

# Foundational Catholic Theology

## Origins and Meaning

1. The Bible
2. Genesis 1: Creation
3. Genesis 2: Creation
4. What do the creation accounts tell us?
5. St Augustine: Creation ex nihilo
6. The Big Bang Theory
7. The Theory of Evolution
8. Imago Dei
9. Abortion
10. Humanism and the Value of Life
11. Stewardship
12. Humanism and the environment
13. Michelangelo: Creation of Adam
14. Tree of Life Apse Mosaic
15. Peace and Justice
16. Catholic Social Teaching (CST)
17. Inter-faith dialogue
18. The Work of Catholic Charities
19. St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP)
20. CAFOD

## Good and Evil

1. The Problem of Evil
2. Genesis 3: Original Sin
3. Evil and suffering is not a problem for Christians
4. The Book of Job
5. John Mackie: Evil and suffering is a problem for believers!
6. Trinity
7. Incarnation
8. Jesus and Moral Authority
9. Other Sources of Moral Authority
10. Sculpture and Statuary
11. Michelangelo's Pieta
12. The Rosary
13. Pilgrimage

# THE BIBLE

## Source of Wisdom and Authority

*'In order to discover the sacred authors' intention, the reader must take into account the conditions of their time and culture, the literary genres in use at the time, and the modes of feeling, speaking and narrating then current.'* CCC110



## How the Bible is structured

The Bible is divided into two large sections called the Old and New Testament. The word 'testament' means 'covenant', which is an agreement between two different groups.

## Revelation and Inspiration

Christians describe the Bible as the Word of God. They believe that through the Bible God is making himself known to them; he is speaking to his people, providing them with a way to live and be holy. Christians believe that God reveals himself to humans in other forms too, for example, through creation, through other people and most importantly, in the person of Jesus. This is known as revelation. In Genesis, it is described how God breathed into Adam so that he could live. God's spirit was shared with human beings. Christians believe that God continues to send his spirit to guide people towards goodness and truth today, and this is known as inspiration. God's Holy Spirit guided the writers of the Bible, so that Bible is 'the Word of God'; meaning that the Holy Spirit inspired believers to accept God's message in their lives and in turn to share it with others.

## Literary Forms

Living in the current age provides us with a greater variety of forms of communication than our ancestors could have ever dreamed of: email, text messages, online newspapers as well as traditional books full of examples of poetry, fiction, non fiction and plays. It is very easy to misunderstand writing. Think about text messages; we sometimes get offended needlessly because we can't hear the tone of the persons writing, we only see the words themselves. To understand any piece of writing fully it is helpful to know who wrote it, when, why, what life was like at the time and the reason they wrote it in the first place. This is also true of the books contained in the Bible as there is a whole library full of variety included within it.

## Interpreting the Bible – The Catholic View

Not all Christians read or understand the Bible in the same way. The Catholic Church teaches that the authors of the Bible were inspired and gained truthful insights about God but that not everything they wrote was historically or literally accurate, for example, their understanding of science was very limited. The Church, therefore, asks that in order to fully understand what God wanted to reveal to humanity, readers should consider the context in which it was written and the meaning of the literary form used; a poem is very different from a piece of historical writing. For Catholics, the accounts given in Genesis 1-3 can be considered myths; stories that, whilst not being 'true', contain great 'truths'.

## Canon of Scripture

The Bible is the source of Christianity's main beliefs and is considered to have been inspired in some way by God. Although it is usually referred to as one book, it is in fact a collection of different books written by many authors over a period of more than a thousand years. In early times there was no need for a written holy book as religious accounts were passed on by the oral tradition because most people could not read or write. The stories were shared by word of mouth. Scribes began to write down parts of the oral tradition from around 1,000 BC. Similarly, the accounts of the life of Jesus were not recorded straight away as there was a strong belief that Jesus would return to earth very soon. The realisation that this was not the case and that eye witnesses were dying out, prompted the writing of the first New Testament writings. What became the accepted version of the Bible was agreed, after much discussion, by Pope Damasus I in the fourth century. The accepted list of the books that make up the Bible in the Catholic tradition is called the Canon of Scripture.

46  
books

## The Old Testament

The Old Testament has 46 books according to the Catholic Canon; it begins with the origins of the universe and human beings. It traces the relationship between God and the Jewish people before the arrival of Jesus. It is made up of:

- ✓ **Law** – the first five books form the Pentateuch. These books give instructions on how to live life according to God and contain the Ten Commandments.
- ✓ **History** – Joshua, Samuel and Chronicles are some of the books that trace the history of God's people from when they entered the Promised Land, detailing how they were guided by God and encouraged to keep the Covenant God had made with Abraham and later with Moses.
- ✓ **Prophets** – a prophet is a messenger sent by God to inspire and challenge those who are failing to stay faithful to God; Isaiah, Jeremiah and Daniel are some of the most famous prophets.
- ✓ **Wisdom** – these books encourage people to stay close to God in their lives and come in the form of songs, poetry, prayers and sayings.

27  
books

## The New Testament

The New Testament has 27 books according to the Catholic Canon; it contains the accounts of the life of Jesus and the growth of the Church after he had returned to heaven. This section of the Bible contains:

- ✓ **Gospels** - The books of 'Good News' that detail the life of Jesus. The four Gospel writers were Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
- ✓ **Acts of the Apostles** - these document the growth of the early Church.
- ✓ **Letters** – these were written by early Christian leaders, like Peter and Paul, to encourage, guide and sometimes criticise people in the Church.
- ✓ **Book of Revelation** – written by John, this is full of symbolism that some Christians believe refers to the end of the world.

## Other Christian Views

Other Christians, such as Fundamentalists, believe that God inspired the biblical writers, so the Bible does not contain any errors. It is just as accurate in today's world as it was when it was written, even if it seems to conflict with the modern world. Some Fundamentalists are literalists, taking everything in the Bible as being literally true.



Fundamentalist Christians would reject the discovery of fossils as evidence of evolution

## Knowledge Check

1. How many books in the Bible are there?
2. What does 'testament' translate to?
3. Christians believe that the authors of the Bible were guided. What were they guided by?
4. How do Catholics interpret the Bible?
5. Initially there was no need for the books of the Bible to be written. Why is this?
6. What is the term used to describe the accepted list of books that make up the Bible in the Catholic tradition?
7. What are the four types of writing in the Old Testament?
8. What are the four types of writing in the New Testament?

## Choose a Task

1. Create a detailed mind-map (try to make this visual)
2. Create a multiple-choice quiz (aim for at least 10 questions)
3. Create a poster/leaflet

### CHALLENGE!

Turn over the mat and try to complete your task without looking at the information. Then refer back to the task mat to see what you have missed/could have included.

## Exam Question

- b) Describe Catholic beliefs on the structure and origins of the Bible [5]
- b) Describe different Christian views on the interpretation of the Bible [5]

## Summary

- The Bible was inspired by God and is an important source of authority for Christians
- God has made himself known through the Bible; he has revealed his love for all humanity and has given them guidance on how to live a life according to his laws
- The Bible contains many different kinds of literature, written by many different people over a very long period of time
- Christians have different views about how to interpret the writings in the Bible; Catholics accept the idea of a biblical myth, while most Fundamentalist Christians do not.
- The Catholic Church teaches that the Bible should be read in context. However, because it is divinely inspired, it is always much more than a piece of historical writing.
- There is also a diversity within Judaism regarding the nature of divinely inspired scripture.

# GENESIS 1 CREATION

450 BCE

Genesis 1 was written down about 450 B.C.E. as a poem and it tells of the six days of Creation, with God resting of the seventh, making the day holy.



**Day 1**  
God created night and day



**Day 2**  
God created heavens



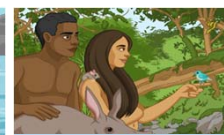
**Day 3**  
God created land and plants



**Day 4**  
God created sun, moon & stars



**Day 5**  
God created birds and fish



**Day 6**  
God created living creatures and man



**Day 7**  
God rested



**GOD'S OMNIPOTENCE**  
God is omnipotent. He can create using speech alone. "and God said".



Humans were the final act of God's creation, but the most important.



Humans must pro-create (have children).



God rested on the seventh day. Christians and Jews are ordered to 'keep the sabbath' and 'make it holy' in the Ten Commandments.

<sup>24</sup>In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

<sup>3</sup>And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup>God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

<sup>6</sup>And God said, "Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water." <sup>7</sup>So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. <sup>8</sup>God called the vault "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

<sup>9</sup>And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. <sup>10</sup>God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good.

<sup>11</sup>Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. <sup>12</sup>The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup>And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

<sup>14</sup>And God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, <sup>15</sup>and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. <sup>16</sup>God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. <sup>17</sup>God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, <sup>18</sup>to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup>And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup>And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky." <sup>21</sup>So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup>God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." <sup>23</sup>And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup>And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. <sup>25</sup>God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup>Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

<sup>27</sup>So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup>God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

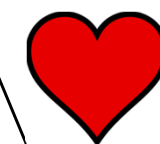
<sup>29</sup>Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. <sup>30</sup>And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

<sup>31</sup>God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

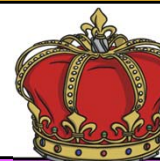
<sup>2</sup> Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. <sup>3</sup> Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.



**GOD'S OMNIPOTENCE**  
God made everything that exists.



**GOD'S OMNIBENEVOLENCE**  
Everything that God made was good. This suggests that God himself must be good (benevolent).



Humans have dominion (rule) over creation. They must rule all animals, creatures and birds.

## Knowledge Check

- According to Genesis 1, how many days did God create the world in?
- What did God create on each of these days?
- What style of writing is Genesis 1?
- How is God portrayed as Omnipotent? (find a quote to support)
- How is God's omnibenevolence portrayed? (find a quote to support)
- Which quote shows that humans were the most important part of God's creation?
- What is meant by "Be fruitful and increase in number"?
- Why do Christians and Jews observe the Sabbath?

## Choose a Task

- Create a detailed mind-map (try to make this visual)
- Create a multiple-choice quiz (aim for at least 10 questions)
- Create a poster/leaflet

### CHALLENGE!

Turn over the mat and try to complete your task without looking at the information. Then refer back to the task mat to see what you have missed/could have included.

## Exam Question

b) Describe the account of creation in Genesis 1 [5]



950  
BCE

# GENESIS 2 CREATION



Genesis 2 was written earlier than Genesis 1 in about 950 B.C.E. and focuses on the story of the creation of Adam and Eve in some detail.



## GOD'S OMNIPOTENCE

God made everything that exists.



## HUMANS

Humans were the final act of God's creation, but the most important.



## GOD'S OMNIBENEVOLENCE

God shows that he is loving in making a companion for man. He does not want man to be lonely.

Adam  
translates  
to man in  
Hebrew

IT IS BELIEVED THIS ACCOUNT  
WAS WRITTEN BEFORE THE  
GENESIS 1 ACCOUNT

<sup>4</sup>This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the Lord God made the earth and the heavens.

<sup>5</sup>Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth and no plant had yet sprung up, for the Lord God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground, <sup>6</sup>but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground. <sup>7</sup>Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

<sup>8</sup>Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. <sup>9</sup>The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

<sup>10</sup>A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters. <sup>11</sup>The name of the first is the Pishon; it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. <sup>12</sup>(The gold of that land is good; aromatic resin and onyx are also there.) <sup>13</sup>The name of the second river is the Gihon; it winds through the entire land of Cush. <sup>14</sup>The name of the third river is the Tigris; it runs along the east side of Ashur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

<sup>15</sup>The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. <sup>16</sup>And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; <sup>17</sup>but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."

<sup>18</sup>The Lord God said, "**It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.**"

<sup>19</sup>Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup>So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

But for Adam no suitable helper was found. <sup>21</sup>So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. <sup>22</sup>Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

<sup>23</sup>The man said,  
"This is now bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
she shall be called 'woman,'  
for she was taken out of man."

<sup>24</sup>That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

<sup>25</sup>Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

## FORESHADOWING CHAPTER 3: ORIGINAL SIN

In Genesis chapter 3 Eve is tempted by the serpent and eats from the tree. She then convinces Adam to do so also. They have wisdom that they did not have before, including the realisation that they are naked. They are banished from the garden, along with many other punishments.

## Knowledge Check



1. When was Genesis 2 written?
2. What does Adam translate to?
3. How is God shown to be omnipotent?
4. How is God shown to be omnibenevolent?
5. How are Adam and Eve created?
6. How do fundamentalist Christians interpret the accounts?
7. How do Catholic Christians interpret the accounts?
8. Although Christians interpret the Bible differently, what beliefs do they agree upon?

## Choose a Task



1. Create a detailed mind-map (try to make this visual).
2. Create a multiple-choice quiz (aim for at least 10 questions).
3. Create a poster/leaflet.

## CHALLENGE!

Turn over the mat and try to complete your task without looking at the information. Then refer back to the task mat to see what you have missed/could have included.

## Exam Question



*c) Explain how two Christian traditions interpret Genesis 1 and 2. [8]*

## Scientific Explanations

Whilst it is important to realise that Christians are united in their beliefs that God created the universe, that everything he made was good and that humans are the high point of his Creation, the fact that Christians interpret the Creation accounts differently is going to matter when it comes to exploring what scientists say about the origins of the universe.

## Interpreting the accounts

Not all Christians interpret (to find an explanation of the meaning of the Bible) the Bible in the same way and, therefore, they understand the Creation accounts differently. Christians are, however, united in that they believe:

- In God
- That the people who wrote the biblical accounts were inspired by God
- That God makes himself known to human beings through the Bible
- That the Bible is the Word of God and helps us to live our lives today.

## Catholic Interpretation

Catholics today accept that the two creation stories were written as myths (a story that isn't literally true, but has deeper, hidden or symbolic meanings.) When Catholics talk about a myth in religious terms, they do not mean it is a made up story or an untruth, but rather, it is a story with an underlying truth. A myth is often a symbolic story that conveys a hidden truth and shouldn't be taken as literally true. The message that the stories convey is what is of greatest importance. Although the two accounts of Creation in Genesis have different details, they share the same truths.

## Fundamentalists/ Creationists/ Literalists:

**Factual. True.  
Historical.**

## Catholics:

**Myth. Deeper, hidden,  
symbolic meanings**

## Fundamentalist Christians/ Literalist Christians Interpretation

Another way of interpreting the Bible is to believe that it is a factual record that describes events exactly as they happened. This is the view of those that we would describe as fundamentalist or 'literalist' Christians. The Genesis accounts, from this point of view, are therefore historical accounts of what actually happened at the beginning of everything. So, a fundamentalist reading of the Bible leads to the belief that the universe was created in six days; Christians who believe this are called Creationists. Likewise, Eve was created from Adam's rib exactly as it says in the Bible.

# WHAT DO THE CREATION ACCOUNTS TELL US...

## ABOUT GOD

Genesis 1 – Emphasis is on the **greatness** of God as the creator of the universe

### TRANSCENDENCE

*'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.'*  
(Genesis 1:1)



### OMNIPOTENT

God is all powerful, creation happens just by him commanding it:  
*'And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.'*  
(Genesis 1:3)

### ETERNAL



The fact that God creates heaven and earth *'In the beginning'* shows that he already existed, God has no beginning.

Genesis 2 – This account shares many of the themes in Genesis, but in addition God is portrayed as **omnibenevolent**.



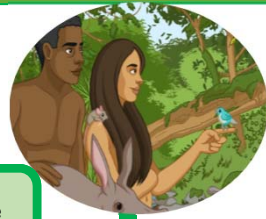
### OMNIBENEVOLENT (ALL LOVING)

God shows that he loves humans as he creates everything that they need to live.  
*'Now the LORD God planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground – trees that were pleasing to the eye and great for food.'*



### OMNIBENEVOLENT

God shows that he loves humans as he creates Eve so that Adam is not lonely.



## ABOUT HUMANS

In both Genesis 1 and 2 the messages given about human beings are the same and reinforce the belief that **human life is PRECIOUS and SACRED**.

Humans have been created to have a **CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD** but they also have a **DUTY TO CARE** for everything that God created.

### SANCTITY OF LIFE

- Humans are created last in Genesis 1 and are the high point of God's creation.
- In Genesis 2 God personally creates Adam and Eve. (Adam from the dust and Eve from the rib)
- He breathes life into Adam which demonstrates how precious and sacred human lives are compared to everything else in creation.
- God reflects that all that he has made is good, including human beings.



### STEWARDS OF GOD'S CREATION



- Genesis 1 – God creates humans to rule over the creatures
- Genesis 2 – Adam is put in the garden to *'work it and take care of it'*. Adam's authority is seen when he is asked to name all the animals.



### IMAGO DEI

*'So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created them.'*  
(Genesis 1: 27) which makes them sacred and holy.

### MALE AND FEMALE

- God deliberately creates humans male and female.
- He wants Adam to have a companion in the second story. In Genesis 1 humans are encouraged to have children. *'Be fruitful and increase in number'*.



### Knowledge Check



- What does Genesis 1 emphasise?
- Define the key concept: 'transcendence'
- Which quote supports God's transcendence?
- How does Genesis portray the sanctity of human life?
- How does Genesis portray stewardship?
- How does Genesis support belief in Imago Dei?
- Why does God create humans both male and female?
- How is free will portrayed in Genesis 2?

### Choose a Task



- Create a detailed mind-map (try to make this visual)
- Create a multiple-choice quiz (aim for at least 10 questions)
- Create a poster/leaflet

**CHALLENGE!**  
Turn over the mat and try to complete your task without looking at the information. Then refer back to the task mat to see what you have missed/could have included.

### Exam Question



*b) Describe what the Genesis accounts teach about the nature of God [5]*

*b) Describe what the Genesis accounts teach about the nature of human life [5]*

### FREE WILL

- God gives Adam and Eve freedom to do God's will and choose not to.
- 'And the LORD God commanded the man, *'You are free to eat from any tree in the garden, but you must not eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.'* (Genesis 2: 16-17).
- Although God gives Adam the instruction not to eat from the tree, He gives him the choice to disobey Him.





When we think about creating something we generally are talking about making something new from things that already exist, for example, making a cake out of flour, eggs and sugar. Catholics believe the way that God created the universe was different to this because he created it

**OUT OF NOTHING** (ex nihilo). In other words,

there were no 'ingredients' already in existence for him to use, as he created everything. Not only was there no water, land, light or dark, there wasn't even any time or space. God is solely responsible for everything that exists. Only God can create out of nothing because he is

**omnipotent** (all powerful). St Augustine, an early Christian thinker, explored this idea in his writings, *Confessions* XII, 7.

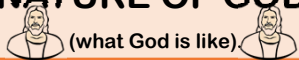
### Who was St Augustine?

- ✓ He was born in 354AD in Hippo, North Africa. In his early life he was a great sinner, obsessed with wealth, fame & partying!
- ✓ At 17 he had a sexual relationship with an unnamed woman and they had a son called Adeodatus.
- ✓ His mother, St Monica was a Christian and begged him to change...she prayed for him constantly!
- ✓ At about 32, he saw the error of his ways, felt great shame and converted to a life aimed at pleasing God.
- ✓ He gave up his wealth and wrote much about his experiences and beliefs.
- ✓ His most famous writings are contained within his book called "confessions". These are his experiences - his confession of sin but also his confession of his love for God.

### Confessions

- ✓ *Confessions* is the name of an autobiographical work, consisting of 13 books, by St. Augustine of Hippo, written in Latin between AD 397 and 400.
- ✓ The work outlines St. Augustine's sinful youth and his conversion to Christianity.
- ✓ It is widely seen as the first Western autobiography ever written, and was an influential model for Christian writers throughout the following 1,000 years, through the Middle Ages. It is generally considered one of Augustine's most important texts.

From Augustine's writings in *Confessions* XII, 7, we learn many things about the **NATURE OF GOD**



# ST AUGUSTINE: CREATION EX NIHILO

St Augustine best expresses the Christian belief that the universe was created out of nothing (*ex nihilo*)

By "heaven" he meant God's dwelling place, referred to in the bible. Heaven is more important/significant because it is close to God.

Catholics gain their beliefs and understanding of the Creation of the Universe from a variety of sources, most obviously the Bible.

Catholics also look to the teachings of religious people such as St Augustine of Hippo to help us know more about the Creation of the Universe:

By "earth" he meant the "formless void" mentioned in Genesis, from which all of the Universe is made.

## Confessions XII, 7

"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.**"

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...

The world would be perfect if it had been made FROM God, because God is perfect. The world ISN'T perfect therefore it logically makes sense to say it was not made from His own 'substance' (self).

THIS is called "creation ex nihilo" ~ a Latin phrase literally meaning "creation out of nothing"

### Key Points:

- ✓ God created heaven and earth
- ✓ Heaven and earth cannot be made from the same substance as God BECAUSE they are not equal to his greatness!
- ✓ So heaven and earth must have been created out of nothing BECAUSE there was nothing else in existence at the time of creation!
- ✓ Heaven is much more important and significant than earth BECAUSE God is close to heaven but not to Earth - he is "transcendent" (outside our time & space)



### Creator

**God created heaven and earth.** The Nicene creed has statements where Catholics profess their belief in God the father almighty as 'maker of heaven and earth.



### Trinity

There is something that is 'born of' Gods own substance. This 'something' is Gods **only begotten son**. Augustine here refers to it as the trinity in unity, unity in trinity.



### Eternal

'**you were, and besides you nothing was**': in the beginning before the creation of the universe, before time and space exists, only God exists. Catholics believe that God is **ETERNAL without beginning or end**, the ultimate reality, the only reality that has always existed, that simply is.



### Transcendent

**Beyond time and space.** God is not part of the universe, on top of a mountain or living in the sky, but neither is God 'absent from' creation - the whole cosmos is kept in existence by Gods existence.



### Omnipotent

God is all powerful and able to create something out of nothing (ex nihilo) there is **nothing God cannot do**.

### Knowledge Check

1. Define the key concept: Creation ex nihilo
2. What language is the term 'ex nihilo'?
3. Which Catholic Christian best expresses the belief that the universe was created ex nihilo?
4. How was this person characterised in his early life?
5. Which book are his most famous writings contained in?
6. Which quote supports the idea that the universe was created ex nihilo?
7. Why does the author of Confessions XII, 7 insist that the world must have been created out of nothing (ex nihilo)?
8. Which quote supports the belief that God is eternal?

### Choose a Task

1. Create a detailed mind-map (try to make this visual)
2. Create a multiple-choice quiz (aim for at least 10 questions)
3. Create a poster/leaflet

### CHALLENGE!

Turn over the mat and try to complete your task without looking at the information. Then refer back to the task mat to see what you have missed/could have included.

### Exam Question

b) Describe St Augustine's teaching on creation ex nihilo [5]

1960's

# THE BIG BANG THEORY

13 billion years old

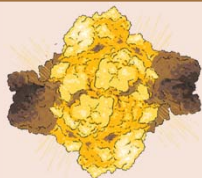
## THE UNIVERSE

The Universe is defined as "...everything we can touch, feel, sense, measure or detect. It includes living things, planets, stars, galaxies, dust clouds, light, and even time. Before the birth of the Universe, time, space and matter did not exist."

### The Big Bang

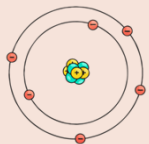
Before the Big Bang, the universe was inside a bubble that was smaller than a pinhead.

When the universe exploded (Big Bang), nearly 14 billion years ago, it created time, space and galaxies.



### Seconds after the Big Bang, particles began to form

A particle is a tiny amount of matter. These were called protons and neutrons. The protons and neutrons began to join to make simple chemical elements.



### 300,000 years later

Years later, the universe had cooled down after the Big Bang and was cool enough for more chemical elements to form. The first stars also began to form.

Group	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
Period	The Periodic Table of the Elements																		
1	1	2											3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
3	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	
4	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	
5	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	
6	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	
7	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	
8	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	
9	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	
10	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	
11	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	
12	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	
13	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	
14	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	
15	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	
16	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	
17	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	
18	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	
19	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	
20	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	
21	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	
22	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	
23	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	
24	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	
25	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	
26	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	
27	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	
28	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	
29	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	
30	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	
31	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	
32	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	
33	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	
34	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	
35	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	
36	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	
37	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	
38	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	
39	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	
40	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	
41	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720	721	722	
42	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	
43	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	
44	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	
45	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792	793	794	
46	795	796	797	798	799	800	801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810	811	812	
47	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824	825	826	827	828	829	830	
48	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	840	841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	
49	849	850	851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859	860	861	862	863	864	865	866	
50	867	868	869	870	871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	880	881	882	883	884	
51	885	886	887	888	889	890	891	892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899	900	901	902	
52	903	904	905	906	907	908	909	910	911	912	913	914	915	916	917	918	919	920	
53	921	922	923	924	925	926	927	928	929	930	931	932	933	934	935	936	937	938	
54	939	940	941	942	943	944	945	946	947	948	949	950	951	952	953	954	955	956	
55	957	958	959	960	961	962	963	964	965	966	967	968	969	970	971	972	973	974	
56	975	976	977	978	979	980	981	982	983	984	985	986	987	988	989	990	991	992	
57	993	994	995	996	997	998	999	1000	1001	1002	1003	1004	1005	1006	1007	1008	1009	1010	
58	1011	1012	1013	1014	1015	1016	1017	1018	1019	1020	1021	1022	1023	1024	1025	1026	1027	1028	
59	1029	1030	1031	1032	1033	1034	1035	1036	1037	1038	1039	1040	1041	1042	1043	1044	1045	1046	
60	1047	1048	1049	1050	1051	1052	1053	1054	1055	1056	1057	1058	1059	1060	1061	1062	1063	1064	
61	1065	1066	1067	1068	1069	1070	1071	1072	1073	1074	1075	1076	1077	1078	1079	1080	1081	1082	
62	1083	1084	1085	1086	1087	1088	1089	1090	1091	1092	1093	1094	1095	1096	1097	1098	1099	1100	
63	1101	1102	1103	1104	1105	1106	1107	1108	1109	1110	1111	1112	1113	1114	1115	1116	1117	1118	
64	1119	1120	1121	1122	1123	1124	1125	1126	1127	1128	1129	1130	1131	1132	1133	1134	1135	1136	
65	1137	1138	1139	1140	1141	1142	1143	1144	1145	1146	1147	1148	1149	1150	1151	1152	1153	1154	
66	1155	1156	1157	1158	1159	1160	1161	1162	1163	1164	1165	1166	1167	1168	1169	1170	1171	1172	
67	1173	1174	1175	1176	1177	1178	1179	1180	1181	1182	1183	1184	1185	1186	1187	1188	1189	1190	
68	1191	1192	1193	1194	1195	1196	1197	1198	1199	1200	1201	1202	1203	1204	1205	1206	1207	1208	
69	1209	1210	1211	1212	1213	1214	1215	1216	1217	1218	1219	1220	1221	1222	1223	1224	1225	1226	
70	1227	1228	1229	1230	1231	1232	1233	1234	1235	1236	1237	1238	1239	1240	1241	1242	1243	1244	
71	1245	1246	1247	1248	1249	1250	1251	1252	1253	1254	1255	1256	1257	1258	1259	1260	1261	1262	
72	1263	1264	1265	1266	1267	1268	1269	1270	1271	1272	1273	1274	1275	1276	1277	1278	1279	1280	
73	1281	1282	1283	1284	1285	1286	1287	1288	1289	1290	1291	1292	1293	1294	1295	1296	1297	1298	
74	1299	1300	1301	1302	1303	1304	1305	1306	1307	1308	1309	1310	1311	1312	1313	1314	1315	1316	
75	1317	1318	1319	1320	1321	1322	1323	1324	1325	1326	1327	1328	1329	1330	1331	1332	1333	1334	
76	1335	1336	1337	1338	1339	1340	1341	1342	1343	1344	1345	1346	1347	1348	1349	1350	1351	1352	
77	1353	1354	1355	1356	1357	1358	1359	1360	1361	1362	1363	1364	1365	1366	1367	1368	1369	1370	
78	1371	1372	1373	1374	1375	1376	1377	1378	1379	1380	1381	1382							

### 10 Billion Years Later

Our solar system and the Sun were formed.

The Earth was formed by rocks colliding and merging with one another. The impact of the rocks colliding created an incredible amount of heat. Radioactive material was delivered to the Earth as well. When the outer layer of the Earth cooled, this radioactive heat was trapped inside. The Earth's core is as warm as the Sun!



### Conclusion → We don't need God!

The Big Bang theory has led Hawking and many other scientists to conclude that there is no evidence to suggest that there is a Creator responsible for the origin of the universe; instead things may have happened by themselves.

The theory was first put forward by a Catholic priest, Father Georges Lemaître, and then much later built on by Professor Stephen Hawking. The theory arose as a result of various observations made about the universe.

The best known theory explaining how the world began is the Big Bang theory which became widely accepted in the 1960s.



Father Georges Lemaître

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



Stephen Hawking

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

### Evidence for the Big Bang

One big piece of evidence to support the Big Bang theory is that galaxies and stars are now moving further away from us. This supports the idea that the Universe was once trapped inside a tiny bubble.

### The Catholic Church

The Catholic Church has no reason to question the evidence that scientists present about the origins of the universe. There is a long history of the Catholic Church being interested in, and leading on, areas of scientific discovery. In fact, it doesn't have to be a choice between religion and science because both are perfectly possible.



### AUTHORS OF GENESIS: WHY?

The story was told in a non-scientific age to explain that God was the creator of everything and that he had a special role for humanity to play in the world. These stories express meaning rather than presenting a factual account of historical events.

### SCIENTISTS: HOW?

Scientists are answering the question of HOW the universe was created. The conclusion for Catholics, therefore, is that if the Big Bang theory is correct then perhaps that is the way God chose to create the world.

### Moment of singularity...

As you observe these galaxies and their stage of development, it seems to suggest that the universe is about 15 billion years old, which has led scientists to believe that there was a one-off moment when it all began, and before which nothing existed.

Hawking calls this a 'moment of singularity'.

### Religion Versus Science

Today, many think of science and religion as being in opposition to each other, but this view is far too simplistic. *Up until the sixteenth century, the philosophers and theologians were the scientists; it was from their work that science was born.* In Medieval times belief about the structure of the universe was based on what scholars observed and mathematics. Any scientific reasoning was in line with the Christian faith and the accounts of Creation in Genesis. Scholars at this time were more interested in how you should live your life so that you could enter heaven rather than knowing how the universe worked. The accepted view at this time was that the earth had been created by God, as described in Genesis. *Since those times, science has developed and, as a result, some theories that have been put forward appear to contradict the biblical accounts of creation. The study of the origin of the universe is called cosmology.* One of the first challenging ideas for many religious believers was the discovery that the earth went around the sun along with the other planets, rather than being the centre of the universe, as had previously been believed. Furthermore, scientists have concluded that the world is a lot older than we first thought and *today it is believed that the universe is more than 13 billion years old*, with our sun forming about 4.6 billion years ago.

The theory raises almost as many questions as answers



*Where did the matter come from that caused the Big Bang?*

Hawking suggests that since gravity exists, the universe can and will create itself from nothing, but the question is, *where did the law of gravity come from?* Gravity and matter are not 'nothing', so if either of these existed before the universe, then the universe has not come from nothing.

Did the universe come from nothing? (ex nihilo)

### Knowledge Check



- Who first put forward the theory of the Big Bang?
- What is the Universe defined as?
- Why does Stephen Hawking say that God is not needed to trigger the Big Bang?
- What happened when the universe exploded?
- What evidence is there to support the Big Bang?
- How does the Catholic Church interpret the Big Bang theory?
- What is meant by a 'moment of singularity'?
- What big questions does the Big Bang theory raise?

### Choose a Task

- Create a detailed mind-map (try to make this visual)
- Create a multiple-choice quiz (aim for at least 10 questions)
- Create a poster/leaflet

### CHALLENGE!

Turn over the mat and try to complete your task without looking at the information. Then refer back to the task mat to see what you have missed/could have included.

### Exam Question

- Describe the scientific theory of the Big Bang [5]
- Explain two different Christian attitudes towards the Big Bang [8]



# THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION



## Charles Darwin

The Big Bang theory has provided a scientific explanation for the origin of the universe without a need to believe that God is responsible. Similarly, various theories have been proposed to explain how new species develop. Darwin's observations of variation in the beaks of finches led to his theory of evolution.

Charles Darwin rocked the Christian world in 1859 when he published his book called ***On the Origin of the Species by means of Natural Selection.***

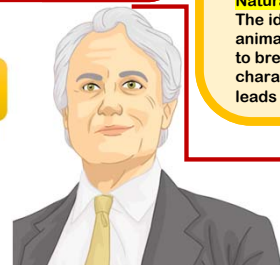
He worked as a naturalist on HMS Beagle and spent a long time studying the animals and birds on the ***Galapagos Islands*** which are a thousand miles off the coast of South America. He noticed major differences in some of the animals across the different islands, particularly in relation to a type of bird called finches. ***Some of the finches had thin, sharp beaks whereas those on other island had short, fat beaks.*** The size and shape of their beaks were best suited to the food source that was available to them on each island.

He concluded that these variations happened naturally by chance when a species produced offspring. However, in some cases ***the variation was very useful and made it more likely that these animals would survive and breed, producing the next generation.*** So, over time the useful variation was passed down and became more common, which eventually led to different variations of animal and eventually to whole new species. ***This process is referred to as natural selection or 'survival of the fittest'.***

***Darwin proposed that this process had repeated itself many times over a long period of time, leading to completely new species of animals emerging. This process is known as evolution.*** This was highly controversial at the time; according to this theory one species is descended from another species from which it is different. If we are to work backwards, ***human beings have descended from ape-like species*** which itself came from a species of mammal, and these mammals descended from a reptile who had come from a fish until ***eventually all life can be traced back to simple bacterium.***

The theory of evolution is ***supported by fossil records*** which reveal that a large number of species have not survived and also that earlier forms of animals have survived by in a mutated form (for example, elephants are closely related to the extinct woolly mammoth). DNA research also seems to suggest that there are very close similarities between many species, which further reinforces evolutionary theory.

Catholics believe...  
*Our bodies may have evolved but our souls stay the same!*



## Richard Dawkins

Professor Richard Dawkins is a British scientist who is referred to as ***'the most famous atheist in the world'***. He has been outspoken about his support for Darwin's theory of evolution, ***atheism, humanism*** and is in opposition to religion. ***Dawkins believes that the theory of evolution and natural selection explain the origins of the universe much better than the idea of a creator God.*** He famously said that you could not be sane and well-educated and disbelieve the theory of evolution. Dawkins is well known for the work that he has done to build on Darwin's theory of natural selection. In his book, ***The Selfish Gene (1976)***, he argues that ***it is the individual genes within organisms that adapt and evolve, not organisms themselves.***

Dawkins argues that each living organism's body is just a survival machine for its genes and does not serve any other purpose. He described life as just: ***'bytes and bytes and bytes of digital information'***. Therefore, humans are no more than carriers of DNA whereby over time, good genes survive and bad genes die out. Dawkins, therefore, rejects:

- Any notion of a creator God who has a plan for the universe
- The concept of an immortal soul given by God

## WORD BANK

**Atheism**  
Believing there is no God

**Humanism**  
A belief system based on rational and scientific thought and the importance of humans rather than a supernatural God/s.

**Natural Selection (Survival of the Fittest)**  
The idea that certain characteristics help animals survive, so that animals with that characteristic are more likely to live long enough to breed and pass that characteristic on. This leads to a certain characteristic becoming more common over time and eventually leads to new species developing.

## Is evolution compatible with Catholic beliefs?

For many, Darwin's and Dawkins' views are challenging because they appear to conflict with the Catholic idea that human beings have a special role in God's creation. Dawkins argues that evolution means that:

- The creation of humans was just a lucky genetic mutation
- Humans are merely another slightly more advanced form of animals
- Humans have no greater importance on this earth than other animals

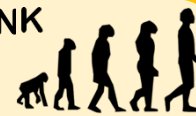
However, Catholics accept the theory of evolution but disagree with the idea that it means that humans aren't special and all life developed by chance. Pope St John Paul II restated the view of Pope Pius XII, that the Church saw no conflict between evolution and the teachings of the Christian faith. He went on to encourage theologians and scholars of Scripture to be informed by scientific research in their ongoing work.

The Catholic Church does not expect Catholics to believe that humans were created on the sixth day looking exactly as they do today. What is important to the Catholic Church is not whether God chose to create through a Big Bang and a process of evolution over many millions of years, but that in Genesis, God created with purpose and so everything that exists is part of his loving plan. This is what is important for Christians to understand; not HOW it happened but WHY it happened.

***'If methodical investigation within every branch of learning is carried out in a genuinely scientific manner and in accord with moral norms, it never truly conflicts with faith, for earthly matters and the concerns of faith derive from the same God.'*** (Gaudium et Spes 36)

Pope St John Paul II in his Message to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences: On Evolution (22 October 1996)

***'...In his encyclical Humani Generis (1950), my predecessor Pius XII has already affirmed that there is no conflict between evolution and the doctrine of faith regarding man and his vocation.'***



## Source of Wisdom and Authority

*Dawkins described life as just 'bytes and bytes and bytes of digital information.'*

*'If methodical investigation within every branch of learning is carried out in a genuinely scientific manner and in accord with moral norms, it never truly conflicts with faith, for earthly matters and the concerns of faith derive from the same God.'* (Gaudium et Spes 36)

*'...In his encyclical Humani Generis (1950), my predecessor Pius XII has already affirmed that there is no conflict between evolution and the doctrine of faith regarding man and his vocation.'* (Pope St John Paul II in his Message to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences: On Evolution.

## What do other Christians believe about the Big Bang theory and evolution?

Whereas the Catholic Church and other Liberal Christians support these theories, some Christian denominations, most notably some Fundamentalist and Evangelical Christians, see them as an attack on their beliefs. These Christians interpret Scripture literally and believe that the Bible has come directly from God and that every word is historically true and accurate. Any scientific account of creation that conflicts with the Genesis account is, therefore, considered wrong. Their views would include:

- The actions of the creator God brought about all life
  - A great variety of life forms suddenly appeared on earth at the time of creation
  - Plant and animal species were created with their own characteristics complete at the time of creation
  - Human life was created last, with characteristics that were complete at the time of creation
- The last two points, therefore, rule out the idea of evolution.

## Knowledge Check

- Define the key concept: evolution
- Who first discovered the theory of evolution and in which book is it first forward?
- How did he discover the theory?
- What is natural selection?
- What is Richard Dawkins known as?
- What is the Catholic Christian view on evolution?
- What does Gaudium et Spes 36 say about evolution?
- How do other Christians, such as fundamentalists, interpret the theory of evolution?

## Choose a Task

- Create a detailed mind-map (try to make this visual)
- Create a multiple-choice quiz (aim for at least 10 questions)
- Create a poster/leaflet

### CHALLENGE!

Turn over the mat and try to complete your task without looking at the information. Then refer back to the task mat to see what you have missed/could have included.

## Exam Question

- Describe the scientific theory of evolution [5]
- Explain two different Christian attitudes towards Evolution [8]





### WORD BANK

**Imago Dei** - In the image of God. The belief that human beings are uniquely a reflection of God's personhood. Unlike other animals, human beings are rational, free and moral.  
**Sanctity of life**: The Christian belief that life is precious or sacred because it has been given by God.  
**Dignity** - Being worthy of honour or respect  
**Destiny** - The events that will happen to someone

## Why is human life special?

The fact that humans appear to be the only creatures capable of using reason to make moral decisions, has led many people, whether they are religious or not, to believe that human life has more value than other kinds of life and is precious. For those with no religious faith, life is special because it is the only life we have. For Christians, human life has special value because they believe that each person is unique because God made them and there is no one quite like them. Sadly we know this when those we love die, because they leave a space that can't be filled by anyone else. We might have another sister, son or friend but they can't ever replace the person that we have lost. *All Christian denominations believe that human life is special and a gift from God.* The Catholic Church teaches that all human life is sacred (holy) and the everyone has a right to life which should be protected and valued at every stage.

The creation of humans in both Genesis accounts is different to the way that we are told that other living things are created for **three main reasons:**

### NUMBER 1:

Humans are special. In Genesis 1, it states that humans were not just created by God but in his image.

### NUMBER 2:

In Genesis 2, God creates Adam from the earth and breathes life into him so that he can live.

### NUMBER 3:

Humans have an immortal SOUL which has come from God and will go back to God, so their DESTINY is to share eternal joy with God in heaven.

*'Then God said, Let us make mankind in our own image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground. So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; Male and female he created them.'* (Genesis 1:26-27).

These accounts demonstrate that the creation of humans was unlike the rest of creation because they were made in a unique way and most importantly in the image of God. The Latin term for 'in the image of God' is imago Dei. Catholics believe that since only humans have been made in God's image, they, therefore, have a special DIGNITY which should be recognised in everyone that they meet whatever their gender, colour, status or belief.

Humans have freedom to make moral choices. In Genesis 2, it says: *'And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. For when you eat from it you will certainly die.'* (Genesis 2:16-17)

## Catechism of the Catholic Church

Both of the Creation accounts in Genesis 1 and 2 describe how God planned and made the world. Everything that exists does so because God created it, including plants and animals and his final creation, humans, who were his most important.

*'Human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves the creative action of God and it remains forever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end...'*

(Catechism of the Catholic Church 2258)



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.

## Non-religious views about the value of human life

Most human beings are in agreement that human life is special and worthy of protection.

*'The child, by reason of its physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguard and care, including appropriate legal protection before as well as after birth.'*

(United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

## Fundamentalist Christian views

For religious believers, human life is considered to be sacred or holy because it has come from God. This idea is known as the sanctity of life. Since all life originates from God and is precious, it should be valued and protected, not destroyed.

## LIFE IS SACRED BECAUSE...

- ✓ **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 (immortal means they will never 'die').
- ✓ **DESTINY:** The goal of this life is eternal joy with God in heaven.

## Knowledge Check

1. Define the key concept: Imago Dei
2. Define the term: Sanctity of life
3. What does the following quote mean: *'Human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves the creative action of God and it remains forever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end...'* (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2258)
4. According to the book of Genesis, why are humans different to any other living beings that were created?
5. Give three reasons why life is sacred
6. What is the name of Catherine of Siena's text about imago dei?
7. What does Catherine of Siena mean when she says that looking at God is like looking in a mirror?
8. What are the three main messages that come from *The Dialogue of Divine Providence*?

## Choose a Task

1. Create a detailed mind-map (try to make this visual)
2. Create a multiple-choice quiz (aim for at least 10 questions)
3. Create a poster/leaflet

### CHALLENGE!

Turn over the mat and try to complete your task without looking at the information. Then refer back to the task mat to see what you have missed/could have included.

## Exam Question

*b) Describe Catholic belief on the teaching of imago Dei [5]*

*c) Explain from two different religions/religious traditions belief in humanity as created imago Dei [8]*

## St Catherine of Siena: The Dialogue of Divine Providence

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.



St Catherine of Siena:  
*The Dialogue of Divine Providence*

There are **three** important messages that come from St Catherine's writing:

Her most famous work is called *The Dialogue of Divine Providence* and is a conversation between God and a soul trying to make *her* way to God. The soul is referred to as 'her'. This is a Latin tradition.

## Humans originate from God

In the same way that children originate from their parents or your reflection in the mirror originates from you:

*'Her dignity is that of her creation, seeing that she is in the image of God.'* (The Dialogue of Divine Providence)

## Love

St Catherine reflects that the reason that humans have been made with such dignity in the image of God is because he loves them immeasurably. He created them out of love.

*'You are taken with love for her; for by love indeed you created her.'*



## Conscience

When we look in a mirror we see our face, the good and the bad; freckles, spots, wrinkles! Since humans have God's truth in their lives, they have an inner conscience that tells them when their actions are right or wrong, just like looking in a mirror:

*'In that same mirror of the goodness of God, the soul knows her own indignity, which is the consequence of her own fault.'*



1967

# ABORTION

24  
Weeks

Abortion is the deliberate ending of a pregnancy.

Pro-Life



People who believe that the **child has a right to life** and abortion is wrong are called pro-life.

People who believe that the **mother should be able to choose** whether to have an abortion are called pro-choice.

Pro-Choice



In the UK abortion can take place up to 24 weeks into pregnancy with the consent of two doctors

It all centres around:  
**WHEN DOES LIFE BEGIN?**



Abortion is a **highly controversial** issue and has been widely debated since its legalisation. Arguments on both side of the debate centre around

*three main issues:*

## Preserving Life

When does life begin?

There are those who believe it is always wrong to take a human life and that includes the life of unborn babies. However, there are widely held views on when life actually does begin. Is it the moment of conception? When implantation occurs? When the first movements can be felt in the womb? The instant the heart starts to beat? When a baby is born?

## Quality of Life

Is it the kind thing to do?

There are those who argue that the issue isn't whether the unborn baby is a life or not, but whether having the child will adversely affect the quality of life of the mother or the child. If the mother is going to suffer mentally or physically by having the child, for example, if the mother has been raped or if the child will be born with severe disabilities, then some argue that, in these circumstances, it is kinder to have an abortion.

## Rights and Responsibilities

Pro-Life  
Pro-Choice

Some people believe that every human has a right to life, even an embryo, and potential parents should take responsibility for bringing new life into the world. This view is usually referred to as 'Pro-Life'. On the other side of the debate there are those who believe that the important issue is that the woman has rights. She has the right to do what she wants with her body and that includes having an abortion. Some who take this view accept that an unborn baby has rights but would argue that the woman's right to do what she wants with her body takes priority. This standpoint is referred to as 'Pro-choice'. Currently, in law, the father has no legal rights.

## Roman Catholics: The Principle of the Double Effect

Some actions have more than one effect – the intended effect and a side effect (double effect). Sometimes even if the intended effect of an action is good, the side effect can be bad. The Catholic Church teaches the principle of double effect – where an action that is intended to have a good effect, but has a bad side-effect can be morally right if it meets the following principles: the action itself must be morally good or morally indifferent, not morally wrong; the bad effect/result must not be directly intended; the intended good effect/result must be a direct result of the action taken and not a result of the bad result/effect. The good effect/result must be 'proportionate to' the bad effect/result. **The Catholic Church permits medical procedures that will also end a pregnancy, if it is a side effect of saving the life of the mother. This is NOT abortion!!! Catholics do not agree with abortion under any circumstances.**

## The Anglican Church and abortion

The Anglican Church is also strongly opposed to abortion and agrees with the Catholic Church that it is a great moral evil. They also **encourage adoption** as the alternative course of action. Anglicans uphold the sanctity of human life. However, where they differ from the Catholic Church is that many Anglicans believe there are strictly limited conditions when having an abortion would be preferable to having the child. This is sometimes referred to as **'the lesser of two evils'**. The Anglican Church also calls for **better sex education** as a solution to unwanted pregnancies.

To summarise, Anglican Christians:

- ✓ Disagree with abortion BUT believe that in extreme cases, it is may be the most loving thing to do.
- ✓ Most believers accept human life begins at conception, but some do not.
- ✓ Jesus taught us to "love our neighbour" ~ abortion can sometimes be most loving to "our neighbour".
- ✓ It is a Christian duty to relieve suffering ~ abortion often does this.

## Jewish Attitudes

For many Jews, God is believed to be the sole creator, giver and taker of life, Genesis (the first book of the Torah) teaches that humans are created in the image of God and life is precious. In the Tenakh, there are references to a relationship with God ever before birth (Jeremiah 1). The Ten Commandments forbid the taking of a life. The Talmud discusses a number of cases in which mitzvot in the Torah can be disregarded in order to save a life (Pikuach Nefesh).

There are many different Jewish views concerning abortion:

- ✓ As God is Creator, only he can take life.
- ✓ It is taught that 'Anyone who destroys a human life is considered as if he had destroyed an entire world.'
- ✓ 10 Commandments – 'Do not murder'
- ✓ **Most Jews believe that the unborn foetus is not a person until it is born.**
- ✓ Abortion is permitted but only for serious reasons (e.g. mother's life at risk).

## Knowledge Check

1. What is meant by the term 'pro-life'?
2. What is meant by the term 'pro-choice'?
3. When and why was abortion legalised in Britain?
4. Initially abortion was legalised up to 28 weeks in the pregnancy. What did this change to in 1990?
5. Why is abortion controversial?
6. What is the Catholic Christian view on abortion?
7. What is meant by the Principle of Double Effect?
8. How do Anglican Christians respond to abortion?

## Choose a Task

1. Create a detailed mind-map (try to make this visual)
2. Create a multiple-choice quiz (aim for at least 10 questions)
3. Create a poster/leaflet

### CHALLENGE!

Turn over the mat and try to complete your task without looking at the information. Then refer back to the task mat to see what you have missed/could have included.

## Exam Question

c) Explain the attitudes of two different religions/religious traditions towards abortion [8]

Abortion and the Law

Before 1967, abortion was illegal in Britain, however this doesn't mean abortions didn't take place. Instead thousands of illegal or 'back street' abortions were carried out each year and led to serious injury and sometimes the death of the woman.

In 1967, abortion was legalised up to 28 weeks, as long as certain criteria were met. Two doctors must agree to the procedure for it to go ahead and decide that, if the pregnancy were to continue, it would be a risk to the physical or mental health of the mother or her existing family. Other grounds on which an abortion can be granted is if the woman's life is in danger or there is a substantial risk that the baby might be born with a physical or mental disability.

The 1990 Abortion Act lowered the number of weeks to 24, however in rare cases where the woman's life is at risk or there is the likelihood of severe abnormality in the baby, there is no time limit on abortion.

- ✓ Conception: Some believe that life begins at conception because the egg and sperm are a living source of life
- ✓ Some people believe that life begins when the fertilised egg attaches to the wall of the womb
- ✓ Some believe that when the first movements in the womb can be felt (called quickening) from nine weeks onwards, perceptible life has begun
- ✓ At 24 weeks the developing baby reaches viability – the stage at which it could survive outside the womb
- ✓ Many believe that life properly starts at birth (about 40 weeks after conception)

The Catholic Church is against abortion in all circumstances because human life is sacred. The Catholic Church teaches that life begins at conception. It is God who gives life at this moment and it is the start of a human being's relationship with God. This life is often described as **'a life with potential'** rather than a potential life.

***'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.'*** (Jeremiah 1:5)

***This means that God knew us even BEFORE birth!***

***Therefore abortion must be wrong.***

Abortion is, therefore, seen as murder and a great moral evil, which is against one of the Ten Commandments: **'Do not murder'**.

The Church values the life of both mother and child. If a mother's life is in danger during the pregnancy then it supports some of the treatments which could save the life of the mother even if it threatens or destroys the life of the unborn child. For example, when the mother might need treatment for cancer, such as chemotherapy. This is known as the principle of double effect.



Attitudes towards abortion



The Catholic Church NEVER accept abortion



# HUMANISM & THE VALUE OF LIFE

There is no God!

There is no one humanist view on abortion but they tend to take a more liberal 'pro-choice approach' and accept abortion as a morally acceptable choice.



Promote adoption as a possible alternative that might bring about greater happiness



Encourage careful consideration of both long-term and short-term effects before a decision is made



## Quality of life

Humanists do not consider life sacred (though they do believe it is special) but instead they think that 'quality of life' is an important consideration and that this outweighs preservation of life



Support the legalization of abortion so that unsafe, illegal abortions don't take place



Do not think an unborn baby is a person until well after conception



Consider that better sex education and easier access to contraception would reduce the number of abortions



## Peter Singer and Speciesism

Singer is critical of the Catholic view that human life is more special than any other type of life. He believes that treating animals as less important than humans is discriminatory and 'speciesist', in the same way that discriminating against people because of their colour is racist.

Singer argues that animals have similar responses to humans, in that they feel pleasure and pain and, therefore, their interests must be taken into account. A conscious animal, such as a cat, has more mental capacity and is more of a 'person' than an infant baby or an elderly person with dementia. Singer argues that speciesism is, therefore, morally wrong.



## African Grey Parrots

They are very intelligent and in some experiments have been shown to have the same cognitive ability as a 4-6 year old child.

Should they have the same rights as humans?

biological  
Non-human persons



## Peter Singer

and non-person humans

Singer agrees with the Catholic position that life begins at conception. However, he describes this life as 'biological' and denies that embryos are 'persons'.

Singer defines a human person as a being that can feel, hope and make moral choices. **Therefore, embryos, new born babies, those in a coma and the elderly with dementia are all examples of biological, but 'non-human' persons.** It is morally acceptable to take the lives of these 'non-human' persons if it will bring about less suffering and greater happiness for all involved.

## A Catholic response to Singer's views....

Catholics would argue that since God gives humans a soul, they are and remain 'persons' whether they are conscious or not, even when they are asleep, in a coma or haven't yet been born.

With regard to Singer's views on speciesism, Catholics would agree that human beings should respect and care for animals, since they are God's creatures and part of his Creation. However, they make a distinction between animals and humans because humans have been made in the image of God. Humans, therefore, have a special dignity that animals don't. Human beings should care for animals and must not inflict unnecessary cruelty, but they can use animals for food and clothing.

Humans have a **soul** they are therefore 'persons'



Humans have been made **imago dei**. They have a special dignity animals don't.

## Was it right to kill Harambe?

On May 28, 2016, a three-year-old boy climbed into a gorilla enclosure at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden and was grabbed and dragged by **Harambe**, a 17-year-old Western lowland gorilla. Fearing for the boy's life, a zoo worker shot and killed Harambe. The incident was recorded on video and received broad international coverage and commentary, including controversy over the choice to kill Harambe. A number of primatologists and conservationists wrote later that the zoo had no other choice under the circumstances, and that it highlighted the danger of zoo animals in close proximity to humans and the need for better standards of care.



Gorillas are highly intelligent. They use tools and have various methods of communication, including some 25 different sounds.

One famous captive-born individual, Koko, has been taught sign language since she was a year old. By the age of 40, she had a library of about 1,000 signs and could understand some 2,000 words of English.

## Knowledge Check

- Which view do humanists tend to take on abortion? (pro life/pro choice?)
- What do humanists suggest for women who are considering having an abortion?
- What do humanists suggest our society does to avoid unwanted pregnancies?
- Peter Singer says that 'biological' persons do not have the same right to life. Who does he categorise as 'biological non-human persons'?
- How does the Catholic Church respond to this?
- According to the Catholic Church, why do humans have a special dignity that animals do not?
- What is Peter Singer's view on speciesism?
- What makes African Grey Parrots unique?

## Choose a Task

- Create a detailed mind-map (try to make this visual)
- Create a multiple-choice quiz (aim for at least 10 questions)
- Create a poster/leaflet

## CHALLENGE!

Turn over the mat and try to complete your task without looking at the information. Then refer back to the task mat to see what you have missed/could have included.

## Exam Question

*b) Describe humanist views on the value of life [5]*

# STEWARDSHIP



The duty to care for creation responsibly, as stewards rather than consumers, and to protect it for future generations



## Catholic beliefs about humans and their relationship with creation

Catholics believe that all of creation is holy because it comes from God. It is a sign of his love because he created the earth in a way that is sustainable for human life. One important way of showing love for God is by valuing what God has created.

Christians believe that the earth belongs to God and not to human beings; we are just the 'care-takers' of God's world.

## Humans must rule and protect the world

- In the Genesis creation stories humans are given the **AUTHORITY** to **RULE** over all living things.
- The very **FIRST LAW** that seems to be given to humanity was that they should be **STEWARDS OF THE EARTH**.
- An important aspect of looking after the earth is **PROTECTING** it for **FUTURE GENERATIONS** so that they can enjoy God's creation.
- In return for good stewardship, the earth provides humans with everything they need to survive, but they do not have the right to **ABUSE** the **NATURAL WORLD**; instead they must live in a sustainable way.



**Dominion:**  
To rule over, to be in charge of

## Laudato Si – Pope Francis' Encyclical

Catholics can take care of the planet in many different ways, at an individual, local and global level. In Laudato Si, Pope Francis has highlighted sound, practical ways that people can do this:

*"Education in environmental responsibility can encourage ways of acting which directly and significantly affect the world around us, such as avoiding the use of plastic and paper, reducing water consumption, separating refuse, cooking only what can reasonably be consumed, showing care for other living beings, using public transport or car-pooling, planting trees, turning off unnecessary lights, or any number of other practices."*

Pope Francis, in his encyclical\* (a letter sent by the Pope to all Catholic bishops) Laudato Si, encourages Catholics to think about the gift they have been given and to consider what type of world they will be passing on to future generations. This will mean that humanity needs to look beyond personal gain and instead consider the effects of its actions on the environment.

*"Once we start to think about the kind of world we are leaving to future generations, we look at things differently;*

*We realise that the world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others. Since the world has been given to us, we can no longer view the world in a purely utilitarian way, in which efficiency and productivity are entirely geared to individual benefit."*

What does good stewardship look like according to Pope Francis: *Laudato Si*



Education in environmental sustainability



Laudato Si



Use less paper and plastic



Turning off lights



Less water consumption



Using public transport



Planting Trees



**Encyclical:**  
A letter sent by the Pope to all Catholic bishops.



Using renewable resources



Realise that the world is a gift and treat it as such!

## The common good

- The Catholic Church teaches that every individual has a duty to contribute to the good of society, the common good
- As individuals, Catholics should act justly and seek justice for others, especially the poor
- This approach is most likely to lead to good things for everyone because if all individuals are cared for, everyone will benefit from living in an orderly, prosperous and healthy environment

## Love your neighbour as yourself

- This is the **GREATEST COMMANDMENT**, to love God and to love others.
- For Catholics this means everyone we know and even those we don't.
- This means that Catholics need to be concerned about those in other countries who bear the brunt of the most devastating effects of a climate change through floods, storms and drought.

## Universal destination of goods

- Do we ever really own possessions, or is it more likely that we own them for a time before they become somebody else's when we recycle them or give them away?
- The Catholic Church sees the earth in this way – the current generation does not own it. They are looking after it to pass on to future generations.
- A refusal to look after the planet is stealing from future generations.

## Knowledge Check

- Define the key concept: Stewardship
- What are Catholic Christian beliefs about humans and their relationship with creation?
- Why do Catholic Christians believe humans must rule and protect the world?
- What is meant by the term 'dominion'?
- What is meant by the term 'the common good'?
- What is meant by 'universal destination of goods'?
- What is an encyclical?
- What does Pope Francis highlight in Laudato Si?

## Choose a Task

- Create a detailed mind-map (try to make this visual)
- Create a multiple-choice quiz (aim for at least 10 questions)
- Create a poster/leaflet

### CHALLENGE!

Turn over the mat and try to complete your task without looking at the information. Then refer back to the task mat to see what you have missed/could have included.

## Exam Question

c) Explain the importance of stewardship in Christianity [8]



There is no God!

# HUMANISM AND THE ENVIRONMENT



## 1 Good WITHOUT God

Most humanists agree with the idea of stewardship and see the world as beautiful and valuable.

They believe that:

1. More should be done to preserve habitats and species because if they are lost then we may be damaging ourselves without realising it.
2. We should care about the future of our planet because we should care about other human beings, even those not born yet.

What makes humanists different to Catholics or other religions:

They seek to live a good life because they believe it is the **ONLY LIFE WE HAVE.**

Whereas, Catholics look after the earth because they believe that it is what God wishes.



### Speciesism and Peter Singer

'Speciesism' is the idea that being human is a good enough reason for human animals to have greater moral rights than non-human animals. Peter Singer believes this is **WRONG.**

Humanists have much in common with Catholics with respect to their concerns about the environment and the future of the planet. **However, there are three main ways that their views would DIFFER from that of a Catholic**



## 2 Population Control



Humanists see population growth and overcrowding of the planet as a major threat to life on earth.

They recognise that a growing population increases the demand for food, water, shelter and fuel as well as more material possessions and wealth.

1. DEMAND FOR THE EARTH'S RESOURCES can increase tension and even lead to war which then threatens the happiness and safety of humans
2. BIRTH CONTROL PROGRAMMES are an option to limit population growth. (This is contrary to the Catholic view which holds that God wants humans to flourish and multiply, as seen in Genesis.)

We are running out of resources!!!



## 3 Speciesism

This is the view that humans are prejudiced in favour of their own species and that we discriminate against animals because we believe that being humans sets us above other animals. Increasingly humanists see this view as **WRONG**, in the same way that racism or sexism is wrong.

A famous humanist who takes this view is Peter Singer.



**For example:**  
a humanist might ask us to consider a bee

Bees are threatened globally and in many areas their numbers are declining alarmingly. **It is estimated that a third of all the food we eat, such as fruit and vegetables, have been pollinated by bees.**

If this is the case, are humans really superior to bees, or are we reliant on them for our food source?

### Treating animals equally and our future survival

One reason a humanist would give for treating animals equally is that it makes sense to us as humans for our **FUTURE SURVIVAL.**

Other humanists might go further and say that animals have **EQUAL RIGHTS TO HUMANS.**

**This is contrary to Catholic views which hold that HUMANS ARE SPECIAL AND HOLY because of the way they were created by God, in his image, as described in Genesis.**

## Knowledge Check



1. Are humanists theists or atheists?
2. Define the key concept: Stewardship
3. Humanists believe that there can be 'good without God'. What does this mean?
4. Humanists see population growth and overcrowding of the planet as a major threat to life on earth. **Why is this?**
5. What do humanists suggest we do to solve/lessen this problem?
6. What is meant by speciesism?
7. How might humanists use the example of the bee?
8. Some humanists suggest that animals should have equal rights to humans. What is the Catholic response to this?

## Choose a Task

1. Create a detailed mind-map (try to make this visual)
2. Create a multiple-choice quiz (aim for at least 10 questions)
3. Create a poster/leaflet

### CHALLENGE!

Turn over the mat and try to complete your task without looking at the information. Then refer back to the task mat to see what you have missed/could have included.

## Exam Question

c) Explain humanist views on caring for the environment [8]

## Stewardship Summary

- Christians believe the earth belongs to God, not humans
- The two accounts of creation in Genesis 1 and 2 show different aspects of God
- Humans should act as good stewards of the earth to preserve God's gift for future generations
- Humanists also believe that humans should respect and protect the planet, though they do not accept the concept of being a steward for God
- Jews also believe in the importance of respecting and protecting the planet for God and for the benefits of future generations



# MICHELANGELO: CREATION OF ADAM

## Adam



Genesis  
Young  
Handsome  
Strong  
Not fully alive  
Resembles God  
Imago Dei

- Adam is seen on the left of the painting, lying back on the earth from which he has been formed, as described in Genesis
- He is portrayed as a perfect human being: young, handsome and strong. This reflects the Catholic belief that everything that God created was good.
- The youthfulness of Adam is a reminder that in comparison to God, humanity and the earth itself are new.
- Adam appears quite a laid back figure, his arm resting on his knee, barely reaching out to God, suggesting that he is not fully alive yet. This symbolises that humans need God to give them life.
- Adam resembles God. He has the same physical build, is striking a similar pose and details such as the arms, shoulders and feet are almost identical.
- All this is a reminder that humans are made in the image of God: imago Dei.

Michelangelo has expressed Catholic beliefs about creation, God and human beings in his Creation of Adam, by including allusions to the idea that God is the **ETERNAL, ALL-POWERFUL, Creator EX NIHILO**, that creation is good, and that humans are God's greatest creation.

The Creation of Adam is one of the nine scenes painting on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Rome. The scenes depict stories from Genesis. The Sistine Chapel is important for Catholic Christians. It is part of the Vatican (the centre of the Catholic world) and is also the place that new popes are chosen.

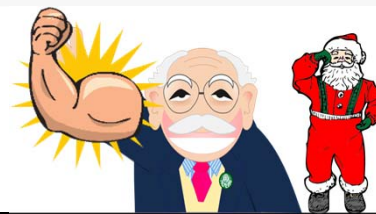


## God



Dynamic  
Active  
Hard at work  
Older being  
Bearded  
Strong  
Eternal  
Omnipotent  
Ex nihilo  
Parent-child relationship

- Unlike Adam, God is presented as a **dynamic, active figure** as if he is hard at work at his greatest creation.
- God reaches out to the more passive figure of Adam because he loves him, reflecting the Christian belief that God creates the world.
- Michelangelo's God is portrayed as a much older being; bearded yet strong and powerful in his body.
- The difference in age between Adam and God signifies the parent-child relationship that exists between God and humanity; indeed God is the Father of all Creation.
- The viewer is reminded of the belief that God is **ETERNAL and OMNIPOTENT**; he is responsible for all of creation which he made from nothing, because nothing existed before God.



## Knowledge Check

- Where is this painting displayed?
- The painting expresses different ideas about the nature of God, such as the idea that He created *ex nihilo*. What else does it suggest?
- How is Adam portrayed in this image?
- How is God portrayed in this image?
- What does the difference in age between Adam and God signify?
- Two elements of the cloud-like shape have provoked much discussion. What are they?
- Two key figures in the Church have been suggested for the female figure under the left arm of God. Who are they?
- What does the image of the hands remind the viewer of?

## Choose a Task

- Create a detailed mind-map (try to make this visual)
- Create a multiple-choice quiz (aim for at least 10 questions)
- Create a poster/leaflet

## Exam Question

b) Describe how Michelangelo's 'Creation of Adam' demonstrates Catholic belief in God as creator [5]

b) Describe how Michelangelo's 'Creation of Adam' demonstrates Catholic belief in the nature of the relationship between God and humanity [5]

## The Cloud



TWO ELEMENTS of the cloud-like shape have PROVOKED MUCH DISCUSSION:

- What does the shape of the cloud represent?
- Who is the female looking figure under the left arm of God?



- The shape behind God that shows him being carried towards earth by a group of angels has caused much debate.
- On a simple level this detail shows the **TRANSCENDENCE** of God and conveys his greatness in sharp contrast to the earth bound figure of Adam.
- Some believe the cloud resembles the Brain and that the message being expressed is that GOD IS THE SOURCE OF ALL KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM – he is **OMNISCIENT**.
- Others believe that the cloud represents a womb because of the red background.
- Furthermore, the green cloth hanging down could be the umbilical cord. This interpretation of the cloud reinforces the idea that GOD GIVES LIFE, in the same way the womb gives life to a new child. God is the Father of all humanity, who are his loving children.
- The FEMALE FIGURE under the arm of God seems to be an important figure because: a) he has his arm round her, and b) she in turn has her arm around a child.
- Some believe the figure represents Eve who has not yet been created for Adam, but is already in the mind of God.
- If this is true then it is reinforcing the great love that God has for humanity because he does not want to be lonely but to experience the gift of love (God creates Eve as a 'companion' for Adam).
- Others believe that the figure is the Virgin Mary, and the child on her left is her son Jesus. Those who take this view describe Mary as the 'new Eve' and Jesus as the 'new Adam'. Michelangelo may be expressing the idea that Adam will soon sin and that Jesus will come in the future to bring humans back to God.

Debate  
Transcendence  
Brain:  
Knowledge,  
Wisdom  
Womb: God  
gives life  
Umbilical Cord:  
God gives life  
Female Figure:  
Eve/Virgin Mary  
'New Eve'

## The Hands



Reaching to touch  
Close  
Loving  
Spark of Life  
Life is sacred  
Life is a gift  
Genesis 2:  
God breathes life



This painting is displayed on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel

- Adam and God are shown reaching out to touch each other with their fingertips.
- Not to be overlooked in the painting is that there appears to be a close, loving relationship between God and man.
- The touch of fingertips represents the spark of life given to all humans by God – human life is sacred and a gift from God.
- In the painting Adam's fingertips are bent, signaling that they have NOT YET RECEIVED LIFE from God in order to straighten them.
- The viewer is reminded here of the second account in Genesis where God breathes life into Adam.



**Who?** Masolino da Panicale



**What?** The central image is one of Christ on the cross, but an interesting feature of this piece of art is that there are many other symbolic images surrounding the main frame.



**When?** Twelfth Century.



**Where?** San Clemente church in Rome

**To depict the following:**

1. God is the first and the last.
2. The battle against evil is won by the Cross of Christ.
3. Jesus sacrificed himself to save humankind.
4. The importance of peace for a Christian.
5. The importance of the four Gospels as a means to hear Jesus' word.

**Why?**



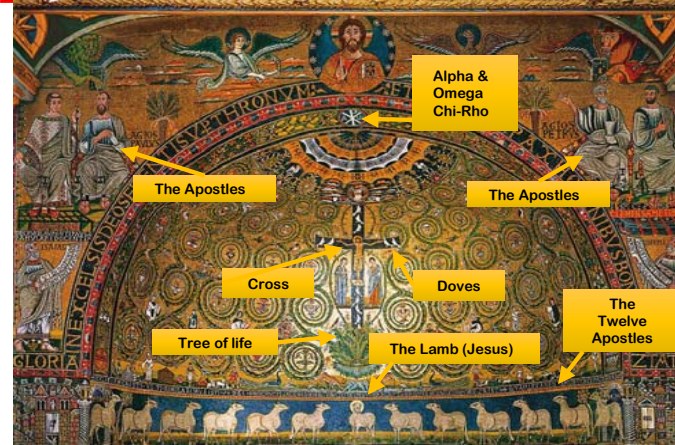
### The Alpha & Omega

- **Alpha and Omega** - the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. This is used to symbolise the belief that God is the beginning and the end of all that can be seen and all that can't.
- In the book of Revelation, the Greek letters Alpha and Omega are used several times to symbolise Christ.
- They are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet which expresses the idea of something being complete.
- In the book of Revelation, God speaks of himself as the Alpha and Omega.
- From early Christian times Alpha and Omega were used to refer to Jesus.
- We are therefore being reminded that Jesus is eternal, because he is God!

### Chi-Rho

- This symbol is frequently used in Catholic Churches today on baptismal candles and the priest's vestments (their clothing).
- The symbol looks like the letters X and P which are the first two letters of the word Christ in Greek.
- With the use of both of these symbols the artist is emphasising the importance of Christ.

## TREE OF LIFE APSE MOSAIC



### What is a mosaic?

It is a picture or pattern produced by arranging together small pieces of stone, tile, glass, etc.

### What is an apse?

An area with curved walls and a domed roof at the end of a church.

### Areas to Discuss

1. The Alpha & Omega
2. Chi-Rho
3. The twelve apostles
4. The lamb
5. The doves
6. The four evangelists
7. The cross
8. The tree of life
9. The Vine

### Knowledge Check

1. Who painted the Tree of Life?
2. What is the purpose of the painting? (What key ideas does it convey?)
3. Where is the painting displayed?
4. What is an apse?
5. What is a mosaic?

### Choose a Task

1. Create a detailed mind-map (try to make this visual)
2. Create a multiple-choice quiz (aim for at least 10 questions)
3. Create a poster/leaflet

### Exam Question

*c) Explain the rich Christian symbolism that you will find in the Tree Of Life Apse mosaic. [8]*

### The Twelve Apostles

- There is reference made to the twelve Apostles who were specially chosen by Jesus to continue to spread the Good News once he had left them.
- The apostles also lived a sacrificial life; they gave up their homes and families to follow Jesus and spread the word after his death. St Peter quite literally lost his life – he was executed in Rome. This is why they are also depicted as lambs.



### The Doves

- The twelve doves on the cross not only represent the twelve apostles but also the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit is often depicted as a dove.
- The Holy Spirit came to the apostles at Pentecost, and filled them with courage and they began to spread the word.
- This is often described as the 'Birthday of the Church' because without this event Christianity might not have spread.



### The four evangelists



- The four evangelists (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) appear throughout the scene. They are the authors of the four Gospels of the New Testament. They tell us about Jesus' life and were instrumental in spreading the Good News.
- They appear at the top of the mosaic, next to the image of a living, risen Jesus.



### The Vine

- One of the most predominant features, apart from the cross itself, is the green vine that wraps around the entire scene and emerges from the tree of life.
- This is another reminder of the Garden of Eden and the green paradise God created for all humanity.
- The vine can also represent Christ himself who, in John's gospel said, 'I am the vine' (John 15:5).
- The vine is labelled as the Church by an inscription along the band just above the sheep: **'We have likened the Church of Christ to this vine; the Law made it wither but the Cross made it bloom.'**

### The Cross

- Christian art often focuses on the suffering and death of Jesus but THIS IMAGE IS DIFFERENT.
- Jesus is placed on a black cross but this EMPHASISES THE BRIGHTNESS OF THE FIGURE against it. Jesus' sacrifice is about life and hope, not death and despair.
- The cross is a complete crucifixion scene with Mary and St John present either side of the cross, but this symbolic creation goes far beyond just depicting the death of Jesus.
- The hand of God the Father can be seen at the top of the cross reaching down to earth from heaven handing a crown to Christ. This symbolises how the TRANSCENDANT God become an IMMANENT God (in the person of Jesus).

### The Tree of Life

- The cross emerges from a tree at its base. This is considered to be the tree of life.
- The image is, therefore, a reminder that all people are saved through the crucifixion of Jesus; his death 'healed the nations' because he came not just for Jews but for everyone.
- Through his death all sins are forgiven and humans can look forward to life after death with God.
- There are also lots of references to Genesis in the image; the tree at the base of the cross is perhaps a reminder of the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the garden of Eden. Adam and Eve eating the fruit from this tree against the wishes of God was the **FIRST SIN OF HUMANITY**.
- The presence of the serpent wrapped around a fawn this is drinking from the rivers of life seems to confirm the link, as a serpent tempted Eve to taste the fruit.
- The message is that sin ruins life on earth as well as the relationship between God and humans.



People experience a lack of peace in their lives in different ways, for example:

## Lack of Peace: War and Conflict

- People who live in places of war and conflict often lose their homes, jobs, their chance at education
- Many become refugees because they are running away to try and find somewhere peaceful and safe to live
- Wars also cost people their lives and health, and many will be maimed due to violence or suffer from conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder



## Lack of Peace: Personal Conflict

Many people suffer from their own personal traumas caused by a range of factors including: bullying, racial hate crime, anxiety, depression, fear and mental health issues

This can lead to people being too scared to go to school or work, personal attacks, mental breakdowns or even suicides



## Lack of Peace: In Families

There can be tension and conflict within families due to the pressures of life, for example:

- Money worries
  - Abuse of drugs and alcohol
  - Effects of adultery which sometimes result in separation and divorce
- These situations bring about much heartache and pain for everyone involved.



## Equality for all

It is estimated that every second of every day four more babies are born across the world. The question is, are they all born equal? Sadly, the answer to this is 'no.'

Babies are born every day into poverty, war, neglect and even slavery. Very soon after birth, the future for these children begins to look very different. Whereas some will be happy, safe, warm and well looked after, others will face a lack of peace due to fear, disease, injustice and death. This situation is seen as unacceptable for Catholics, as every human being is equally important to God. Therefore, every effort must be made to ensure that everyone, no matter where they are born, experiences peace and is treated justly.



## The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

This is an international document that states basic rights and fundamental freedoms which all humans should have.

The declaration contains **30 'articles' that state the rights that all humans should have.**

They include the right to:

- ✓ Life, freedom and personal safety
- ✓ A standard of living that ensures good health and well-being, including access to food, clothing, housing and medical care and social services
- ✓ An education, employment and leisure time
- ✓ Freedom of movement and residence in their own country, the right to seek and experience asylum from persecution in other countries

All 30 articles are based on the first:

**'All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.'**

- ✓ All countries are legally required to uphold the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and have formally agreed to do so.
- ✓ When any of these articles have been denied other countries and international organisations will intervene and try and restore these basic human rights. They do this because they aspire to social justice for everyone in society.

**For many Christians, the UN declaration reflects the main principles of Christianity and what 'Loving your neighbour' looks like in practice.**

## What is social justice?

It is the desire to achieve a JUST AND FAIR SOCIETY where everyone, regardless of their sex, age, race, religion or country of origin has ACCESS TO THE SAME BASIC PROVISIONS to live and can look forward to EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS.



## The Catholic Church Peace, Justice & Reconciliation

The Catholic Church emphasises the importance of peace and reminds all people that they have a Christian duty to promote it. Peace begins with individuals.



At every Catholic Mass, churchgoers are reminded of this as they give each other the sign of peace and say the words 'peace be with you'. This means they have to think about the relationships with others and how they treat them.

## Popes over the centuries have called for peace:



Pope Francis: *"Every human being desires communion and peace. Everyone needs peaceful co-existence. But this can grow only when we also build inner peace in our heart."*



Pope Benedict XVI – *"Finally, I wish to make an urgent appeal to the People of God: let every Christian be committed to tireless peace-making and strenuous defence of the dignity of the human person and his inalienable rights."* -  
(Message of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI for the celebration of the world day of peace)



Pope John XXIII – *"There will be no peace in the world until we return to a sense of our dignity as creatures and children of God."*



Pope Francis has spoken on the matter, calling war a 'madness' than 'ruins the most beautiful work of his (God's) hands; human beings.'

Every week when Pope Francis appears at St Peter's to lead the people in prayer, he mentions ongoing conflicts and asks those gathered to pray for peace.



The pope leads by example; the Vatican provided homes for two refugee families recently and he called for all parishes to host a family.



There are many Catholic organisations that have been influenced by the Church's calls for peace, such as Pax Christi and the Justice and Peace Commission.



## Knowledge Check



1. How many 'articles' does the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* contain?
2. What is the first of these articles?
3. What are the three main ways people experience a lack of peace?
4. What can cause conflict in families?
5. What is social justice?
6. What does Pax Christi translate to?
7. What does Pax Christi work for?
8. What does the Catholic Church say in regards to peace, justice and reconciliation?

## Choose a Task

1. Create a detailed mind-map (try to make this visual)
2. Create a multiple-choice quiz (aim for at least 10 questions)
3. Create a poster/leaflet

### CHALLENGE!

Turn over the mat and try to complete your task without looking at the information. Then refer back to the task mat to see what you have missed/could have included.

## Exam Question

*b) Describe Catholic belief in the notion of peace, justice and reconciliation [5]*



Pax Christi  
International  
Fund for Peace

**PAX CHRISTI:**  
(The Peace of Christ)

The work of **Pax Christi – the Peace of Christ** – is based on the gospel and inspired by faith. Our vision is of a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence in any form. Pax Christi is rooted in Catholic Christianity but is open to all who share its values and work.

**Pax Christi works for:**

- **Peace** – based on justice. A world where human rights are respected, basic needs are met and people feel safe and valued in their communities.
- **Reconciliation** – a process which begins when people try to mend relationships – between individuals or whole countries after times of violence or dispute.
- **Nonviolence** – a way of living and making choices that respects others, challenges what is not fair or just, and offers alternatives to violence and war.





# CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING (CST)



## What is Catholic Social Teaching?

Over the centuries many popes have spoken out about the social issues of their day and have reflected on God's word in the scriptures.

They have often chosen to do this through various encyclicals, and these have become known as Catholic Social Teaching. The first modern instance of this was in 1891, when Pope Leo XIII spoke out in favour of oppressed factory workers.



## Working for Justice

There can't be true peace in the world unless there is justice first. The reason for this is that a lack of peace is usually caused by some form of injustice.

Many people in our world today have their human rights abused and they are not treated with dignity and respect. Consequently the Catholic Church calls on believers to challenge these situations in the world and to not rest until all of God's children experience peace and justice and every type of discrimination is eliminated.



## Working for Reconciliation

When people are faced with unjust situations, they can understandably become angry with the way they have been treated and this can lead to an attempt to get revenge, as well as violence and conflict.

Christians argue that sometimes **anger is justified if it is directed towards tackling injustice** – this is often known as righteous indignation or anger. Jesus himself got angry in the temple and overturned the tables when he found that the sellers there were cheating the poor.

## How can Catholics help to bring about peace, justice and reconciliation?

**Catholic Social Teaching asks everyone to treat other people with dignity and to take action when needed by:**

- ✓ Upholding the rights of individuals
- ✓ Standing in solidarity alongside those who are oppressed and treated unjustly
- ✓ Caring for and respecting the planet and the environment
- ✓ Praying for justice and peace for all

## The Second Vatican Council: *Gaudium et Spes*

During the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s the Church published an influential document called 'Gaudium et Spes'. **This reflected on the ROLE OF THE CHURCH IN THE MODERN WORLD.** The document **drew on the CREATION ACCOUNTS IN GENESIS** which outline how humans have been created in the image and likeness of God, *imago Dei*. This belief (*imago Dei*) is at the heart of Catholic Social Teaching! Since humans are made in the image of God they are all God's children, sacred and holy, and possess special dignity. The Church, therefore, calls on people to not rest until there is equality for all.



## Gaudium et Spes 29

Since all men possess a rational soul and are created in God's likeness, since they have the same nature and origin, have been redeemed by Christ and enjoy the same divine calling and destiny, 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, color, social condition, language or religion, is to be overcome and eradicated** as contrary to God's intent. For in truth **it must still be regretted that fundamental personal rights are still not being universally honored** ...Therefore, although rightful differences exist between men, the equal dignity of persons demands that a more humane and just condition of life be brought about... **Human institutions, both private and public, must labor 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 78

**Peace is not merely the absence of war;** nor can it be reduced solely to the maintenance of a balance of power between enemies; nor is it brought about by dictatorship. Instead, it is rightly and appropriately called **an enterprise of justice.** Peace results from that order structured into human society by its divine Founder, and actualized by men as they thirst after ever greater justice. The common good of humanity finds its ultimate meaning in the eternal law ... **peace on earth cannot be obtained unless personal well-being is safeguarded and men freely and trustingly share with one another the riches of their inner spirits and their talents.** A firm determination to **respect other men and peoples and their dignity,** as well as the studied practice of brotherhood are absolutely necessary for the establishment of peace. **Hence peace is likewise the fruit of love, which goes beyond what justice can provide.**



*CST is about speaking out against social injustices*



*Imago Dei is at the heart of CST*

**GAUDIUM ET SPES = JOY AND HOPE**

*"...peace is likewise the fruit of love, which goes beyond what justice can provide."*



## Summary

- Over the centuries the Church has spoken out about issues of social justice
- Since all humans are made in God's image, the Catholic Church calls on people to not rest until equality and justice for all is achieved
- The Catholic Church calls people of all faiths to listen to each other, respect differences and recognise their shared values
- Catholics are active members of inter-faith committees and organisations
- CAFOD and the SVP are showing God's love to the world in their work with the poor and vulnerable. Their work is based on the idea that all humans deserve respect and dignity because they are made *imago Dei*, that Jesus taught the importance of love of your neighbour and that the world is a gift from God that we care for on a temporary basis

## Knowledge Check



1. What is Catholic Social Teaching?
2. What does the Catholic Church say about justice?
3. What does the Catholic Church say about reconciliation?
4. What does the Latin term *Gaudium et Spes* translate to?
5. How can Catholics help to bring about peace, justice and reconciliation?
6. When was the Second Vatican Council held?
7. What is the main message in *Gaudium et Spes* 29?
8. What is the main message in *Gaudium et Spes* 78?

## Choose a Task



1. Create a detailed mind-map (try to make this visual)
2. Create a multiple-choice quiz (aim for at least 10 questions)
3. Create a poster/leaflet

## CHALLENGE!

Turn over the mat and try to complete your task without looking at the information. Then refer back to the task mat to see what you have missed/could have included.

## Exam Question



c) Explain how Catholics can help to bring about peace, justice and reconciliation [8]

# INTER-FAITH DIALOGUE

## What is inter-faith dialogue?

In this context, 'dialogue' means co-operative, constructive and positive engagement between people of different faiths and people of no faith such as humanists and atheists.

## Inter-path Dialogue

This term has become more common, and is favoured by some *humanists, atheists and agnostics* because this term does not exclude them.



## Benefits of Multi-faith societies

Different religious cultures and traditions bring with them a variety of...



By living and working alongside those from other religious backgrounds we can gain greater tolerance, respect and understanding towards those who have a different viewpoint to us. This leads to harmony and a safe, happy society.

## Promoting Community Cohesion

- ✓ The aim of community cohesion is to establish a better society where all groups feel that they belong and can live peacefully together
- ✓ To achieve community cohesion requires all those involved to: listen to each other, respect differences, recognise common features between faiths and promote shared values of tolerance and respect
- ✓ Over the last few decades there have been many initiatives involving religious groups promoting community cohesion
- ✓ This includes the Inter Faith Network, the Forum of Faiths, the Council of Christians and Jews and the Muslim Council of Britain

## Pope Francis Maundy Thursday and the Washing of the Feet



On 13 March 2013, Argentinian Jorge Mario Bergoglio became Pope Francis, the 266<sup>th</sup> leader of the Catholic Church, the first non-European pope since the eighth century, the first from the Americas and in fact the first from the southern hemisphere. He gained a reputation for breaking convention, preferring to live in a guesthouse in the Vatican rather than the papal apartments and choosing to travel on public transport.



*The actions of Pope Francis in his first days as Pope sends a clear message out to the world that all people are called to serve, inspired by the great command Jesus gave to 'love one another'. This call extends to people from every walk of life regardless of gender, faith or standing in society.*

## Young Offenders Institute

Eighteen days after becoming Pope he made headlines again as he entered a young offenders' institute in Rome on Maundy Thursday to wash the feet of ten young men and two women at the Mass of the Lord's Supper. He knelt before them and washed, dried and kissed their feet in a symbolic act of service. Eight of the 12 were Catholic; two were Muslim; one was Orthodox; and one was Buddhist.

Before washing the feet of 12 prisoners, Pope Francis told them and hundreds of inmates to remember that Jesus constantly stands before them with love, ready to cleanse their sins and forgive them.

*"Jesus takes a risk on each of us. Know this: Jesus is called Jesus, not Pontius Pilate. Jesus does not know how to wash his hands of us; he only knows how to take a risk on us,"* the pope said on March 29 during his homily at Rome's Regina Coeli prison.

## What was the reaction to this event?

What surprised the world's press and many onlookers was not just that he chose a prison to celebrate Mass in, but that he washed the feet of inmates of different nationalities and faiths, including at least two Muslims. Why did the Pope's actions cause such surprise? Certainly, the notion that the pope would enter a prison to perform the service would challenge some – they might question whether this was a suitable place for the pope to be. However, his actions were a powerful reminder of the first Mass where Jesus performed this same action on the twelve Apostles, who were equally surprised by his actions and did not feel worthy enough to receive this sign of love.

## What was his Message?

Pope Francis reminded those gathered that the person who is most high among them must be at the service of others and that they were all called to help one another. He explained that he performed this act of service out of love for them. On another level, the Pope's actions surprised many because included among those whose feet he washed were young people from other faiths.



John 13

*"Do you understand what I have done for you?" Jesus asked them.<sup>13</sup> "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am.<sup>14</sup> Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup>I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.<sup>16</sup> Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup>Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.*

## The Task of Slaves

In his brief homily before the foot-washing ritual, Pope Francis explained to the prisoners that in Jesus' day, the job of washing feet was the task of a slave. *"There wasn't asphalt or cobblestones, there was dust and people's feet got dirty,"* so before they went into a house, the slaves would wash the person's feet. The Gospel recounts Jesus washing the feet of his own disciples *"to give us an example of how we must serve one another,"* the Pope said.

## Knowledge Check

1. What is the difference between inter-faith dialogue and inter-path dialogue?
2. What are the benefits of multi-faith societies?
3. What are the challenges of multi-faith societies?
4. Why was the European Union (EU) established?
5. What has Pope Francis gained a reputation for?
6. What did Pope Francis do on Maundy Thursday that surprised many?
7. Why did Pope Francis do this? (What was his message?)
8. What does *Nostra Aetate* declare?

## Choose a Task

1. Create a detailed mind-map (try to make this visual)
2. Create a multiple-choice quiz (aim for at least 10 questions)
3. Create a poster/leaflet

## CHALLENGE!

Turn over the mat and try to complete your task without looking at the information. Then refer back to the task mat to see what you have missed/could have included.

## Exam Question

*b) Describe how the Catholic Church work to promote community cohesion (5 marks)*

## Challenges of multi-faith societies

- Religious tensions between different faith groups can lead to persecution, hatred and violence
- With the current rise in all forms of extremism, including religious extremism, innocent members of certain faith groups – e.g. Muslims – can experience prejudice and be treated with mistrust and a lack of respect
- Those with other ethnic backgrounds, as well as those practising a different faith, can sometimes experience racism and discrimination
- At a time when the economy is weak and there is a high level of poverty and lack of opportunity, those from other faiths and ethnicities can become *scapegoats* and are seen by some as part of the problem, leading to intolerance and hatred
- Since the *Referendum of 2016* when Britain voted to leave the European Union, racial and religiously motivated hate crime has risen significantly in Britain



Referendum on the United Kingdom's membership of the European Union

Vote only once by putting a cross (X) in the box next to your choice

Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union?

Remain a member of the European Union ☐

Leave the European Union ☐

The European Union (EU) is a political and economic union of 28 member states, set up after World War 2 with the purpose of promoting peace on the continent. There are many reasons why some people want to leave the EU. For example: fears of immigration and lack of control over the way the EU was governed.

## The Catholic Church and inter-faith dialogue

Although Pope Francis' actions on his first Maundy Thursday as Head of the Catholic Church may have surprised some, they should not have done so.

Recent popes have had much to say about the need for understanding, tolerance and respect between the different faith groups and Catholics play an active role on many inter-faith committees.



## Pope Benedict XVI

*'Together with all people of good will, we aspire to peace. That is why I insist once again: interreligious and intercultural research and dialogue are not an option but a vital need for our time.'*



## NOSTRA AETATE

Pope Paul VI

## Latin: In Our Time

This document was a declaration on the relationship of the Catholic Church to non-Christian religions.



## Nostra Aetate (1960s)

*'The Church regards with esteem also the Muslims. They adore the one God, living and subsisting in Himself; merciful and all-powerful, the Creator of heaven and earth, who has spoken to men... We cannot truly call on God, the Father of all, if we refuse to treat in a brotherly way any man, created as he is in the image of God.'*



## Nostra Aetate (1960s)

One very important statement that this document made was that Jews should not be blamed for the death of Christ.

Over the centuries and even today, many Jews experienced prejudice and persecution, which is partly fuelled by the belief of some that they should be held accountable for the death of Jesus on the cross.



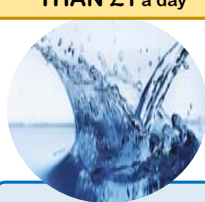


# THE WORK OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES

1.3 billion people around the world live in absolute poverty, which means they live on **LESS THAN £1** a day



Around 22,000 children die every day due to the effects of poverty; hunger, lack of sanitation and access to clean water



1.1 billion in developing countries don't have access to clean water



1.6 billion live without electricity



Infectious diseases that can easily be cured, such as malaria, cause the death of 1.8 million children each year



In the UK, in a classroom of 30 children, **9** are living in poverty

## Pope Francis, June 2016

*'Poverty has a face! It has the face of a child; it has the face of a family; it has the face of people, young and old. It has the face of widespread unemployment and lack of opportunity. It has the face of forced migrations, and of empty or destroyed homes.'*

## Matthew's Gospel

Jesus said:

*'feed the hungry, care for the sick, welcome the stranger.'*

*'Whatever you do for the least of my brothers and sisters, you do for me.'*

## Gaudium et Spes 29

*'Feed the people dying of hunger, because if you do not feed them you are killing them.'*

## The Final Judgement (also known as the Parable of the Sheep and Goats) Matthew 25:31-46



<sup>31</sup> "When the Son of Man comes as King and all the angels with him, he will sit on his royal throne, <sup>32</sup> and the people of all the nations will be gathered before him. Then he will divide them into two groups, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> He will put the righteous people at his right and the others at his left. <sup>34</sup> Then the King will say to the people on his right, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father! Come and possess the kingdom which has been prepared for you ever since the creation of the world. <sup>35</sup> I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your homes, <sup>36</sup> naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me.' <sup>37</sup> The righteous will then answer him, 'When, Lord, did we ever see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? <sup>38</sup> When did we ever see you a stranger and welcome you in our homes, or naked and clothe you? <sup>39</sup> When did we ever see you sick or in prison, and visit you?' <sup>40</sup> The King will reply, 'I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important of these followers of mine, you did it for me!'

<sup>41</sup> "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Away from me, you that are under God's curse! Away to the eternal fire which has been prepared for the Devil and his angels! <sup>42</sup> I was hungry but you would not feed me, thirsty but you would not give me a drink; <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger but you would not welcome me in your homes, naked but you would not clothe me; I was sick and in prison but you would not take care of me.' <sup>44</sup> Then they will answer him, 'When, Lord, did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and we would not help you?' <sup>45</sup> The King will reply, 'I tell you, whenever you refused to help one of these least important ones, you refused to help me.' <sup>46</sup> These, then, will be sent off to eternal punishment, but the righteous will go to eternal life."

SHEEP



GOATS



**What is a parable?**  
A parable is a story with a meaning. There are many parables in the New Testament section of the Bible. Jesus used parables to help teach about complicated ideas using simple stories.

**Why sheep and goats?**  
Sheep are reliant on the guidance of a shepherd (we are the sheep and Jesus/God is our shepherd), whereas Goats are stubborn and self reliant. They will eat anything and so are seen as dirty.

## Key Teachings in the Parable of the Sheep and Goats

- ✓ At the end of the world God will judge people on their behaviour and the choices they have made.
- ✓ God will separate the good from the bad like a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.
- ✓ On his right will be the GOOD (sheep). They will be with him in heaven.
- ✓ On his left will be the bad (goats). They will be sent away from him to hell.
- ✓ God judges us on how we treat our fellow humans, as we are all created in His image.

## "The preferential option for the poor"

- The Catholic Church teaches that Catholics have a duty to **work against the forces in society that create poverty**
- This duty comes before many other acts of Christian love and service that a Catholic might perform because the Church asks its followers to **put the poorest and most vulnerable people first**
- This is what the term 'preferential option for the poor' means.



## The National association of prison visitors.

They visit those who do not normally receive domestic visits, but we also visit those who wish to have someone independent. Inmates' families may live abroad, far away in this country.



**Amnesty international**  
Working to protect human rights.



**International medical organisation**  
working in nearly 70 countries



**The Red Cross**  
Helps people in crisis wherever, wherever they are



**St John's Ambulance** teach as many people first aid as possible so they can be the difference between a life lost and a life saved.



**The Women's refuge** helps to look after women and children who have been the victims of domestic abuse

## Knowledge Check

1. According to recent statistics, how many people around the world live on less than £1 a day?
2. What is a parable?
3. What did the sheep do in the parable of the Sheep and Goats?
4. How are the sheep rewarded?
5. What can Christians learn from this parable?
6. What is meant by the "preferential option for the poor"?
7. What does *Gaudium et Spes 29* say about our responsibility for feeding the hungry?
8. Who are *Amnesty International*?

## Choose a Task

1. Create a detailed mind-map (try to make this visual)
2. Create a multiple-choice quiz (aim for at least 10 questions)
3. Create a poster/leaflet

## CHALLENGE!

Turn over the mat and try to complete your task without looking at the information. Then refer back to the task mat to see what you have missed/could have included.

## Exam Question

c) Explain the teachings found in the parable of the sheep and goats [8]



# ST VINCENT DE PAUL (SVP)



The SVP takes its inspiration from Christ's message to *'love our neighbour as ourselves'*. They do this by:

## Visiting and befriending individuals and

families at home, in hospitals or hospices, residential homes and young offender institutes.

The aim of the visits is to show they care and ensure that people who are vulnerable don't feel lonely or isolated.



Contributing to protecting the environment by encouraging people to **donate pieces of furniture**, instead of throwing them away, so they can be repaired and recycled and redistributed to those who need them



## Visitors may also **help with practical tasks**

such as shopping, gardening or filling out official



Being **alert to the changing needs** of the communities they serve



Being **generous** with their time, possessions and selves in the service of others



Organising **soup runs** in disadvantaged areas, providing warm drink, food and companionship



Showing **compassion** to those they work with by not judging them



Running **support centres** providing a range of services such as counselling, training in basic literacy and numeracy and debt advice



The St Vincent de Paul society, commonly known as the SVP, was founded by **Blessed Fredric Ozanam in Paris in 1833**. Blessed Fredric Ozanam was inspired by St Vincent de Paul, a Catholic priest who dedicated his life to helping the poor. Active involvement with the poor is the Vincentian way and their aim is to tackle poverty and disadvantage by providing practical assistance to those who are suffering in whatever form.



## Mini Vinnies

'Mini Vinnies' are children aged between 7 to 11 (or younger) who, with the permission of their parents and the support of their Schools, are encouraged to embark on their first steps as possible 'Vincentians for life'.

As Mini Vinnies, the youngsters have their own 'treasured' Prayer, Pledge and Badge, a dedicated website and a range of bright and colourful documents which guide them in their formative steps - helping and enabling them to become in every sense, young Vincentians - or 'Mini Vinnies'.

## SVP National President

**Adrian Abel said:**

"At the heart of Vincentian Spirituality is serving Christ in the poor, and being Christ to the poor as part of a family. This is the charisma that the Vincentian family has been built upon, and it has motivated and inspired hundreds of thousands of people to bring Christ's love to those in need. I am delighted to be part of this work and would encourage anyone who feels called to do so, to join us." (2017)

## CSP

**Community Support Projects (CSP) is the collective term we use to describe all the project work we do in the community.**

This includes our Community Shops, Furniture Stores, Advice and Support Centres, Supported Accommodation and our contract with the Home Office to manage and run two local Approved Premises.

SVP members are also involved with holiday camps and the running of local soup runs and food banks.

**oxera**  
compelling economics



**£11million per year**

Research by Oxera Europe, a leading economics consultancy, estimates that the SVP in England and Wales generates at least £11m per year in economic welfare improvement through its befriending programmes alone.

## The Sudan Appeal Funded:

- medical treatment for over 5,000 people
- clean water for 22,000 people in Khartoum
- regular meals for 5,250 children as part of the baby feeding programme
- vocational training for 400 young people in Juba

## Knowledge Check



1. Where do SVP take its inspiration from?
2. Who founded SVP?
3. Who was he inspired by and why?
4. What do SVP do?
5. What is 'Mini Vinnies'?
6. What is CSP?
7. How much did Oxera Europe predict SVP generates yearly in economic welfare?
8. What is meant by the term 'dignity'?

## Choose a Task

1. Create a detailed mind-map (try to make this visual)
2. Create a multiple-choice quiz (aim for at least 10 questions)
3. Create a poster/leaflet

## CHALLENGE!

Turn over the mat and try to complete your task without looking at the information. Then refer back to the task mat to see what you have missed/could have included.

## Exam Question

*b) Describe how the work of the SVP reflects Catholic belief about the dignity of the human being [5]*

## Human Dignity

A founding principle of the SVP society is that they

**RESPECT THE DIGNITY OF EACH PERSON** they work with because they believe that they are all **EQUAL**.



Although the SVP is a Catholic organisation, it is **non-discriminatory and helps those in need regardless** of their colour, race, faith, status or sexual orientation. The kind of people they help includes the homeless, single parent families, the socially isolated and asylum seekers.

**Dignity: Being worthy of honour or respect**





CAFOD is the official agency for the Catholic Church in England and Wales. It is a member of Caritas International, a group of over 160 Catholic agencies from around the world who are known as 'the helping hand of the Church'.

CAFOD works with local churches and other partners in places like Africa, Latin America and the Middle East, to tackle injustice and poverty.



## Respond

Respond in times of an emergency such as an earthquake, flood, drought or war to save and protect the vulnerable lives of the poor.

CAFOD, along with other aid agencies and local partners including the Church, will provide food, water, shelter and medicine to people who have lost everything so that lives can be saved.

## Campaign

CAFOD campaign and challenge those in positions of power, such as governments and businesses, to ensure their policies and practices are just and fair and contribute to alleviating poverty.



## Educate

CAFOD educate people on the causes of poverty and injustice so that lasting change can be achieved.

CAFOD provides resources for schools and parishes to use to raise awareness of issues as an inspiration for prayer and worship.



## Overcome Poverty

CAFOD work with the poorest and most vulnerable communities to bring about sustainable development. They do this by working alongside local partners to plan programmes together.

They fund projects to long-term change in communities such as providing: seeds, tools and machinery for food production, materials to build wells for clean water, education, hospitals, health care programmes and training in skills and advocacy.



## Fundraise

CAFOD fundraise in schools and churches to enable them to carry out their projects, helping the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world.

CAFOD organises two Family Fast days a year, which they rely on for much of their income.



## Knowledge Check



1. What does CAFOD stand for?
2. What is CAFOD a member of?
3. Who do CAFOD work with?
4. How do CAFOD work to overcome poverty?
5. What do CAFOD campaign for?
6. What is the name of the campaign organised in response to Pope Francis' call to care for 'our common home'?
7. What are the three main goals this campaign works towards?
8. How do CAFOD demonstrate their belief in the intrinsic dignity of every person?

## Choose a Task

1. Create a detailed mind-map (try to make this visual)
2. Create a multiple-choice quiz (aim for at least 10 questions)
3. Create a poster/leaflet

### CHALLENGE!

Turn over the mat and try to complete your task without looking at the information. Then refer back to the task mat to see what you have missed/could have included.

## Exam Question

*b) Describe how the work of CAFOD reflects Catholic belief about the dignity of the human being [5]*

## Respecting Creation

At the heart of CAFOD's work is sustainable development – this protects the environment. Poverty and environmental concerns are closely linked.

Their campaign '**One Climate, One World**' was organised in response to the needs of the poorest communities and Pope Francis' call to care for 'our common home'. CAFOD's campaign contributed to a climate deal in Paris (December 2015) which agreed a path towards:

- A low carbon future
- Global temperature increases no greater than two degrees centigrade
- Financial support for poorer countries to cope with the impact of climate change which disproportionately affects them

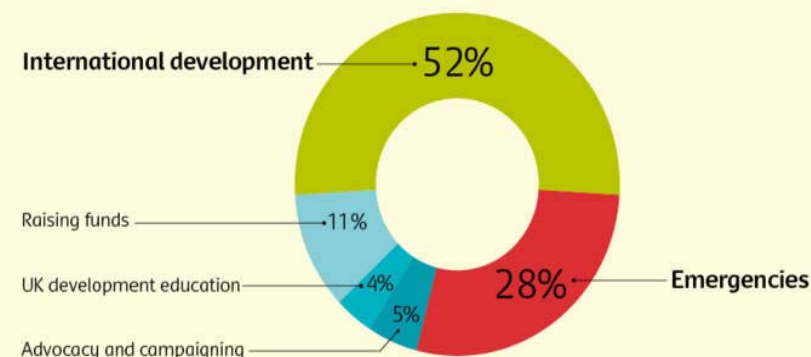
## The dignity of every person

One of CAFOD's fundamental principles is the belief in the **INTRINSIC DIGNITY** of every person.

Some ways that this belief is demonstrated in their work include:

- ✓ Working with people regardless of their gender, race, religion or political views. Even though CAFOD is a Catholic organisation, they do not limit their work to only helping Catholics.
- ✓ Working alongside those who need help retaining their dignity. People often do not want to rely on others to survive, so CAFOD equips them with skills so that they can support their own families and give something back to their communities.

CAFOD spent **£52,419,000** 2016/17



# Foundational Catholic Theology

## Origins and Meaning

1. The Bible
2. Genesis 1: Creation
3. Genesis 2: Creation
4. What do the creation accounts tell us?
5. St Augustine: Creation ex nihilo
6. The Big Bang Theory
7. The Theory of Evolution
8. Imago Dei
9. Abortion
10. Humanism and the Value of Life
11. Stewardship
12. Humanism and the environment
13. Michelangelo: Creation of Adam
14. Tree of Life Apse Mosaic
15. Peace and Justice
16. Catholic Social Teaching (CST)
17. Inter-faith dialogue
18. The Work of Catholic Charities
19. St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP)
20. CAFOD

## Good and Evil

1. The Problem of Evil
2. Genesis 3: Original Sin
3. Evil and suffering is not a problem for Christians
4. The Book of Job
5. John Mackie: Evil and suffering is a problem for believers!
6. Trinity
7. Incarnation
8. Jesus and Moral Authority
9. Other Sources of Moral Authority
10. Sculpture and Statuary
11. Michelangelo's Pieta
12. The Rosary
13. Pilgrimage



## TWO TYPES OF EVIL

### Moral Evil

Evil that is the result of human actions.



### Natural Evil

Events that cause suffering but aren't the result of human actions



# THE PROBLEM OF EVIL



Firstly, Christians believe God

is **omniscient**

(all-knowing). This means He has knowledge of everything that will happen in the world, including bad things.



Secondly, they believe God is

**omnibenevolent** (all-loving). If this

is the case God would care about His creation and not want anything bad to happen to them.



Thirdly, Christians believe God is

**omnipotent** (all-powerful). This means He

is able to stop evil from happening if He wishes.

If God has all these characteristics then He has knowledge of evil and the desire and power to stop it. However, evil still exists. Some people argue this shows the Christian God cannot exist.

## Knowledge Check



1. What is the problem of evil?
2. What is moral evil?
3. Give three examples of moral evil
4. What is natural evil?
5. Give three examples of natural evil
6. Why might natural evil pose a bigger problem for religious believers and their belief in God?
7. What is suffering caused by?
8. How might natural disasters be a cause of good?

## Choose a Task



1. Create a detailed mind-map (try to make this visual)
2. Create a multiple-choice quiz (aim for at least 10 questions)
3. Create a poster/leaflet

### CHALLENGE!

Turn over the mat and try to complete your task without looking at the information. Then refer back to the task mat to see what you have missed/could have included.

## Exam Question



b) Describe the difference between moral and natural evil [5]

## MORAL EVIL



Bullying



Murder



Theft



Terrorism



Rape



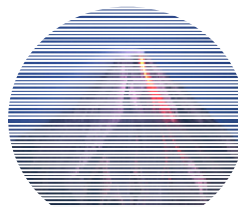
Starvation

This is moral if it is the result of a political cause



War

## NATURAL EVIL



Volcano

This is an event caused by plate movements, humans are not involved



Earthquake

This is an event caused by plate movements, humans are not involved



Starvation

This is natural if it is caused by food shortages due to crop failure



### IMPORTANT!

Natural evil poses a big problem to religious people. They believe God is the creator of the world. If so, why would he create a world in which things like volcanoes exist and harm many people? Christians cannot explain this with the 'free will' argument (that it is human choice that causes evil and suffering)

### David Hume

A Scottish philosopher and atheist of the 18<sup>th</sup> 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).



Ian Brady & Myra Hindley

They were serial killers, murdering five small children. They snatched these children off the street, sexually abused them and tortured them to death. They are infamous for having buried the bodies at Saddleworth Moor.

Human evil and natural evil can often work together, with human evil making natural evil worse – or better! For example, the suffering caused by an earthquake or floods can be made worse by people looting, but it can be made more bearable by people showing compassion and making personal sacrifices to help those who are suffering. It is important to remember that:

'evil' is a cause of suffering; 'suffering' is a result of evil.

Earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanoes are just some of the deadly hazards we are exposed to on Earth. As well as being dangerous to humans, these events shape our planet and affect where and how we live. Volcanoes are thought to have played an important role in the emergence of life. They enrich soils, making the land around them good places to grow crops. Earthquakes signal the movement of Earth's tectonic plates, which build mountains (including volcanoes). Fault lines are often rich in minerals – for example, gold is found along the San Andreas Fault in California.



Flood



Tsunami



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!**

# GENESIS 3 Original Sin

**3** Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

**2** The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,<sup>8</sup> but **God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'**"

**4** "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. **5** "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

**6** When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. **7** **Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked,** so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

**8** Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. **9** But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"

**10** He answered, **"I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."**

**11** And he said, **"Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"**

**12** The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

**13** Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."



And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;<sup>17</sup> but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."

## The Fall...

The story is sometimes called 'the Fall' because it describes the moment when human beings 'fell' from the perfect state in which God had created them.

The disobedience of Adam and Eve is often called 'original sin'. Sin is any wrong action that is against God's plans for human beings.

## Is the story true?

- Many Christians take this story literally and believe that Adam and Eve were real people and their sinfulness introduced all kinds of bad things into the world – including pain, inequality, work and death
- It also affected all the human beings who are descended from them, who no longer have a natural ability to avoid doing evil things. This creates more moral evil
- For many Christians, this is the best explanation for the existence of evil and suffering in the world
- God made a perfect world, but human beings sinned and damaged themselves and the world in which they live, and because of this damage, evil and suffering now exist
- Catholics believe that this story is a description of a real prehistoric event, told through figurative language
- It describes the moment in human history when humans first turned away from God
- It explains why human beings still have a tendency to sin and makes clear that we all share some responsibility for the evil and suffering in the world

## The Punishments

**14** So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals!

**You will crawl on your belly** and you will eat dust all the days of your life.

**15** And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."



**16** To the woman he said,

**"I will make your pains in childbearing very severe;** with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."



**17** To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,'

"Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life.

**18** It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.

**19** **By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food**

**until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."**

**20** Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.



**21** **The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.** **22** And the Lord God said, **"The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever."**

**23** So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken.

**24** After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

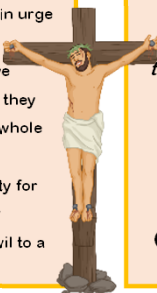


Many people argue that the story is pointless because Science disproves it. Most modern theologians don't think this a good reason to abandon the doctrine of the fall. They believe that although the story is not historically true, it does **contain important truths about the state of humanity.**

For Catholics, baptism is the point at which they enter the Catholic Church. At the service of baptism, water is poured on a baby's head while the priest says: "I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." The person being baptised becomes part of the family of God. Baptism takes away original sin (which all humans have inherited through the first sin of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden) and gives a new birth in the Holy Spirit. Catholic families are encouraged to baptise their children soon after birth, however sometimes people are baptised later, or even as adults.

## Augustine Christian Doctrine

Original sin is an Augustine Christian doctrine (belief) that says that everyone is born sinful. This means that they are born with a built-in urge to do bad things and to disobey God. Christians believe that when Adam and Eve sinned in Eden and turned away from God they brought sin into the world and turned the whole human race away from God. The doctrine absolves God of responsibility for the evils that make our world imperfect by teaching that Adam and Eve introduced evil to a perfect world when they disobeyed him.



## Knowledge Check

- What is this story often known as? Why?
- How does the serpent convince the woman to eat from the tree?
- How is the serpent punished?
- How is the woman punished?
- How is the man punished?
- Why do you think God clothes Adam and his wife?
- How do Christians 'rid' themselves of original sin?
- How do Christians interpret this story?

## Choose a Task

- Create a detailed mind-map (try to make this visual)
- Create a multiple-choice quiz (aim for at least 10 questions)
- Create a poster/leaflet

### CHALLENGE!

Turn over the mat and try to complete your task without looking at the information. Then refer back to the task mat to see what you have missed/could have included.

## Exam Question

*b) Describe Catholic belief on the origin of evil [5]*

*c) Explain how fundamentalist and liberal understandings of original sin differ [8]*

## Jesus' Sacrifice

*"We believe that our Lord Jesus Christ, by the sacrifice of the cross, redeemed us from original sin and all the personal sins committed by each one of us..."*

(Pope Paul VI, 1968)



# St Augustine Enchiridion ('Handbook')



St Augustine wrote a book called the *Enchiridion* (a Latin word which means 'handbook'). In it, Augustine asks himself the question of why there is evil and suffering in the world if God is good and all powerful. **He gives three separate but related answers to the question:**

## 1. Evil helps us appreciate good

Augustine's first answer is that the existence of evil helps people to appreciate the good in the world which otherwise they might not notice. Sometimes we don't appreciate the good things we have until they are not there anymore. Most of us don't appreciate how wonderful being healthy is, until we have the experience of being unwell.

*'And in the universe, even that which is called evil, when it is regulated and put in its own place, only enhances our admiration of the good; for we enjoy and value the good more when we compare it to evil.'*

St Augustine, *Enchiridion* 3:11

## 2. Evil is not a thing

Augustine's second answer is that God does not cause or permit evil because evil isn't even a thing. Evil is just the absence of good things. God makes a world full of good things but through our poor choices we sometimes cause those good things to become absent from the world. **Another word for an absence is a 'privation'.** When we experience evil and suffering we are not experiencing anything at all, we are just being deprived of the good things we have. God does not want us to be deprived of these good things but either our choices have led to these privations or God allows them for the sake of some greater good.

*'For what is that which we call evil but the absence of good? Disease and wounds mean nothing but the absence of health; for when a cure is effected, that does not mean that the evils go away from the body and dwell elsewhere: they altogether cease to exist.'*

St Augustine, *Enchiridion* 3:11

## 3. Evil makes us better

Augustine's third answer is God allows suffering precisely because he is omnipotent and good. He allows evil because in his goodness and power he is able to bring a greater good out of suffering. In this answer, St Augustine is saying that sometimes we arrive at a place of much greater happiness through overcoming evil and suffering, than we could ever have done without it. In other words, sometimes suffering is good for us!

*'For the Almighty God, who has supreme power over all things, being Himself supremely good, would never permit the existence of anything evil, if he were not so omnipotent and good that He can bring good even out of evil.'* - St Augustine, *Enchiridion* 3:11

# EVIL & SUFFERING is **NOT** A PROBLEM FOR CHRISTIANS



## The Meaning of Suffering is a Mystery

For Catholics, the meaning of suffering is a MYSTERY and it might be the case that God uses suffering to bring about GREAT GOODS that would not have been possible without it. In the biblical Book of Job, God tells the long-suffering Job that he is just not capable of understanding the reasons why God chooses to do, or not do, certain things.



## The Goodness of God

When Catholics use this term for God, they mean that God is the cause of goodness in others. God's goodness is called essential – that is to say, it is an unchanging aspect of who God is: God is supremely good. This is probably the best way to think about God's goodness, especially if God is beyond the human ability to describe what he is really like. Catholics would say, we call God good because the things he made are good: light, sea, earth, sky, animals, plants and human beings. God finished Creation by looking on all that has been created and he 'saw that it was good'. This is what Catholics mean when they say that the world reflects God's goodness – they mean, they can tell that God is good, because the world God created is good.



## John Hick



John Hick was a Christian philosopher. He argued that God deliberately made a world which was not perfect because only in an imperfect world could human beings learn and grow. In this view, God values human freedom so much that he wants us to learn for ourselves how to be good and loving; God doesn't give these things to us 'ready-made'. Hick argues that it is only through suffering that human beings can come to perfection and 'grow in God's likeness'. This is a bit like thinking of human beings as athletes in training. Physical exercise is painful and difficult but it ultimately leads to a much stronger, healthier body. In the same way, Hick says, suffering is painful and difficult but it ultimately leads to a much stronger, healthier soul.

## Suffering as a sign of love



Many wise thinkers have pointed out that **love is impossible without suffering**. Loving another person means that you would do anything for them, even if it means sacrificing your own pleasures and comforts. There is also another way that suffering and love are connected and that is because nothing lasts forever. If you love anyone, or even a pet, there will come a time when one of these people or animals leaves you, or dies. Few human beings go through life without ever experiencing the pain of grief and parting, but the suffering we experience when we lose someone we love reflects the depth of love we felt for them. The more we love a person, the more painful it is when we leave them. **Suffering and love, therefore, cannot be separated.**

## Suffering as a proof of commitment



Jesus makes clear that being a disciple always requires sacrifice and a cost: To show we are really committed to something, we must experience suffering. *'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.'* (Mark 8:34)

## Suffering as blessing

One of the most difficult ideas to understand is that suffering can somehow be a blessing. In Matthew, Jesus lists those people that are 'blessed' and includes some strange categories of people: **those who are poor, those who mourn, those who suffer.** We would not usually consider these things to be blessings, but Jesus is pointing out that God's way of seeing the world is not our way, and that those who are lowest in the world's eyes are often closest to God.

## The suffering and death of Jesus

At the heart of all the Gospel accounts is something called **'the Passion narrative'**. 'Passion' comes from the Latin word for suffering, and these parts of the Gospel describe the last week in Jesus' life when he was arrested, tried, tortured and crucified. **This story is so sacred to Christians because they believe that the death and resurrection of Jesus saved all humanity from their sins.** Therefore, the suffering of Jesus brought about something very good.

## Knowledge Check



1. What does *Enchiridion* translate to?
2. What are the three answers St Augustine gives as to how God can be omnibenevolent and omnipotent and evil and suffering exist?
3. Define the key concept: Privation
4. What does John Hick argue?
5. How might suffering be a sign of love?
6. How might suffering be proof of commitment?
7. How might suffering be a blessing?
8. What happens to the 'suffering servant' in Isaiah 53?

## Choose a Task

1. Create a detailed mind-map (try to make this visual)
2. Create a multiple-choice quiz (aim for at least 10 questions)
3. Create a poster/leaflet

## Exam Question

*Explain different Christian responses to the problem of evil [8]*

One metaphor which can help us to understand the importance of Jesus' suffering can be found in the Old Testament description of the suffering servant. From the earliest centuries, Christians saw this passage from Isaiah as a PROPHECY of Jesus and the way in which his suffering would bring about blessings for others. In this passage, a figure called 'the suffering servant', who is described as an unattractive person, is rejected by his own people and cruelly punished by them. But the author of Isaiah says that he was experiencing the sufferings that others deserved, so that they would not have to experience them. The acceptance of suffering by the 'suffering servant' somehow brought about their salvation. **This is what Catholics believe about Jesus too.**

## The Suffering Servant – Isaiah 53

*'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, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But 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.'*



# THE BOOK OF JOB



## Job 1

### INTRODUCTION: INTRODUCING JOB

**1** In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was **blameless and upright**; he **feared God and shunned evil**. **2** He had seven sons and three daughters,<sup>3</sup> and he owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred donkeys, and had a large number of servants. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East.

**4** His sons used to hold feasts in their homes on their birthdays, and they would invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. **5** When a period of feasting had run its course, **Job would make arrangements for them to be purified. Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them**, thinking, "Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." This was Job's regular custom.

### SATAN AND GOD: THE MEETING

**6** One day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them. **7** The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?"

Satan answered the Lord, "From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it."

**8** Then the Lord said to Satan, "**Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him**; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."

**9** "**Does Job fear God for nothing?**" Satan replied. **10** "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. **11** But now **stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face.**"

**12** The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, then, **everything he has is in your power, but on the man himself do not lay a finger.**" Then Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.

### THE CAPTURE OF JOB'S OXEN AND DONKEYS

**13** One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, **14** a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, **15** and the Sabeans attacked and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

### THE MURDER OF JOB'S SHEEP AND SERVANTS

**16** While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The fire of God fell from the heavens and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

### THE MURDER OF JOB'S SERVANTS AND THEFT OF HIS DONKEYS

**17** While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "**The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!**"

### THE MURDER OF JOB'S CHILDREN

**18** While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, "Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, **19** when suddenly **a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!**"

### JOB STILL DOES NOT BLAME GOD!

**20** At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship **21** and said:

*"Naked I came from my mother's womb,  
and naked I will depart.  
The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away;  
may the name of the Lord be praised."*

**22** In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

The book of Job is in the  
Old Testament. It is  
therefore both a Jewish  
and Christian story.



## Job 2: He still does not sin!

"Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason."

**4** "Skin for skin!" Satan replied. "**A man will give all he has for his own life.** **5** But now stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face."

**6** The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, then, he is in your hands; **but you must spare his life.**"

**7** So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and afflicted Job with **painful sores from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head.** **8** Then Job took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes.

**9** His wife said to him, "Are you still maintaining your integrity? **Curse God and die!**"

**10** He replied, "You are talking like a foolish woman. **Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?**"

In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.

### The Meaning of Suffering is a Mystery

For Catholics, the meaning of suffering is a MYSTERY and it might be the case that God uses suffering to bring about GREAT GOODS that would not have been possible without it.

In the biblical Book of Job, God tells the long-suffering Job that he is just not capable of understanding the reasons why God chooses to do, or not do, certain things.

## A summary of the friends' judgement

ELIPHAZ – Job never really understood the pain of others because he had it so good. Job must have done something bad and deserves to suffer (we know he doesn't!)

BILDAD – Job's children brought their deaths upon themselves

ZOPHAR – Whatever Job has done wrong probably deserves greater punishment than what he has received

ELIHU – You might not have done wrong, but you still have no right to question God

## God responds

*"Where were you when I  
laid the earth's  
foundation?"* (Job 38: 4)

## Job repents

My ears had heard of you  
but now my eyes have seen you.

**6** Therefore **I despise myself  
and repent in dust and ashes.**"  
(Job 42: 6)

## Job is blessed with more than he had before!

**14** The Lord blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the former part. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen and a thousand donkeys. **15** And he also had seven sons and three daughters. **14** The first daughter he named Jemimah, the second Keziah and the third Keren-Happuch. **15** Nowhere in all the land were there found women as beautiful as Job's daughters, and their father granted them an inheritance along with their brothers.

**16** After this, **Job lived a hundred and forty years**; he saw his children and their children to the fourth generation. **17** And so Job died, an old man and full of years.

## Job 3: Job Sins!

**11** When Job's three friends, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite, heard about all the troubles that had come upon him, they set out from their homes and met together by agreement to go and sympathize with him and comfort him. **12** When they saw him from a distance, they could hardly recognize him; they began to weep aloud, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads. **13** Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights. No one said a word to him, because they saw how great his suffering was.

After this, Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth. **2** He said:

**3** "**May the day of my birth perish,  
and the night that said, 'A boy is conceived!'  
4 That day—may it turn to darkness;  
may God above not care about it;  
may no light shine on it.**"

Job Curses the  
day he was  
conceived

## God ignores Job

"I cry out to you, God, but you do not  
answer; (Job 30: 20)

## Knowledge Check



1. What does Job own at the beginning of the story?
2. Why does Satan suggest Job has never sinned?
3. What is taken from Job?
4. How does Job's wife react to his suffering?
5. What causes Job to curse God?
6. What are the names of Job's four friends?
7. What causes Job to realise that he is in the wrong?
8. How is Job rewarded at the end of the story?

## Choose a Task



1. Create a detailed mind-map (try to make this visual)
2. Create a multiple-choice quiz (aim for at least 10 questions)
3. Create a poster/leaflet

### CHALLENGE!

Turn over the mat and try to complete your task without looking at the information. Then refer back to the task mat to see what you have missed/could have included.

## Exam Question



*b) Describe the suffering Job experiences in the book of Job [5]*



Mackie rejected some of the answers Christians give to the problem of evil. For example:

✝  
Evil is necessary as an opposite of good

✝  
Evil helps us become better people

✝  
Evil is a consequence of free will



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!**

# JOHN MACKIE

## EVIL AND SUFFERING *IS* A PROBLEM FOR BELIEVERS!



Mackie (1917-1981) was an **ATHEIST** Philosopher



David Hume

A Scottish philosopher and atheist of the 18<sup>th</sup> 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).

### Knowledge Check

1. What is atheism?
2. What are the typical answers Christians give in response to the problem of evil?
3. How does John Mackie challenge Christian answers to the problem of evil?
4. What does Richard Dawkins believe about the existence of evil and suffering?
5. What did David Hume claim?
6. What is the inconsistent triad?
7. Who put forward the inconsistent triad?
8. What does he conclude?

### Choose a Task

1. Create a detailed mind-map (try to make this visual)
2. Create a multiple-choice quiz (aim for at least 10 questions)
3. Create a poster/leaflet

**CHALLENGE!**  
Turn over the mat and try to complete your task without looking at the information. Then refer back to the task mat to see what you have missed/could have included.

### Exam Question

c) Explain how the existence of evil and suffering poses a challenge to belief in God [8]

## Evil doesn't ALWAYS help us to become better people

Firstly, Mackie doesn't understand why God needs to make us better through experiencing suffering. Why can God not just make us perfect to begin with? But even if we accept that the sort of goodness that comes about because of overcoming suffering is better than the goodness we could achieve without suffering, there is still a problem.

The problem is that just as often, suffering makes people worse, rather than making them better. Some people might learn patience and courage through having to undergo cancer treatment. But other people might just as likely become bitter and resentful. If evil is allowed in order to bring about greater goods, then why does it sometimes lead to greater evils instead?

## Even if evil and suffering is there for us to learn from there is TOO MUCH

Lots of examples of goodness are easily noticed and appreciated without needing a contrast. We can all see and appreciate a kind and generous person, even if we have never met a mean and selfish one.

Even if it is true that we need some evil and suffering to help us to appreciate the good, we only need a little bit. He argues that there is far more suffering than is needed to make a contrast to the good in the world and some of the suffering is truly horrible, far more and far worse than is really needed. e.g. **the holocaust.**



## Why aren't human beings made to choose good?

Both St Augustine and John Hick rely on the existence of free will to explain why God allows evil to exist.

Mackie rejects this as a reason because he does not see why God could not make free human beings who always choose good instead of evil.

Some would reply that a human being who can only ever choose good, is not truly free BUT Mackie does not think the ability to choose evil is a required part of human freedom. He also feels that evil and suffering is far too high a price to pay for having free will.

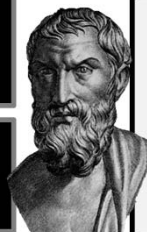


*"We live in an unkind universe that simply doesn't care."*

*Richard Dawkins does not accept the idea that there is a purpose to life. We are simply here by chance. There is no loving God, nor any sort of god at all.*

*"...faith is one of the world's great evils, comparable to the smallpox virus but harder to eradicate."*

*There is "no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference."*



*'Is God willing to prevent evil, but is not able? Then he is not omnipotent. Is he able, but not willing? Then he is malevolent. Is he both willing and able? Then whence cometh evil? Is he neither willing nor able? Then why call him God?'*  
- Epicurus (an ancient Greek philosopher)

## The Inconsistent Triad

One of the most famous presentations of the Problem of Evil was made by an atheist named John Mackie. He is the first philosopher to present what has become known as 'the inconsistent triad'. A 'triad' is a group of three things. Mackie and others claim the following is 'inconsistent' because it seems that not all of them can be true at the same time.

**If God WANTS** to stop suffering and **CAN** stop suffering, then evil would not exist. Therefore, Mackie says either:

- God is not good; OR
- God is not powerful; OR
- God does not exist.

1. If the first two claims are true, then evil would not exist. However, since from our experience, evil definitely does exist, then at least one of the other two must be false.
2. If God wants to stop suffering but cannot, then **he must not be all powerful.**
3. If God can stop suffering but does not want to, then **he must not be all-loving.**

Omnipotent



Omnibenevolent

Evil exists

Mackie concludes that God **does not exist.**

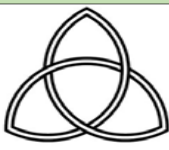
# TRINITY

"Trinity" literally means "Tri-Unity" : Three in One

Each of the following illustrations have been used in the past to help people understand the very difficult concept of The Trinity:



St Patrick used the Shamrock ~ it seems to be three separate leaves yet they are intrinsically connected as ONE leaf, as God is 3 persons in 1 God!



The Triquetra is a symbol used by our own school to highlight that Trinity has three components that are totally interwoven into the one symbol.



H2O clearly shows how ONE substance can take three totally different forms with 3 totally different sets of qualities and roles to perform.

However, none of these come really close because they are material objects, God is not! If we could fully explain God, He wouldn't really be omnipotent would he? We would be in a position of authority over God (instead of the other way around!)

Belief in the Trinity existed in the Bible *before* the word was actually "invented" to describe the belief.



GOD THE *FATHER*, GOD THE *SON*, GOD THE *HOLY SPIRIT*

The first followers of Jesus seemed to believe in the idea of the Trinity before they had the language to express this belief:

- ✓ Remember they were Jews (born and raised) and therefore totally believed in ONLY One God: The Shema, the central prayer of Judaism proves this: "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one." – Deuteronomy 6:4.
- ✓ They accepted Jesus as God ~ they'd witnessed the Resurrection after all! But they also witnessed Jesus *praying* to God The Father, so knew HE couldn't be God the Father!
- ✓ They had experienced God the Spirit at Pentecost (where the disciples are granted the ability to understand different languages to spread the Good News) but knew this wasn't Jesus, because Jesus promised them he would send them the Spirit after he'd gone!

## Disagreements over the Trinity: Arius and Athanasius

By the time the Gospels were written (later than St Paul's letter) there were many indications of a belief in the three persons of the Trinity. From these starting points in the early Church, the doctrine (a belief/set of ideas) of the Trinity developed until it was finally settled and written down at two early councils of the Church – Nicea in 325AD and Constantinople in 381AD.

The first council of Nicea was called to settle a disagreement that had arisen in the fourth century between Arius, a priest, and a deacon called Athanasius. Arius did not believe that Jesus was God. He argued that Jesus was the highest creature but that he was less than God. Athanasius disagreed. He argued that the Father and the Son were equal and that both were God. The council sided with Athanasius and said that the Father and the Son were equal to each other.

Nicea 325 AD

## Early Christians

A belief in the Trinity emerged gradually in the history of Christianity. The earliest Christians were not really Christians at all; they were Jews who followed Jesus. The term Christian doesn't even exist as a name for a group until several years after Jesus' death. Even then it seems to be a name others used as an insult, rather than a name that these Jesus-following Jews called themselves.

It is therefore no surprise that Christians believe in only one God because Christianity grew out of Judaism.

A belief in only one God (what we now call 'monotheism') is the belief that most clearly separated the Jews from many other ancient religions that surrounded them.

## The Nicene Creed

Catholics recite this every Sunday. A creed is a statement of belief. A council of bishops met in a place called Nicea, in Turkey, to settle the question of how Christians should speak about God. In this creed it is clear that Christians believe in:

- ✓ One God
- ✓ But also in the 'Son of God' who is equal with the Father
- ✓ And in the Holy Spirit who is 'adored and glorified' with the Father and the Son

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.



I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father.



I believe in the Holy Spirit, The Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.



Christians believe in a God who exists as a Trinity of persons: Father, Son and Spirit.

This arose because the early Christians believed that Jesus was God incarnate.

St Augustine said that the Trinity of persons was like the lover, the beloved and love itself.

Jews have no beliefs or teachings about the idea of Trinity. They would reject it as a challenge to their fundamental beliefs that God is one.

Summary

## St Augustine - De Trinitate

St Augustine wrote a whole book named 'De Trinitate' meaning 'On the Trinity'. One of the ideas that he used to make sense of the doctrine was the concept of love. St Augustine believed, as do all Christians, that 'God is love'. He also realised that love needs three things:

The person who is doing the loving, the person who is being loved and the love itself.

If God is love, these three aspects must have been present in God from all eternity – even before God have made any creatures to love. So St Augustine says that the Trinity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is like this Trinity of love, lover and beloved.

This idea of love is a helpful one for Christians because it makes clear that love needs to be an important part of every Christian's life.

*'There are three things in love, as it were a trace of the Trinity...love is of someone that loves, and with love something is loved. Behold, then, there are three things: he that loves, and that which is loved, and love.'* - *De Trinitate*



## Why is the Trinity Important?

- Without a doctrine of the Trinity, it would not be possible for Christians to believe that Jesus is God. The belief that Jesus is God is probably the most important Christian belief.
- The doctrine of the Trinity means that the God that Christians believe in is a community of persons. This means that it makes sense to say 'God is love', because even before any creatures existed for God to love, there was a relationship of love within God which has existed for all eternity.

## Knowledge Check

Answer in full sentences or copy out the question.

- What does Trinity literally mean?
- What are the three popular illustrations of the Trinity?
- Why are these illustrations of the Trinity limited?
- Which Jewish prayer illustrates belief in one God?
- What is meant by 'doctrine'?
- What was the name of the first Church council?
- When was this council held?
- What disagreement was the first council called to settle?
- What did the first council decide?
- Why was a second council called?
- What is the name of the second council?
- What did the second council decide?
- When do Catholics recite the Nicene Creed?
- What does the creed state about each aspect of the Trinity?
- How did St Augustine make sense of the Trinity?

## Choose a Task

- Design a multiple choice quiz on the topic of the Trinity (15 questions).
- Design a detailed mind map outlining the Trinity.
- Design a detailed visual poster outlining the Trinity.

## Exam Question

Write an extended answer to the question below.

*"Christianity is really a polytheistic religion (believes in many Gods)."*

Discuss the statement showing that you have thought of more than one point of view.

For each sentence, use PEEA (Point, Evidence, Explain, Analysis).

For example:

P – Make your point

E – Back it up with evidence or examples

E – Explanation (link back to the statement)

A – Say what is good or bad about the point you have just made



# INCARNATION

Meaning "made flesh". The Christian belief that God became man in the person of Jesus, fully human and fully divine.

For Christians, the world

INCARNATION refers to the most central Christian belief, that Jesus is God and that in Jesus, God the son became a human being. 'The incarnation' means 'became flesh' and Christians believe that God became visible 'in the flesh' in the person of Jesus.

Son of God

The most usual way Christians express this belief is by calling Jesus the 'Son of God'. This connects to the doctrine of the Trinity, where the term 'Son' is used to name the second person of the Trinity. When Christians call Jesus the 'Son of God' they mean that he is God who has become a human being, that he is the 'incarnate Son'.



## Divine Word (John 1:1-18)

Another way that a belief in the incarnation is expressed is by using the metaphor of 'God's Word'. In the opening chapter of John's Gospel, John refers to Jesus as 'the Word'. The author of John's Gospel makes a link with the book of Genesis by starting with the words 'In the beginning...', which is also how Genesis starts.

## Jesus = "The Word"

In the first chapter of Genesis, God speaks and things happen. For example, God says 'Let there be light' and then light happens. So in Genesis, God's word is the power that makes creation happen. In John's Gospel, the author says that the relationship between the Father and Jesus is like the relationship between a speaker and his words. So the author of John's Gospel refers to the second person of the Trinity, Jesus, as 'the Word'. In John's Gospel, it is clear that the second person of the Trinity is distinct from the Father ('the Word was with God') but that he is also equal to God ('the Word was God').

'...the Word was with God.'

Jesus is part of the Trinity that is distinct from God the Father

'...the Word was God...'

Jesus is equal to God the Father

'...the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us...'

Jesus was God in human form (incarnate)

'...in the beginning was the Word.'

Jesus is eternal

## Fully God Fully Man

100%

Christians also believe that Jesus is 'fully God and fully man'. So when they say that Jesus is the incarnate Son, they don't mean that Jesus is a really good human being who is very close to God, he is really and fully God.

At the same time, they don't mean that Jesus is just God in disguise, or God pretending to be a human being; he is really and fully human.

Christians believe that Jesus is one person, with two natures: one human nature, and one divine (which means 'godly') nature.

## Salvifici Doloris

In his letter, Salvifici Doloris (which means 'the saving power of suffering') Pope St John Paul II says that the only way human beings can grasp the 'why' of suffering is to try and understand the depth of God's love for human beings, which Jesus showed through his willingness to die on the cross. He also says that if Christians willingly 'offer up' their own suffering in prayer for the sake of others, they can somehow share in the saving suffering of Jesus. This is very difficult to understand but Pope St John Paul II believes that if we try and bear our suffering patiently and offer it to God in prayer, that God will somehow be able to use it to bring about good for others. If a Christian can do this, it is an act of love which is like Jesus' own act of sacrifice.

Pope St John Paul II

'But in order to understand the 'why' of suffering, we must look to the revelation of divine love... This answer has been given by God to human beings in the Cross of Jesus Christ.' (Salvifici Doloris)



'Those who share in Christ's suffering have before their eyes the Paschal Mystery of the Cross and Resurrection, in which Christ takes on human weakness... But if in this weakness there is accomplished his lifting up, then the weakness of human suffering can be filled with the same power of God made visible in Christ's cross.' (Salvifici Doloris)



The Problem of Evil

A belief that Jesus is the incarnate Son of God is very important to Christians in helping them to respond to the Problem of Evil. Jesus' incarnation and suffering give Christians a means of continuing to believe in the goodness of God, even in the face of human suffering.

## The Kenosis Hymn

*'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!'*

(Philippians 2:5-8)

Kenosis is a Greek word which means 'emptying'. It is called the kenosis hymn because it was a hymn of praise that early Christians used to sing about Jesus and it contains the idea the Jesus 'emptied himself' of his rightful equality with God, in becoming a human being in the incarnation. St Paul says, 'he made himself nothing'.

The equality between Jesus and the Father, and the moment of the incarnation, is described in another piece of scripture: in a hymn in which St Paul quotes in his letter to the Philippians.

In the hymn it says that Christians should be like Jesus, who, even though he was God, willingly put aside his equality with God to become a human being. And then as a human being, he doesn't even insist on his equality with other human beings, but makes himself even lower accepting a humiliating and degrading execution.

## Marilyn McCord Adams

An American theologian called Marilyn McCord Adams said that the answer to the Problem of Evil is one that human minds might not be able to ever understand but Christians can still trust in the goodness of God. She says Christians should not ask why they suffer but HOW they can suffer WITHOUT LOSING FAITH.



She uses the parable of a two-year old child who has to undergo heart surgery which we be very painful but which will ultimately save her life. She points out that the mother will never be able to explain to her two-year old why she has to suffer, because the daughter won't understand what heart surgery is, or why it is needed. But the two-year old can be helped to cope with the pain because she trusts in her mother's love and that her mother has her best interests at heart. The child can cope with the suffering because her mother is by her side while she suffers. She doesn't know why she has to suffer, but she does know how to endure it.

Parable of 2-year-old child

The incarnation is the belief that Jesus is God 'made flesh'; that Jesus is fully God and fully human

The opening chapter of John's Gospel conveys these ideas clearly

St Paul describes the incarnation in his writings

Jesus gives an answer to the 'how' of suffering, if not the 'why' of suffering

Pope St John Paul II believed that our own suffering could become saving for others if it is joined to the suffering of Jesus

## Knowledge Check

Answer in full sentences or copy out the question.

- What is meant by 'incarnation'?
- What is the most usual way Christians express this belief in God?
- How does the author of John's gospel make a link to the book of Genesis?
- What do Christians mean when they say that Jesus is 'fully god and fully man'?
- What does the author of John's Gospel refer to Jesus as?
- In John's Gospel, what is the relationship between the Father and Jesus compared to?
- What is meant by "the Word was God"?
- What is meant by 'the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us...'??
- How does the author of John's Gospel suggest that Jesus is eternal?
- What does Salvifici Doloris mean?
- What does Pope St John Paul II say about suffering in his letter: Salvifici Doloris?
- What parable does Marilyn McCord use to answer the Problem of Evil? How does this help Christians?
- What is the Kenosis hymn?
- What does the Kenosis hymn say about Jesus?
- What does Jesus' incarnation and suffering give Christians?

## Choose a Task

- Design a multiple choice quiz on the topic of the Incarnation (15 questions).
- Design a detailed mind map outlining the Incarnation.
- Design a detailed visual poster outlining the Incarnation.

## Exam Question

Write an extended answer to the question below.

**"Jesus was just a human man."**

Discuss the statement showing that you have thought of more than one point of view.

For each sentence, use PEEA (Point, Evidence, Explain, Analysis).

For example:

P - Make your point

E - Back it up with evidence or examples

E - Explanation (link back to the statement)

A - Say what is good or bad about the point you have just made

# JESUS AND MORAL AUTHORITY

## Knowledge Check



1. Which Gospel contains the Sermon on the Mount?
2. What does the sermon begin with?
3. What does 'beatitudes' translate to?
4. Why might these blessings be viewed as "strange"?
5. Which categories of people are blessed?
6. What is the key message of the beatitudes?
7. What is meant by 'right actions, wrong reasons'?
8. Who were the Pharisees?
9. Why did Jesus prefer spending time with sinners as opposed to the Pharisees?
10. Which phrase does Jesus repeat during the Sermon on the Mount after the section on the beatitudes??
11. What does Jesus say in regards to murder?
12. What does Jesus say in regards to adultery?
13. What does Jesus say in regards to revenge?
14. What does Jesus say in regards to loving your neighbour?

## Choose a Task



1. Design a multiple choice quiz on the topic of the Sermon on the Mount (15 questions).
2. Design a detailed mind map outlining the Sermon on the Mount.
3. Design a detailed visual poster outlining the Sermon on the Mount.

## Exam Question

*c) Explain how Catholics might use Jesus' teachings to help them make an ethical decision.*

Write an extended answer to the question below.

*d) "Jesus' moral teachings are not relevant for today."*

Discuss the statement showing that you have thought of more than one point of view.

## The Beatitude Life

THE POOR IN SPIRIT	Embracing our need for God.
THE MOURNERS	Experiencing God's comfort in our pain.
THE MEEK	Choosing humble submissiveness over ambition and authority.
THE HUNGRY FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS	Longing for God to make all things new.
THE MERCIFUL	Extending God's incredible compassion and mercy.
THE PURE IN HEART	Making our hearts fully God's, in all we think, say and do.
THE PEACEMAKERS	Bringing healing, togetherness, and fullness to our world.
THE PERSECUTED	Following Jesus no matter what the cost.

## THE OLD LAW AND THE NEW

In another part of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus uses a phrase over and over again which begins **'You have heard that it was said...'** and ends with the phrase **'But I say to you...'**

He begins this whole section by saying:

**'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law...I have not come to abolish the Law but to fulfil it.'**

Here Jesus shows the ways in which being a follower of his is more demanding than the religious Law (Torah) which his listeners (Jews) have been living by.

## MURDER

Jesus says that in the past the Law ruled out murder, but Jesus says even being angry with someone is unacceptable.

## ADULTERY

The Law did not allow adultery but Jesus says that even looking at someone lustfully is unacceptable.

## REVENGE

The Law allowed people to take revenge on those who had harmed them, only paying back in proportion to what had been suffered ('an eye for an eye') but Jesus says that you should not take revenge at all.

## LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR

The Law required people to love their neighbour but allowed them to hate their enemy, but Jesus says you must love your enemies as well.

## THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

### The Beatitudes (Blessings):

*'Blessed are the poor in spirit.  
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are those who mourn.  
For they will be comforted.*

*Blessed are the meek.  
For they will inherit the earth.*

*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.  
For they will be filled.*

*Blessed are the merciful.  
For they will be shown mercy.*

*Blessed are the pure in heart.  
For they will see God.*

*Blessed are the peacemakers.  
For they will be called children of God.*

*Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness.  
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.'*

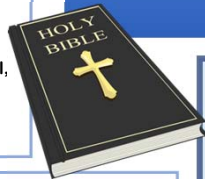
### The Pharisees

The Pharisees were an influential religious sect within Judaism in the time of Christ and the early church. They were known for their emphasis on personal piety (the word *Pharisee* comes from a Hebrew word meaning "separated"), their acceptance of oral tradition in addition to the written Law, and their teaching that all Jews should observe all 613 laws in the Torah, including the rituals concerning ceremonial purification. The Pharisees were mostly middle-class businessmen and leaders of the synagogues. Though they were a minority in the Sanhedrin and held a minority number of positions as priests, they seemed to control the decision-making of the Sanhedrin because they had popular support among the people.



## MATTHEW 5-7

Jesus gives clear teachings on how people should live their lives. The clearest collection of these teachings are in Chapters five to seven of Matthew's Gospel, in a section that is often called **The Sermon on the Mount**.



The sermon begins with a list of blessings, which are often called The Beatitudes (which is Latin for 'blessings'). This list of blessings is strange in that some of the things on it are not usually thought of as blessings.

For example, Jesus speaks of the poor, the grieving and those who suffer, as people who are blessed. But there are other categories of people on this list who clearly stand for the sort of behaviour and attitudes Jesus sees as the model for all human living. So, he praises the peacemakers, the merciful, the meek and those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

One of the key messages of the beatitudes seems to be that those who are closest to God are often those that the world does not recognise or value and sometimes even persecutes.



## RIGHT ACTIONS, WRONG REASONS

At the end of the sermon, he warns people against doing good things but for the wrong reasons. He speaks about praying, fasting and giving to charity (called almsgiving) and says that these must always be done in private. Jesus knew that often people do these good things publicly so that others will think well of them. Jesus says that people should do these things because they are right, not to get praise from other people.

The whole of the Sermon on the Mount seems very demanding and almost impossible. Perhaps the thing Jesus dislikes the most is pride; he doesn't want anyone to think that they have achieved all that goodness demands of them. This is probably why he preferred spending time with sinners who knew they needed the mercy of God, than he did with the Jewish religious leaders (Pharisees), who thought they did not.



# OTHER SOURCES OF MORAL AUTHORITY

## 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 and is the same for all human beings in all places at all times.



### Nuremberg Trial

After the Second World War, many former Nazis were put on trial in Nuremberg for 'crimes against humanity'. Many of these people used as their defense the argument that **they were only obeying their superior officers who, at the time, they were legally obliged to obey.** The courts at Nuremberg did not accept these arguments. Even though the crimes committed by Nazis were not crimes at the time in Nazi Germany, they were still crimes that were **against a universal, natural law** that the judges at Nuremberg believed every human being could understand, even if they were living in a state that had rejected these natural laws. This is the basic idea behind the concept of natural law.



Natural Law is the belief that above all human legal systems, which are enforced by nation states or other human institutions, there is a **moral law** that every human being **understands and should live by.**

The same idea is expressed in the existence of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which is another way of saying that there are some natural rights which every human being should have, even if the laws of the land in which they happen to live ignore these rights.



### St Thomas Aquinas

A belief in natural law is a key part of Catholic moral teaching. The idea is that because human beings all ultimately share the same human nature, the same things will ultimately bring them fulfilment. Natural law (put forward by St Thomas Aquinas) says that all human beings have **some purposes in common:**



Preserving life



Educating Children



Worshipping God



Reproduction

Living in an Ordered Society



## 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 to avoid what is evil.



If there is a natural law that applies to all human beings, then **the ability to discover this law is what Catholics call conscience.** St Thomas Aquinas defined conscience as 'the mind of human beings making moral decisions.' In Catholic understanding, conscience has two parts:

### KNOWLEDGE



The part that is to do with knowledge is our mind's ability to know the difference between right and wrong and make decisions about what the right to do is in different situations.

### ACTION



The part that is to do with action is the internal impulse, which Catholics believe all human beings have, to do what is right and to avoid doing what is wrong. This part gives human beings their sense of moral duty and leads to guilt when they fail to do what they know to be right.

The two parts of conscience work together: in any given situation, the conscience will help a human being to know what the right thing to do is; it will also compel the human being to do that thing.

Catholics believe the existence of conscience is unique to human beings and that this existence of conscience is another proof of the goodness of God who created human beings in his own image. Also, in relation to the Problem of Evil, if human beings obeyed their conscience more often, there would be far less moral evil in the world, and far less suffering as a result. Catholics believe conscience is knowing the difference between right and wrong and then following the direction that right points in.

## VIRTUES AND SUFFERING

Catholics also believe that living a good life and obeying their conscience is something that requires practice. Doing the right thing is not always easy and if our moral character is weak, then it is even more difficult to do what is right.

Catholics believe that there are moral habits which human beings need to practice in order to become good people. These moral habits are called virtues, from the **Latin word 'perfection'.** They include things like **courage, generosity, selflessness and self-control.** Each of these virtues **challenges our instinctive selfishness,** for example, our desire to keep ourselves safe has to be overcome in order to become more courageous.

The Catholic view is that **these virtues take practice;** we are not good at them straight away but we can get better at them through our life experiences.

One of the ways in which **people can grow in virtue** is through the **experience of suffering.** This is because suffering sometimes **helps us to improve in the virtues.**

- For example, **enduring a serious illness** can make someone more **courageous.**
- If I suffer **poverty,** this can make me **more generous** when I do have food and other things to share.



The Catholic view of virtues is a good way of helping us to understand how suffering can help us to become better people.

## Knowledge Check

Answer in full sentences or copy out the question.

- What is meant by 'natural law'?
- What is meant by 'conscience'?
- What do Catholics call the ability to discover natural law?
- What is meant by 'The Nuremberg Trial'?
- What did the judges conclude at the Nuremberg Trial?
- Which Saint put forward the concept of Natural Law?
- What five things did this Saint say all human beings have in common?
- What are the two parts to conscience?
- How do the two parts of conscience work together?
- What do Catholics argue the existence of conscience is proof of?
- What are 'moral habits' also known as?
- What does 'perfection' translate to in Latin?
- Give examples of virtues
- How might someone grow in virtue?
- What does the Catholic view of virtue help us to understand?

## Choose a Task

- Design a multiple choice quiz on the topic of the other sources of moral authority.
- Design a **detailed** mind map outlining Natural Law, Conscience and Virtues and Suffering.
- Design a **detailed** visual poster outlining Natural Law, Conscience and Virtues and Suffering.

## Exam Question

Explain why Catholics believe that natural law and conscience are evidence for the existence of a benevolent God. (8 Marks)

# SCULPTURE AND STATUARY

Catholic churches have many features that make them different from other churches. One thing that many people notice is the presence of statues. These statues can be of many different religious figures. In all Catholic churches, there will be at least one crucifix that has on it the figure of Jesus. This will usually be displayed in a prominent position in the church.

In most Catholic churches, there will also be a statue of Mary, the mother of Jesus.



There will also often be a statue of Jesus, called the 'Sacred Heart' that shows the *heart of Jesus burning with love*. In addition to these three most common statues, there might well be other statues of saints, especially of the saint after whom the church is named.



In many Catholic churches, these statues will have in front of them places to kneel and places to light candles to leave as physical symbols of prayer intentions. Catholics often kneel in front of statues to pray. The presence of statues in Catholic churches as a focus for prayer and devotion is common and unremarkable to most Catholics, but for many other Christians it is an unusual practice and one with which many would disagree.

## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF STATUES FOR CATHOLICS

Catholics would say that the presence of Catholics in churches is just one way in which they express a deeper commitment to what they call an 'incarnational view' of the world. Remember, the incarnation is the belief that God took on a physical form and lived in the real world when he became a human being in Jesus. For Catholics, this means that physical things are good and that God can make himself known to human beings through the ordinary physical things around us. This is why so much of Catholic worship is centred on ordinary, physical signs of God's extraordinary presence – oil, water, bread, wine, colours, incense, music, and so on. For Catholic Christians, statues are just another sign of the reality of the incarnation ('made flesh' The Christian belief that God became man in the person of Jesus, fully human and fully divine.)



## The Crucifix

The one statue that will be present in every Catholic church is the crucifix. This is a directly incarnational image since it is an image of Jesus himself whom Catholics believe became incarnate in order to save people from their sins. The crucifix is the most common focus for Catholic prayer and it reminds believers of the incarnation, but also of the suffering of Jesus which, for Catholics, is a reminder of God's love for them.

## Do Statues Break the Commandment to Worship God Alone?

Making religious statues goes against the second commandment that forbids the making of any image as an object of worship. By worshipping statues, Catholics are worshipping 'false gods'.



Jews do not use statues as a focus for prayer as it goes against the Ten Commandments: "*You shall have no other gods before me.*" (Exodus 20:4-5). Synagogues therefore do not have any representations of God as he is above human understanding.



Catholics argue statues are reminders of Jesus and God and help them focus their prayers. Well...that would be a good argument if the statues were only statues of Jesus, but they are often of other holy men and women, such as Mary and the saints. Offering prayers to anyone or anything other than God is breaking the first commandment to worship God alone.

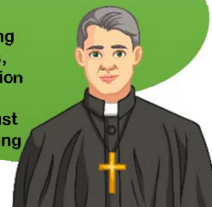


Catholics don't pray to the statues. They are just reminders of God and Jesus and these help us to focus our prayers on what really matters. Statues are like photographs of loved ones – the photographs are only important to us because they remind us of the people we love. We don't love photographs; we love the people in the photographs.



Catholics don't worship Mary and the saints but rather ask Mary and the saints to INTERCEDE on our behalf and pray to God for us, just like we often ask other living people to pray for us and will offer to pray for them too – just like many Christians. Catholics believe that we are part of something called 'the communion of saints', all believers, both living and dead, are part of this communion and we believe that the saints in heaven offer prayers to God for those on earth. So we're just asking the saints to pray for us, not worshipping false gods.

*Intercede*  
- To act on behalf on someone else



Catholics use statues in their worship as a reminder of God and as a focus for prayers; statues are not worshipped.

Some other Christians believe that using statues in worship is against the Ten Commandments.

Jews reject the use of statues or any images of humans in synagogues and would never represent God because God is beyond human understanding.

The Pieta is a statue of the death of Jesus that many Catholics find helpful in helping them to respond to human suffering.

SUMMARY

## Knowledge Check

Answer in full sentences or copy out the question.

- What noticeably makes Catholic churches different to other Christian churches?
- Give three examples of statues commonly found in Catholic churches.
- What is the statue showing the heart of Jesus burning with love known as?
- What stance will Catholics typically take while praying in front of these statues?
- Why do many Christians disagree with the use of statues?
- Which commandment does the use of statues go against?
- What is meant by 'incarnation'?
- Name three things used in Catholic worship to signify God's extraordinary presence
- Why is the crucifix important to many Catholics?
- How might a Catholic person and a Jewish person disagree over the use of statues?

## Choose a Task

- Design a multiple choice quiz on the topic of Statues.
- Design a detailed mind map outlining the use of Statues.
- Design a detailed visual poster outlining the use of Statues.

## Exam Question

Write an extended answer to the question below.

*Describe the different types of statues found in a Catholic church*

Discuss the statement showing that you have thought of more than one point of view.

For each sentence, use PEEA (Point, Evidence, Explain, Analysis).

For example:

P – Make your point

E – Back it up with evidence or examples

E – Explanation (link back to the statement)

A – Say what is good or bad about the point you have just made



# MICHELANGELO'S PIETÀ



Michelangelo **carved it from a single slab of marble** in less than two years. It is famous for the way Michelangelo has managed to make **stone appear to flow like real cloth** and how well he has **captured the human form and emotions**.

His interpretation of the Pietà was different to ones previous created by other artists. **Michelangelo decided to create a youthful and peaceful Virgin Mary instead of a broken-hearted and older woman**, as is often portrayed in earlier version of the image.

**Statues help Catholics to reflect on the meaning of suffering.**

One of the most famous statues that does this is Michelangelo's Pietà.

It is a **statue of Mary holding the body of her son after his crucifixion**.



## LATIN 'Holiness'

### Catholic Ambivalence to Suffering

In her sadness, Mary seems **resigned to what has happened**. Jesus, too, is presented almost as if he is in a **peaceful sleep**, rather than having been bloodied and bruised after hours of torture and suffering.

His **wounds are hardly visible**. In supporting Jesus, **Mary's right hand does not come into direct contact with his flesh**, but instead it is covered with a cloth which then touches his side.

This shows the **sacredness of Jesus' body**.

**Overall, these two figures are beautiful and idealised, despite their suffering.** This reflects the belief of Catholic ambivalence to suffering; **that suffering is somehow part of love and can be a source of blessing**.

'Pietà' is a word which comes from the *Latin word for holiness*. Of all the many different forms of the Pietà by various painters and sculptors throughout history, the one by Michelangelo stands out as perhaps the greatest. It was created in 1499 when Michelangelo was just 24 years old.



### Commissioned by a French Cardinal for his own funeral



French cardinal Jean de Bilheres, who served the church in Rome, wanted to be remembered long after he'd died. To achieve this goal, he hired Michelangelo to make a memorial for his tomb that would capture a scene that was popular in Northern European art at the time: the tragic moment of the Virgin Mary taking Jesus down from the cross.

## Knowledge Check

Answer in full sentences or copy out the question.

1. What does the Latin 'Pietà' translate to?
2. Who carved this Pietà?
3. What is his sculpture famous for?
4. How is his interpretation different to that of other artists?
5. What scene does the sculpture depict?
6. Who commissioned this sculpture and what was it to be used for?
7. What does the deep shadow created by the fold of the garment next to Jesus symbolise?
8. What does the stillness on Mary's face symbolise?
9. What does the open palm symbolise?
10. What does the large figure of Mary

## Choose a Task

1. Design a multiple choice quiz on the topic of the Pietà.
2. Design a **detailed** mind map outlining the Pietà.
3. Design a **detailed** visual poster outlining the Pietà.

## Exam Question

*Explain what the Pietà reveals about a Catholic understanding of suffering. (8 marks)*

For each sentence, use PEEA (Point, Evidence, Explain, Analysis).

For example:

P – Make your point

E – Back it up with evidence or examples

E – Explanation (link back to the statement)

A – Say what is good or bad about the point you have just made

Symbol of an open wound

Viewers have pointed out that the deep shadow created by the fold of the garment next to Jesus is a **symbol of an open wound**, reminding us that the one she holds in her arms is the one she **carried in her womb**, and inviting us to **share the pain of her sorrow**.

## Stillness

Some viewers are **surprised by the stillness on Mary's face**, considering she is **holding the body of her dead son**. Mary seems **at peace** with what has happened to her son.



## Open Palm

**Mary's left hand** is positioned with an **open palm**; this again is a sign that **Mary is at peace** after witnessing her son's crucifixion and **accepts what has happened**.



## The Large Figure of Mary

Mary is shown **supporting the body of a fully-grown man** on her lap. In reality, that is **difficult for the average woman to do**. In the Pietà, Mary's **figure is larger than that of Jesus**. Her bottom half forms a **sturdy base** for the body of Jesus. Even though this piece is life-like, it is **not realistic**. Mary's size **makes Jesus look small** in comparison. This is another echo of **Mary as the mother of the infant Jesus**; as if she is holding a baby in her arms.

This **represents the love of a mother** and many mothers who have lost their own children report that the **statue is a strange sort of comfort for them**.



**S** Surprised at the Stillness of the face

**P** Palm open, Mary is at Peace

**L** Large Figure of Mary Love of a mother

**A** Ambivalence to suffering A source of blessing

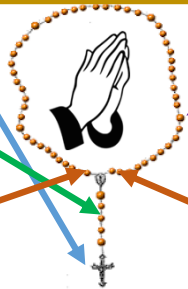
**S** Shadow Symbol - open wound

**H** Holiness

# THE ROSARY

**Popular piety** is a form of devotion. It refers to forms of worship or prayer that are *inspired by culture* rather than the liturgical worship of the Church. A good examples is the rosary.

## 1. The crucifix



## 2. The Five Beads

## 3. The Medal

## 4. Decades

## 5. The Medal

## 1. The crucifix

Holding the crucifix at the start of the Rosary, the person reciting the Rosary will say **the Apostles' Creed**.

## 2. The Five Beads

The beads on the string that begins with the crucifix are divided into a **1,3,1 arrangement**. On the first bead an Our Father will be prayed, on the next three Hail Marys will be prayed and on the last one a Glory Be. **Often these prayers are offered for the Pope's special intentions.**

## 3. The Medal

At the end of the string, which is the beginning of the large circle of beads, there is usually a religious medal. The medal is **the beginning and end of one set of mysteries**. The first time the medal is held, an Our Father prayer is prayed at the beginning of the first mystery prayed.

## 4. Decades

Then there comes a set of ten beads, followed by a single bead. **On each of the ten beads a Hail Mary** will be prayed and on the single bead a **Glory Be** will be prayed to **mark the end of one mystery**. On the same bead, an **Our Father** is then prayed to **mark the beginning of the next mystery**. Between these two prayers, it is now the usual custom to recite the **'Oh My Jesus' Fatima Prayer**.

## 5. The Medal

On returning to the medal, a full set of mysteries will have been prayed. This time, whilst holding the medal, the person will say the final Glory Be, final 'Oh my Jesus' prayer and usually the seasonal antiphon to Our Lady, such as the Hail, Holy Queen.

What is it?

The Rosary is one of the oldest and most universally used examples of popular piety. The Rosary is the name given both to a prayer and to the beads that are used in the reciting of the prayer. It consists of three prayers:

## Our Father

## The Hail Mary

## The Glory Be

Each of these prayers is said a set number of times during the reciting of a Rosary. The practice of praying the Rosary is believed to have begun with St Dominic in the thirteenth century. It has been pointed out that anyone who says a full Rosary will have prayed 150 Hail Mary's, which is the same as the number of Psalms in the Bible. Enclosed\* Benedictine Monks will pray all 150 Psalms through the Church's year and it has been suggested that the Rosary was a way for ordinary people to echo this monastic prayer in their ordinary lives.

## How & When Do Catholics Pray the Rosary?

Each of the Rosary's parts has a prayer to accompany it and the Rosary is divided into sets of mysteries which are prayed on different days. There are three traditional sets of mysteries:

## The Joyful

## The Sorrowful

## The Glorious

**Pope St John Paul II** added an additional set of mysteries: **the Luminous Mysteries**. The Rosary is often prayed before and after Mass on weekdays in many parishes. It is also the most usual prayer said when families gather to receive the body of a deceased loved one into their home or into the church on the evening before their funeral. For this reason, the Rosary has become **a powerful way for Catholics to reflect on the meaning of suffering**.

## THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

The mysteries of the Rosary are the focus of the whole prayer. The idea is that while each of the prayer repetitions are made the person is supposed to **think about the meaning of the mysteries**. Each mystery is an **event from the life of Jesus**. The Sorrowful Mysteries are the five that encourage Catholics to think about the meaning and importance of Jesus' suffering and death. **Reflecting on the suffering of Jesus was one of the most important ways in which Catholics were able to find answers to the Problem of Evil**. The Rosary in turn is one of the ways that helps Catholics reflect on the **nature and meaning of this suffering**.



### The agony in the garden

This is when Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane on the night before he died. He prayed to be spared the suffering he knew was to come but in the end accepted God's will out of obedience and love.



### The scourging at the pillar

This is when Pilate had Jesus whipped in an attempt to satisfy those who wanted Jesus to be crucified. It didn't do any good and Pilate (the Roman governor and the judge at Jesus' trial) condemned Jesus to death.



### The crowning with thorns

This is when the soldiers overseeing the crucifixion mocked Jesus, twisting thorns into a crown because he had been charged with claiming to be the King of the Jews.



### Jesus is made to carry his cross

This is when Jesus carried his own cross to Golgotha, the place of his crucifixion.



### Jesus is crucified and dies on the cross

This is when Jesus was nailed to the cross and, after six hours, died on the cross.

KEY TERMS

### Enclosed

Religious orders of monks or nuns who have no contact with the outside world.

### Antiphon

A short hymn to Mary sung at the end of the Rosary and often after morning and evening prayer.

### Mysteries

The Rosary mysteries are reflection on periods of Jesus' birth, life and death that we cannot fully understand.

### Fatima Prayer

A short prayer added to the Rosary after the appearance of Mary to the three young children in the Portuguese village of Fatima in 1917. In one of these appearances, Mary asked the children to add this prayer at the end of each mystery:

**'Oh my Jesus, forgive our sins and save us from the fires of Hell and lead all souls to heaven, especially those in most need of thy mercy.'**

## Knowledge Check

Answer in full sentences or copy out the question.

- What is meant by 'popular piety'?
- What three prayers does the Rosary consist of?
- When is the practice of the Rosary believed to have begun?
- How many times will a person have prayed Hail Mary's after completing the Rosary?
- What is an 'enclosed' Benedictine Monk?
- How many Psalms will enclosed Benedictine Monks pray through the Church's year?
- What are the three traditional sets of mysteries?
- Which Pope added an additional set of mysteries?
- What are these mysteries known as?
- When is the Rosary often prayed?
- What does the Rosary allow Catholics to reflect on?
- What are the 'mysteries' based on?
- What events do the five sorrowful mysteries remember?
- At the start of the Rosary, which Creed is recited?
- Describe how a decade is recited.

## Choose a Task

- Design a multiple choice quiz on the topic of the Rosary.
- Design a **detailed** mind map outlining the Rosary.
- Design a **detailed** visual poster outlining the Rosary.

## Exam Questions

Answer both questions

Remember to use examples and sources of wisdom and authority where possible.

Explain what a rosary is used for. (8 marks)

Explain how the sorrowful mysteries might help Catholics to respond to the problem of evil. (8 marks)



# PILGRIMAGE

# WHY?

**S** Strengthen  
**T** Thanking  
**R** Reflection of sins  
**E** Experience with others  
**T** Thinking about their relationship with God  
**C** Closer to God  
**H** Healing: physical, spiritual, emotional



## Knowledge Check

Answer in full sentences or copy out the question.

1. What is a pilgrimage?
2. Who was Thomas Beckett?
3. Why do many Catholics go on group pilgrimages?
4. Why do many Catholics go to Rome?
5. Who was Bernadette Soubirous?
6. Why do many Catholics go to Lourdes?

## Choose a Task

1. Design a multiple choice quiz on the topic of pilgrimage.
2. Design a detailed mind map outlining pilgrimage.
3. Design a detailed visual poster outlining pilgrimage

## Exam Question

*Explain why Catholic Christians go on pilgrimage.*

**A pilgrimage is a journey to a holy place.** Before modern roads and transport, this could take a very long time. For example, many Catholics in England would walk for many weeks to Canterbury, the ancient shrine of Thomas Beckett (Archbishop of Canterbury, 1161-1170. A saint in the Catholic Church). In Europe they would walk for weeks or months to Santiago di Compostella the supposed resting place of the apostle St James.

Many Catholics still go on pilgrimage, although they don't usually take weeks or months to do it. However, many of the ancient practices of pilgrimage are still common: travelling with groups of pilgrims, praying and fasting on the way to the site, carrying with them the sick and those who are in need of prayers. In this last respect, pilgrimage remains an important way for Catholics to respond to the mystery of suffering. The Catholic Church recognises sites of pilgrimage as important places for prayer and spiritual renewal.

Today

## Group Pilgrimages

A group pilgrimage may help an individual to feel part of the Church community. Pilgrims pray together and feel supported by each other. Going on a pilgrimage can help believers to reflect on their life's journey. It is an opportunity to take time out from every-day life and focus on their journey to God. It is often a journey of self-discovery, especially for those who are sick. Very few sick people come back cured. However, they may come back feeling at peace and able to accept and cope with the problems they face.



- ✓ To help strengthen their faith
- ✓ As a way of thanking God
- ✓ To do a penitential act as a reflection of sorrow for sin
- ✓ To share the experience and their faith with other believers
- ✓ To think about their relationship with God
- ✓ To come closer to God by giving him time and attention
- ✓ To seek physical, spiritual or emotional healing

Many Christians go on pilgrimage to **WALK IN THE FOOTSTEPS** of important people, such as: Jesus, Mary, St Peter...etc. Here are some examples:

## HOLY PLACES TO GO ON PILGRIMAGE

Rome is the Eternal City, centre of the Christian world, home to the popes, and the place where many early Christians were martyred.



Italy



The Holy Land and Jerusalem To walk in the steps of Jesus.

Israel



**Santiago de Compostela** One of the few medieval pilgrim ways to have continued to modern times, pilgrims can still walk the way (Camino) from France to Santiago to venerate the relics of St James the Apostle.



Spain



You need to know about Lourdes for your exam!

**Lourdes** A place of healing for over a century, Catholics visit this place to seek healing for themselves, family and friends. It is where Mary appeared to a young girl named Bernadette.



France

Fatima is the site of the important Marian apparitions, approved by the Catholic Church. The recent popes have all shown great devotion to Our Lady of Fatima.



Portugal

**Walsingham** A place of pilgrimage since medieval times, Our Lady of Walsingham is one of the patrons of England.



England

## LOURDES

### Pilgrimage and Suffering

Pilgrimages help many people learn how to value the role of God in their lives in a new way and find a way to bear the sufferings of life without being defeated by them. One place where this is very evident is in a Catholic pilgrimage shrine called Lourdes, in southern France.

### Bernadette Soubirous

Lourdes became a pilgrimage site after a young girl called Bernadette Soubirous, in the middle of the nineteenth century, had a series of visions of a beautiful lady she later realised was Mary, the mother of Jesus.

These visions happened in a grotto (small cave).

In these visions, amongst other things, the lady told Bernadette to dig in the ground and that from it a spring of healing water would flow. This spring of water is still a central part of the pilgrimage to Lourdes and many visitors, especially the sick and disabled, bathe in the water to seek physical and spiritual healing.



**Blessed Sacrament Processions:** The name given to the bread and wine after they have been blessed (consecrated) by the priest during Mass. Catholics believe that after the consecration the bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ: the real presence of Jesus in the form of bread and wine.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** The ritual in which Catholics confess their sins to a priest and ask for God's forgiveness. Through the prayer of absolution, the priest then declares the person's sins forgiven.

### Visiting the grotto

Pilgrims will visit the grotto, which is the site of the visions, to pray and to offer petitions (a prayer asking God to do something). They take part in torchlight and Blessed Sacrament Processions\*, will usually celebrate Mass daily and take the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation\*.

### The Annual (Yearly) Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Most Catholic dioceses in England and Wales have an annual pilgrimage to Lourdes and will take numbers of young people who volunteer as helpers for the sick and disabled pilgrims. These pilgrimages are often life-changing for the young people involved and are a real and practical way that ordinary people can respond to the mystery of suffering.

Many young people report that it is their work with the sick and disabled that is especially meaningful to them on their pilgrimage, because often these people have borne suffering and sickness (lived with it) their whole life with patience and grace.