" (St Augustine, "The Enchiridion")



SUFFERING IS IMPORTANT TO CATHOLICS ~ **THE SUFFERING & DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST**



The suffering and death of Jesus (otherwise known as "The Passion Narrative") is at the heart of the Christian gospels. It is the central, most important story in Christianity because it highlights that the death and Resurrection of Jesus saved humanity from their sins ~ therefore this suffering is not evil ~ it resulted in great goodness!

One key piece of Scripture that helps Christians understand suffering is **ISAIAH 53** ~ this is known as **"THE SUFFERING SERVANT"**.

Christians see the piece as a **prophecy of Jesus** (*hinting at Jesus' role years before he arrived on earth!*)

It describes a rather unattractive figure called "the suffering servant" who is rejected and cruelly punished by his own people. The sufferings and rejections he received meant that others didn't have to accept such things. Therefore, he SAVED them...he brought them SALVATION from suffering themselves! Christians believe this about Jesus too!

"He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, he was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.

Surely, he took up our pain and bore our suffering...he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities. The punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed"

ISAIAH 53

SUFFERING IS IMPORTANT TO CATHOLICS ~ SALVIFICI DOLORIS & JESUS AS THE INCARNATION

Key concept...

INCARNATION ~ remember, it means "in flesh". God literally became a human being in Jesus of Nazareth!

LOTS of people have been INSPIRED by God...BUT, when we talk about Jesus of Nazareth, we are not talking about someone who was inspired by God but rather someone who **WAS** God! He was unique. God was not disguising himself as a human...he was really born and grew up to full manhood. He felt physical and emotional pain as ALL humans do. The early



Christians faced MUCH trouble for claiming that Jesus was God but they continued to do so, ultimately settling on the phrase "God the Son" to describe God in His human form (*The Incarnation*).

The Gospel writer St John described God in human form as **"The Word"**. In Genesis, the whole of Creation was brought about by "God's Word" ...when He spoke ("let there be light.") it became truth ("and so it was"). So the Word of God is the truth... When we say "I give you my word", we are really saying "I'm telling you the truth". God did not give humanity a set of bullet points to live by, he gave them a human life to imitate ~ St John writes "...and the Word was made flesh and lived among us" (John 1: 14). In simple form:



JESUS IS THE TRUTH ABOUT WHAT GOD WANTS!
(watch what He says and does and that is what God wants!)

Now look at this passage from the start of John's Gospel and when you read "The Word", think "Jesus":

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind...The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

The Word (Jesus) was always with God and there was never a time when The Word (Jesus) did not exist. The Word (Jesus) and "God" are inseparable ~ the same substance, co-existent!

The early Christian leader St Paul wrote a series of letters to the earliest Christian communities. In one such letter ~ to the Philippians ~ Paul says some interesting things about God taking human form in Jesus:

THE KENOSIS HYMN:
ST PAUL

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:



Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;
rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death ~ even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

This idea of Jesus disregarding his godliness to become fully man is called KENOSIS ~ So this passage is called "THE KENOSIS HYMN"

St Paul seems to be saying that if humans want to be truly great, if they want to be like God, then they must copy Jesus.

When God took human form in Jesus, he put His power ~ His omnipotence ~ to one side and did NOT use it to His advantage. He "emptied" Himself of his godliness to become FULLY man (a servant).

He even disregarded His godly omnipotence when facing the horrors of crucifixion!

In being so selfless and accepting his sufferings as a weak man, Jesus was given great glory in heaven!

WHAT'S THIS GOT TO DO WITH THE PROBLEM OF EVIL?

Christians, Jews and Muslims have always preached that God is TRANSCENDENT ~ existing outside of our space and time. However here Christians accept that through the INCARNATION (God taking full human form), God becomes VERY present in the created world!

When He was in the person of Jesus, God showed us that suffering and sacrifice are an essential part of the human condition ~ to be fully human, we must become a suffering servant ~ willing to lay down our life for the good of others.

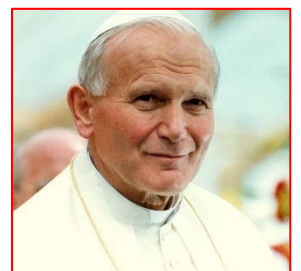
GOD SHARES OUR SUFFERING THROUGH JESUS ON THE CROSS!

- Christians see this as the ultimate act of sacrifice, selflessness and love.
- However, Jews at the time considered anyone hanging on a cross to be cursed...
- ...and the pagans considered the cross of crucifixion to be a symbol of weakness... a slave or a foreigner's punishment...a humiliation.
- But Christians see that here, on the cross, God was not remote in heaven, distanced from pain and suffering... He was touching human pain while hanging on the cross ~ He was experiencing the suffering that humans must endure.



"SALVIFICI DOLORIS"

- This is a letter written by Pope John Paul II.
- It literally means "Redemptive suffering" (suffering that can save us)
- In it, Pope John Paul II tells us that through the suffering on the cross, we see how important suffering can be...it gives hope of eternal life, it shows deep love between God and man. It also allows God and man to be united in suffering.
- Suffering builds up our character ~ it leads to endurance and therefore can be very positive.
- Suffering shouldn't shame us ~ look at God's suffering on the cross!



Think back to the work you did on Jimmy Mizen (The "For Jimmy" campaign) and Anthony Walker ("The Anthony Walker Foundation") for how suffering can "save us" and lead to goodness.

JESUS AS A SOURCE OF **MORAL AUTHORITY**

Let's think carefully about who Jesus chose to spend his time with...



LEPERS



THOSE
"POSSESSED
BY SPIRITS"



TAX-
COLLECTORS



PROSTITUTES

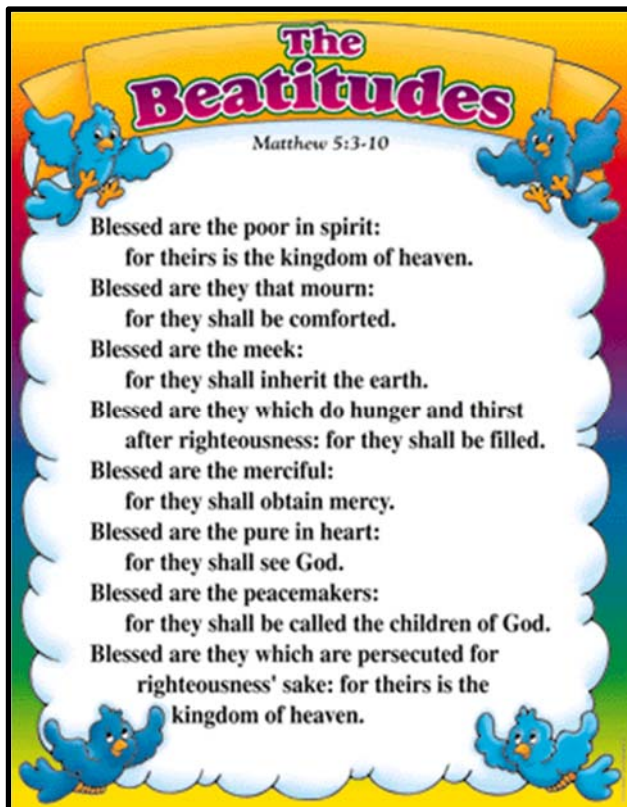


THIEVES

WHAT DOES THIS TELL US????

- ✓ Jesus always forgives those who sin...no one is outside his mercy & forgiveness...Christians must model this behaviour.
- ✓ There is no sickness or social condition that Jesus refuses to touch and heal...Christians must never treat anyone as an outcast but be with them in their suffering.

WHAT DOES JESUS ACTUALLY TEACH US ABOUT MORALITY?



A lot of what Jesus taught us about how to live our lives is contained in Matthew's gospel chapters 5-7...otherwise called

The Sermon on the Mount.

The Beatitudes are a set of "blessings" and attitudes that Jesus expects of his followers. The key message is that those who are closest to God are often those that the world does not recognise or value...and sometimes even persecutes.

THE OLD LAW AND THE NEW




Jesus said MUCH more within the Sermon on the Mount. He made some changes to the old Jewish Law that his followers had been following up until that point...he would begin each change with the words...

“YOU HAVE HEARD THAT IT WAS SAID...”

But ends the phrase with

“BUT I SAY TO YOU...”

Generally, his point was that HIS law was even more demanding than Torah Law.
E.G....

-  The Torah forbids murder...but I forbid anger
-  The Torah forbids adultery...but I forbid even looking at another lustfully
-  The Torah requires “love of neighbour” ...but I require love of enemy too!

Be clear though...Jesus is NOT abolishing the Torah Law...He is fulfilling it...

“Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law...I have not come to abolish it but to fulfil it”

Matthew 5: 17

FINALLY...

Jesus completes the Sermon by warning against PRIDE...which he seems to HATE in people!

He tells us that if we pray, give to charity or fast (religious actions), we MUST do so in private...because to do so in public is only motivated by the desire for other people's admiration!!!

This is probably why he preferred the company of sinners to religious leaders...sinners KNEW they needed God's mercy...Religious Leaders thought they were already saved!

Other sources of **MORAL AUTHORITY & GUIDANCE**

Natural Law

What IS Natural Law? It is the belief that **above any human legal system**, or the legal codes in human institutions (countries, states, armies, school, churches etc), **there is a MORAL LAW that ALL human beings understand and should live by.**

The UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (written in 1948) makes clear that EVERY human has certain rights and entitlements that they should be given REGARDLESS of whether the country they live in deems them to be important!

Here's an example:



After WW2, many former Nazi's were put on trial in Nuremberg, Germany for the horrific things they did in the Concentration camps. The Nazi's argued that they were just following orders...something they were paid and employed to do. The judges rejected this as the crimes were against "Natural Law" ...the basic morality that every human is aware of.

Natural Law is a concept put forward by St Thomas Aquinas. He stated that ALL humans, regardless of who they are, share certain purposes in common:

- ✚ Preserving (looking after) life
- ✚ Reproduction
- ✚ Educating children
- ✚ Living in an ordered (not 'chaotic') society
- ✚ Worshipping God

These purposes mean that humans must be united against the rejection of murder, child abuse, theft, lying etc.

Catholic views on Natural Law

Clearly, the Catholic Church believes wholeheartedly in Natural Law. It believes that Natural Law proves that the universe was created by a good God! In fact, they say that the very fact that we can recognise suffering as an evil is proof that we have a God-given ability to tell the difference between good and evil.



Conscience

Conscience could be defined as the ability of a human to discover and interpret Natural Law.

Conscience can be divided into 2 parts:

1. **Knowledge** (the ability to know the difference between right & wrong and the ability to make a decision on what is the right course of action)
2. **Action** (the internal impulse to do what is right and avoid what is wrong ~ Catholics believe all humans have this as a gift from God)



Catholics believe that CONSCIENCE is **unique to the human species**...another proof that we are made **IMAGO DEI**. If humans obeyed their conscience more regularly, there would be FAR less MORAL EVIL in the world and therefore **far less suffering**!

VIRTUES



What are virtues and how do they link to this topic?

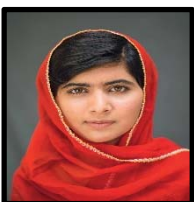
Catholics are quick to point out that interpreting and following Jesus' teaching on morality, Natural Law AND Conscience **all takes practice**!

Doing what is right is not always easy because humans can be greedy, selfish and weak.

Virtues are moral habits that we must continually practice if we are to become good people.

Catholics believe that experiencing suffering is one way in which we can improve our virtues and become better people...for example, if we become seriously ill, it can make us more courageous and sympathetic to others. If we experience poverty, it makes us more generous when we have possessions to share!

These people have all experienced suffering which has made them better people...



Malaa
Yousafzai



Katie Piper



Nelson
Mandela



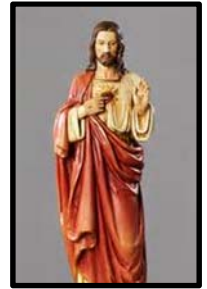
The Mizen
Family



Gee Walker

WHY ARE **SCULPTURES AND STATUES** IMPORTANT?

Catholic Churches contain MANY statues...they are a common sight and to Catholics, they are considered entirely normal. There will be a crucifix in every Catholic church, as well as at least one statue of Mary. Another common statue in Catholic Churches is that of The Sacred Heart, where Jesus' heart burns with love (*see the picture on the right*). Churches will also often have statues of their chosen patron saint too.



Such statues will often have places to kneel in front of them and candles to light. This is because Catholics often use statues as a focus for their worship and prayer.

HOWEVER...many other Christians do not accept the use of statues in worship. Some Protestant Christians believe that statues are against Christian belief:

Protestant arguments AGAINST the use of statues in Church:	Catholic responses to such criticisms :
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✚ It goes against the 2nd Commandment which rejects the making of objects for worship (Exodus 20). Worshipping in front of statues is the same as worshipping "false gods".	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✚ We don't "worship" the statue. They simply act as a reminder to us of God and Jesus...they help us to focus during prayer.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✚ Many statues are not even of Jesus / God. They are often of other holy men and women. Worshipping ANYONE other than God goes against the 1st Commandment to worship only God (Exodus 30).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✚ When we pray in front of these statues, we are not praying TO them, we are only asking them to INTERCEDE on our behalf ("<i>have a word with God for us</i>"!!!) We are really asking the saints to pray for us...we are not praying TO them!

Remember...

The belief in the **INCARNATION** is the belief that **God took on human form and lived on Earth** (as Jesus). **Catholics therefore use very earthly things in their worship**, as a clear sign of this...bread, wine, oil, incense, music. Statues are a part of this. **The crucifix is the most important "statue" in Catholic worship as it directly reminds us of the Incarnation.**

Statues and suffering: **MICHELANGELO'S PIETA**

Catholic's believe that statues can also help them to reflect on the meaning and purpose of suffering. The statue that does this most clearly is one by Michelangelo (*remember him? He painted The Creation of Man painting from unit one*).

The statue is called Pieta (from a Latin word meaning "holiness") and is of Mary holding the body of Jesus as he is brought down from the cross.

As with other religious art you have studied, there are a variety of interpretations that you will need to know for your exam:

Some say the deep fold of the garment next to Jesus is a symbol of a womb...representing Mary's pain in childbirth, mirrored by this pain she now feels.

There is often surprise at the stillness on Mary's face despite the circumstances.

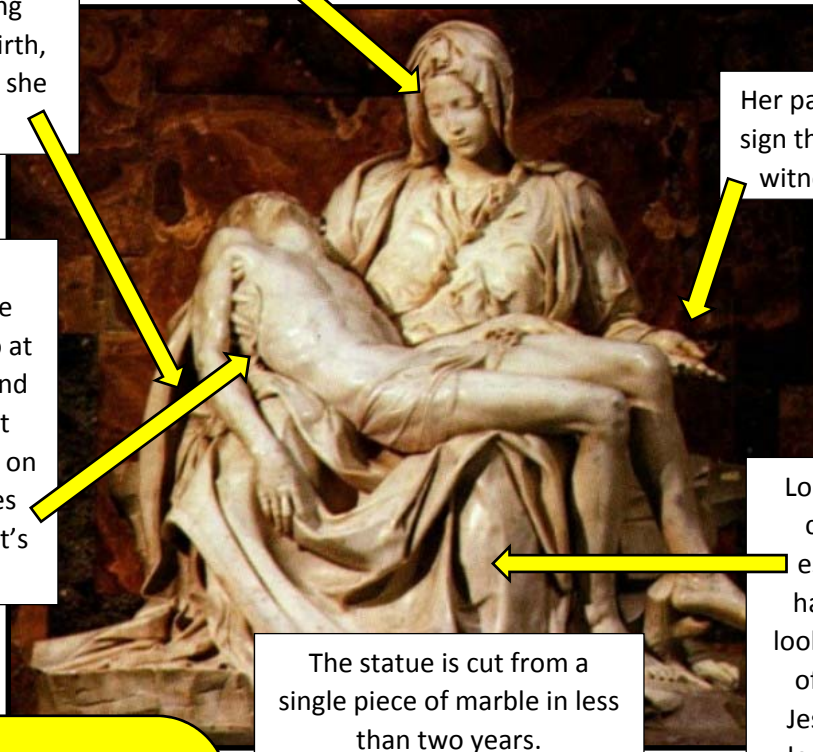
Her palm is outstretched as a sign that she is at peace after witnessing the crucifixion.

Jesus too seems at peace...his wounds are barely visible. Look also at the fact that Mary's hand is not in direct contact with his skin, but rather on a cloth. This symbolises the sacredness of Christ's body.

It is believed that the peaceful nature of the two beautiful figures reflects the Catholic attitude towards suffering...it is somehow closely intertwined with love and can even be a blessing.

The statue is cut from a single piece of marble in less than two years.
Michelangelo chose to depict Mary as a youthful and peaceful woman rather than a broken hearted, older woman.

Look at the size of Mary compared to Jesus ~ especially the bottom half... she makes Jesus look small. This is an echo of Mary with the baby Jesus...it represents the love of a mother. Many mothers who have lost children have reported this as a comfort to them.



WHAT IS **PILGRIMAGE** & **WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?**

A pilgrimage is a journey to a holy place. In years gone by, before effective transport systems, this could take a very long time and was often extremely difficult.

This final point shows a clear link for many between suffering and pilgrimage ~ the Catholic Church particularly recognises specific pilgrimage sites linked to suffering and spiritual renewal.



Many ancient aspects of pilgrimage still remain today:

Travelling in groups

Fasting and praying on the way to the site

Taking the sick and those in need of prayers.

Why is **PILGRIMAGE** important to **CATHOLICS?**

- ✓ To help strengthen their faith
- ✓ To have a “shared experience” of faith with other Catholics (to feel a sense of belonging)
- ✓ To pray for a special intention
- ✓ To thank God
- ✓ To seek physical / emotional / mental healing
- ✓ To show sorrow for sins
- ✓ To feel closer to God

Very few people who are physically suffering will come back “healed” from pilgrimage ~ but they do often report a sense of peace and an ability to cope with their problems.

LOURDES

Lourdes is a Catholic pilgrimage shrine in Southern France and is particularly linked with suffering.



It became a famous site in the Church after a 14 year old peasant girl Bernadette Soubirous had a series of visions of Our Lady in the middle of the 19th Century. The visions took place in a small grotto (cave) where a spring of healing water later appeared. The healing waters are still central to the site and many bathe there in the hope of cures and healing.

What else happens at Lourdes?

- ✚ Prayers and petitions (*a prayer asking God to do something specific*) are offered by those visiting the grotto
- ✚ A torchlight procession takes place
- ✚ The Blessed Sacrament (*the consecrated body of Christ*) is processed around the site every day.
- ✚ Mass is celebrated daily
- ✚ The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated regularly

Almost every Catholic diocese in England and Wales visits Lourdes every year with it's parishioners ~ MANY of whom will be sick and disabled.

They will usually take a large group of young volunteers from the parishes to assist those in need. These young adults speak of it being a life changing experience where they are in close contact with the suffering of others and see it being handled with grace, bravery and dignity.

What is **POPULAR PIETY**?

This is those forms of praying or showing devotion to God that are not a part of the formal practices of the Catholic Church, but which many Catholics use as a way of bringing themselves closer to God.

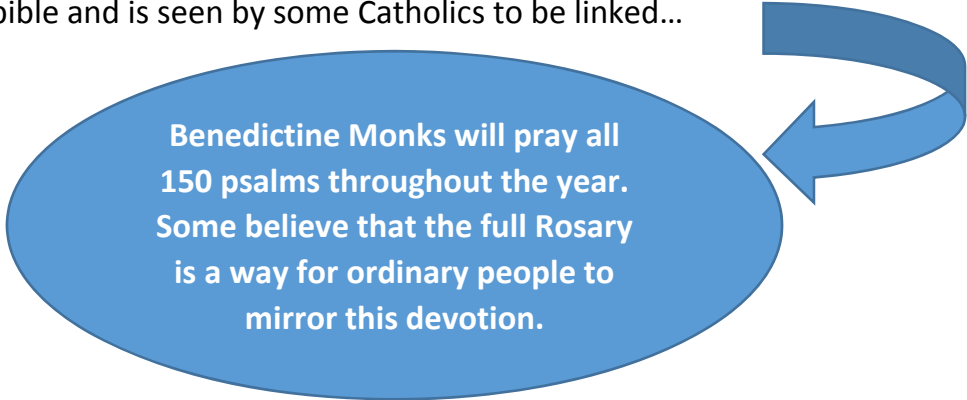
What is **THE ROSARY** and **WHERE DID IT COME FROM?**

The Rosary is an example of Popular Piety. The name "Rosary" refers both to the prayer itself and the beads used when reciting the prayer.

The Rosary consists of three prayers

- **The Our Father**
- **The Hail Mary**
- **The Glory Be**

Saying the Rosary is believed to have originated with St Dominic in the 13th Century. A FULL rosary would involve saying 150 Hail Marys...this matches the number of psalms in the bible and is seen by some Catholics to be linked...



Benedictine Monks will pray all 150 psalms throughout the year. Some believe that the full Rosary is a way for ordinary people to mirror this devotion.

The Rosary is divided into sets of **"MYSTERIES"** which are prayed on different days (*the rosary mysteries are reflections on periods of Jesus birth, life and death that we may struggle to fully understand*):

The Joyful Mysteries

The Sorrowful Mysteries

We'll be looking at these in detail later.

The Glorious Mysteries

The Luminous Mysteries

These Mysteries were added by Pope John Paul II.

THE MEDAL (2)

When the medal is returned to, a full set of mysteries will have been prayed. Now as the medal is held a final Glory Be is said and other prayers may also be said.

THE MEDAL (1)

This is at the beginning of the large string of beads...as it is held, an Our Father is said (*the first mystery has begun*)

DECADES

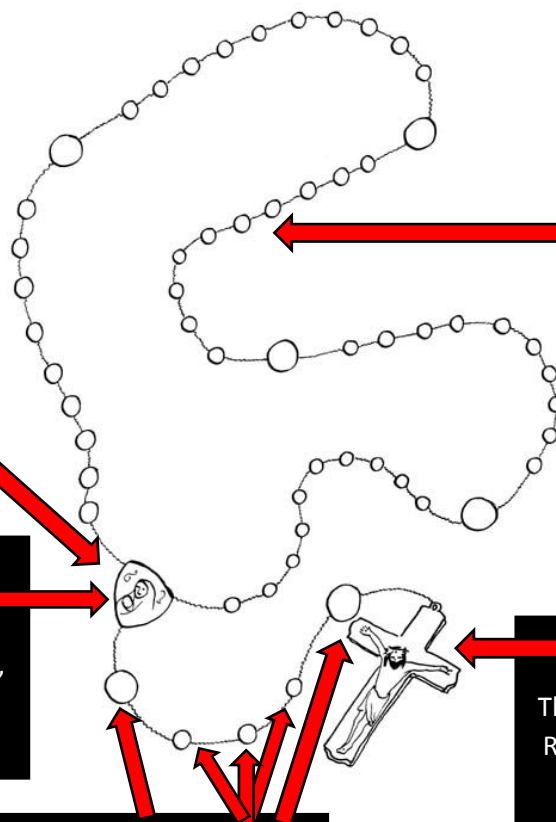
There follows on from the medal (1) a set of ten beads. On each of these, a Hail Mary is prayed and on the single bead, a Glory Be will mark the end of each mystery. On the same single bead, the Our Father is prayed, marking the beginning of the next mystery.

THE CRUCIFIX

This is held by the person reciting the Rosary and at the start of the Rosary they will say the Apostle's Creed

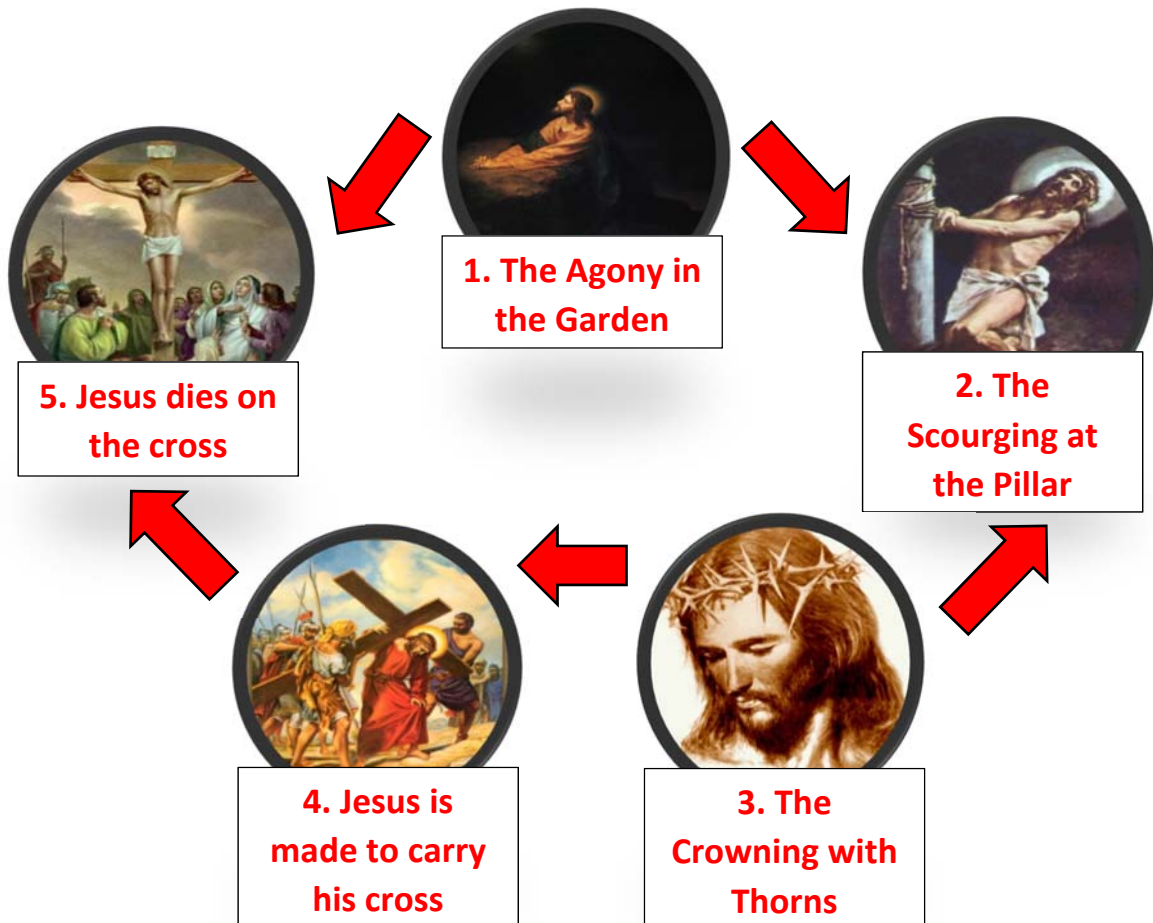
THE 5 BEADS

Arranged in a 1-3-1 format:
Bead 1 = Our Father
Beads 2,3,4 = 3 Hail Marys
Bead 5 = Glory Be
(Offered for the Pope's intentions)



The **SORROWFUL MYSTERIES** of the Rosary

The Five sorrowful mysteries are designed to encourage a Christian to think about the meaning and purpose of suffering in the life of Jesus, through key events surrounding his suffering and death.



- **THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN**: This is when Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane the night before he died. He prayed to be spared from his sufferings but in the end He accepted God's Will...as we must too.
- **THE SCOURGING AT THE PILLAR**: Pilate had Jesus whipped to satisfy the crowds. It didn't satisfy them and he condemned him to death.
- **THE CROWNING WITH THORNS**: The soldiers mocked Jesus, twisting thorns into a crown because he had claimed to be "King of the Jews".
- **JESUS IS MADE TO CARRY HIS CROSS**: Jesus carried his own cross to the place of his death ~ Golgotha.
- **JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS**: After 6 hours on the cross, Jesus died.

Reflecting on the suffering of Jesus helps Catholics to reflect on and deal with the Problem of Evil. It helps us to consider the nature of suffering and Jesus' response to his own personal suffering.