

# Religious Studies Revision Guide



**EDUQAS Syllabus B**  
**Component Two:**  
**“Applied Catholic Theology”**

**In this paper you will need to learn 2 separate topics:**

- **Death and the afterlife**
- **Crime and punishment**

## **Component 2 – 2.1: Death and the afterlife**

### **Key Concepts**

<b><u>Death</u></b>	Is the end of physical life. When the physical body ceases completely to function
<b><u>Eternal Life</u></b>	The term used to refer to life in heaven after death. Also, the phrase Jesus uses to describe a state of living as God intends which leads to a life in heaven.
<b><u>Heaven</u></b>	Is for those who have accepted God's grace and forgiveness in this life; they will enjoy an eternal existence in God's presence in the next life. This face to face encounter with God is what is called Heaven.
<b><u>Hell</u></b>	Those who through their own free will ultimately reject God's grace and forgiveness, will have chosen to live forever without God's presence. This total lack of God for all eternity is what we call "Hell."
<b><u>Judgement</u></b>	At the end of our life, we will be faced with an ultimate choice to choose God or reject God. The decision we take leads to judgement and decides whether we 'go' to Heaven or Hell.
<b><u>Magisterium</u></b>	The teaching authority of the Church, exercised by the bishops in communion with the Pope. The magisterium is given grace by the Holy Spirit to faithfully interpret the Scriptures and Tradition.
<b><u>Resurrection</u></b>	The raising of the body to life again after death. Christians believe that Jesus has already experienced resurrection and that all people will experience it at the end of time.
<b><u>Soul</u></b>	The eternal part of a human being given at conception which lives on after the death of the body. Also a name for a human being's rational nature- their mind.

# Catholic teachings on the meaning of death and dying well

Catholics believe that death is not the end of our existence

Jesus taught that those who believe in him would have eternal life; they would go on to live with God after death.

**Many passages in the Bible teach Catholics there is life after death.**

“I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live even though they die.....” (John 11:25)

“For God loved the world so much that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but shall have eternal life” (John 3:16)

This belief should affect the way Catholics live their lives

- It gives meaning and purpose to their lives
- It affects how they should treat those who are dying
- It affects how they approach death themselves

## **Dying well**

For Catholics, it is important to help those who are facing death to:

**Respect the value of their life until their natural death** ~ This means a **complete rejection of euthanasia and assisted suicide** within Catholic teaching. Instead, Catholics **promote the work of hospices** that provide palliative care when a cure is no longer possible. Hospices help a patient to **maintain dignity through pain relief** and care until the very end of life.

**Prepare them to die well** ~ This includes allowing them to **spend time with family** and making sure that **they have their financial affairs in order** to reduce worry and stress about inheritance etc. They may even be encouraged to **plan their funeral** and certainly **to make peace with family and friends** that they have had a grievance with. For those who are in pain, “*preparing for death*” may also involve **palliative care** (*care that is based on relief of pain and suffering*) which we will look at in more detail later.

**Provide rituals to support the grieving** ~ This involves **the funeral service which includes imagery and symbols** that reflect belief in hope of eternal life. **Prayers are said** for those who have died and the **belief of eternal life is often explored through music and art.**



## Catholic teaching on assisted suicide and euthanasia

Euthanasia and assisted suicide are both way of ending someone's life before its 'natural end'.

**Euthanasia:** The term means a 'good' or 'gentle' death. This term is used to refer to a procedure where a medical professional gives medication to end the life of a person who is suffering unbearable pain from a prolonged incurable condition. Voluntary euthanasia is done on the request of the individual whose life will be ended.

**Assisted suicide;** This term is used when an individual seeks help to end their own life in a pain free / reduced process. Some countries have changed their laws to permit assisted suicide.

The Catholic Church are completely against euthanasia or assisted suicide.

- This teaching is based on the belief that all human life is sacred.
- Life is a gift from God and so should be respected *from contraception to its natural end.*
- Euthanasia go against the sanctity of life and against the instruction in the Ten Commandments – 'Do not murder'.

Instead they would promote the work of hospices and other organisations that provide palliative care (care for those who are terminally ill and their families). When treatment to cure a medical condition is no longer possible.

### Palliative Care

Unfortunately, the end of life can be a lengthy time for some people, especially with illnesses such as cancer or MND. It may also involve a lot of pain or discomfort. PALLIATIVE CARE aims to control pain. Medication is given that will help to improve the quality of life and therefore the dignity of the person. Doctors working in hospices are experts in pain control medication.

The Catholic Church AND many other religious / non-religious people support palliative care because it respects the value of the human being until their natural death. In 1995, Pope St John Paul II published a document (Evangelium Vitae ~ Good News of Life) that clearly supported palliative care because:

- It allows people to reject treatments that are too painful and difficult
- It allows people to feel dignified and that their life still has quality and meaning.



***Pendleside Hospice***  
*Hospice Care for Burnley & Pendle*

## Different views on the quality and sanctity of life

**Sanctity of life** – Is the principle that life is sacred and should not be ended

**Quality of life** – is the general well-being of the person, the belief that life must have some benefits to make it worth living.

### **Sanctity of life**

Catholics believe that all human life is sacred and holy. Life is a gift from God; it is precious and should be respected from conception to its natural death.

# ALL LIFE IS SACRED

“Thou shall  
not kill”  
*Exodus*

Palliative care and  
hospices are a valid  
alternative to a painful,  
undignified death



“Life belongs to God  
from conception until  
its natural end”  
*Catechism*

“I have knitted you in the  
womb...you are mine”  
*Jeremiah*

In his letter “Evangelium Vitae” ~ Pope St John Paul II said “I confirm that euthanasia is a grave violation against the law of God”

### **Quality of life**

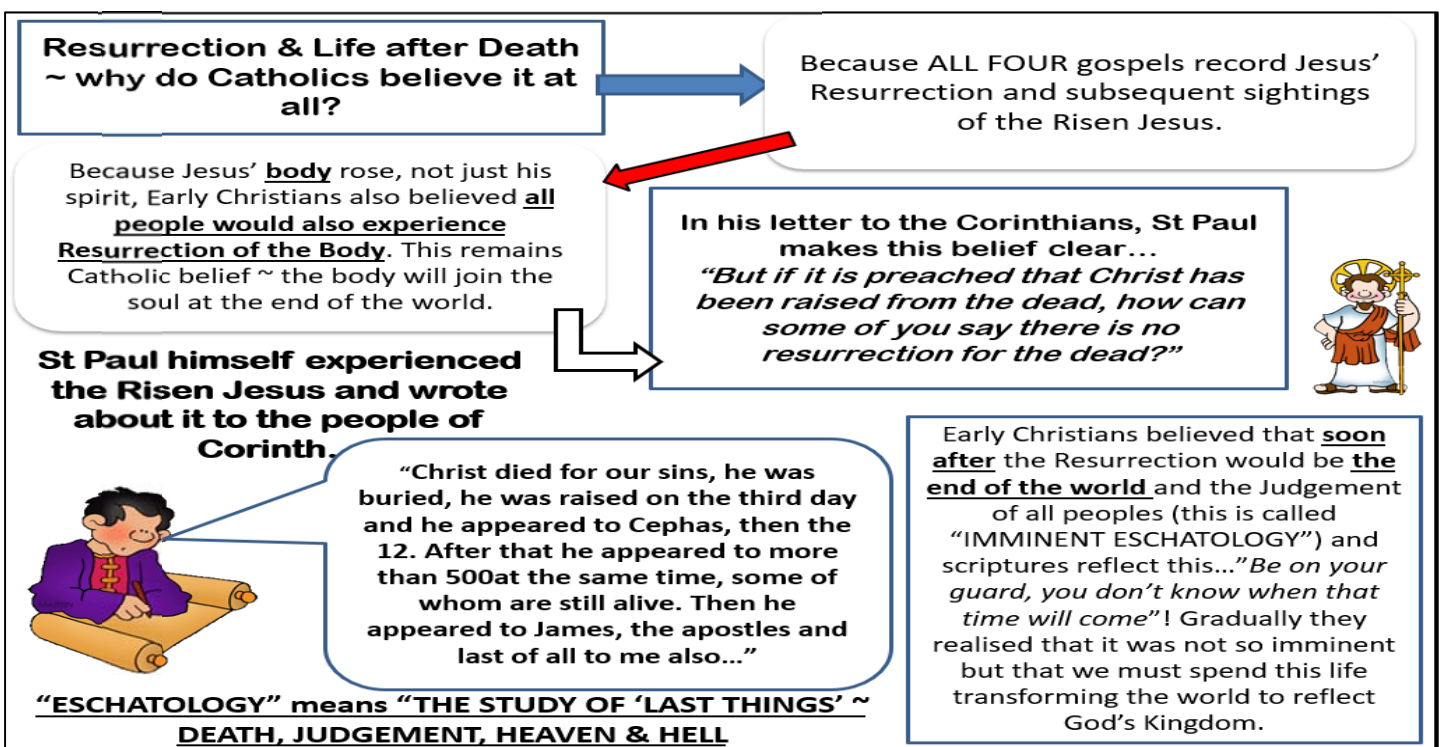
Some argue that the quality of life is more important than the idea that life belongs to God. If a person is in constant pain they could be seen to have a poor quality of life. Some people would argue that if a person has a poor quality of life they should have a right to die.

**\*\*However, there are problems with measuring quality of life as it is very subjective.**

## Different views on the right to die argument

<p><b>For the right to die</b> Quality of life arguments</p>	<p><b>Against the right to die</b> Sanctity of Life arguments</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Many think it's a basic human right to have control about ending your life.</li> <li>Advances in medicine have led to people being kept alive who would have previously died. These people should have the right to a painless death.</li> <li>Those who believe in free will think it's ethically wrong to keep someone alive who has no hope of recovery.</li> <li>The teaching of Jesus on loving your neighbour can be used to justify assisted suicide, because it might be the most loving thing to do.</li> <li>We do not let animals suffer so why humans?</li> <li>People have a right to refuse medical treatment, so why not a right to ask for Euthanasia.</li> <li>People with terminal illnesses want to control when they die so that they can die with dignity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Life is created by God and so it is up to God and not humans when people die.</li> <li>If Euthanasia is legalised the research into terminal illness may be affected.</li> <li>People may want to live but may go through with Euthanasia because they think they are a burden on their family and society.</li> <li>Accepting Euthanasia is a slippery slope. It is a short step from voluntary to compulsory euthanasia.</li> <li>The role of doctors is to support life and not destroy it. Would patients trust their doctors?</li> <li>People might change their minds about wanting to die but then it would be too late</li> <li>All life is special and worthy of protection.</li> </ul>

## Catholic beliefs about life after death





## Catholic belief in resurrection of the body

In 1 Corinthians, Paul teaches that Jesus rose from the dead and that what happened to Jesus will also happen to his followers. Resurrection is the belief that after death people will have a bodily existence. Paul teaches that people will have a resurrection like Jesus and will have a spiritual resurrection given to them by God.

When Jesus rose, his body was familiar but at times his disciples did not recognise him.

### **Earthly bodies are different to heavenly bodies, according to St Paul...**

*"The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body" (1 Corinthians 15)*

**Remember...Jesus' Risen body was somehow different...it was not recognised immediately!**

**St Paul believed that the body and soul go together. He believed that somehow, our heavenly spiritual bodies are BOTH body and soul, we do not become "disembodied souls"!**



## Those who disagree with Catholics ...



- **Some Christians** believe that ONLY the soul will live on. Near Death Experiences may encourage the belief that the body and soul are totally separate (philosophers call this "dualism").
- **Hindus and Buddhists** also believe in the soul but believe it is placed in a different body after death. This is called Reincarnation. (Some people believe they can remember past lives??)
- **Most atheists** believe there is no soul and life does not continue after death. It is the complete end of a human existence.

## ESCHATOLOGY

**In Christianity, Eschatology is the study of what happens at the 'end times' or the 'end of the world'. The Catholic Church's teaching is summarised in the four last things:**

- Death
- Judgment
- Heaven
- Hell

## Judgment

Catholics believe that when a person dies, God passes judgment on his or her soul. Each person is responsible for their own actions. There will be a final judgment when the whole of creation is judged. This idea is found in the parable of the sheep and goats.

In the gospels, Jesus refers a few times to our judgement in the afterlife...

*" This is how my heavenly father will treat you unless you forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart"*

(**Parable of the Unforgiving Servant** when the master punishes the wicked servant)

In a story called **the Rich man and Lazarus**, the rich man refuses to help the beggar Lazarus, who eventually dies and goes to heaven. When the rich man dies, he is sent to hell...

*"In your lifetime you received good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted and you are in agony".*

### Heaven

Christians believe that a person who has lived a holy life will be rewarded with eternal happiness in heaven. Heaven is to be at one with God. In the Bible, Heaven is often referred to as a banquet or feast, but Christian ideas about it vary widely. The Bible teaches that there is no pain or sadness in heaven. Christians take this to mean that heaven is a holy, happy and peaceful state of being with God. Christians agree that it is difficult to accurately describe what it is like as we have not experienced it.

### Hell

Christianity teaches that Hell is a place reserved for those who are not sorry for the sins they have committed. Hell is often thought of as a place of eternal fire and suffering and eternal separation from God. Many people have a problem with the idea that an all-loving God would allow people to go to hell. However, Christians believe God is just and fair and so cannot let evil go unpunished.

**All Christians believe that the world to come will be very different to the life we live now and therefore those who have died need to be prepared for the change. They need to transfer from the sinfulness of this world to the purity of the next. Catholics believe in a state before heaven that is called purgatory.**

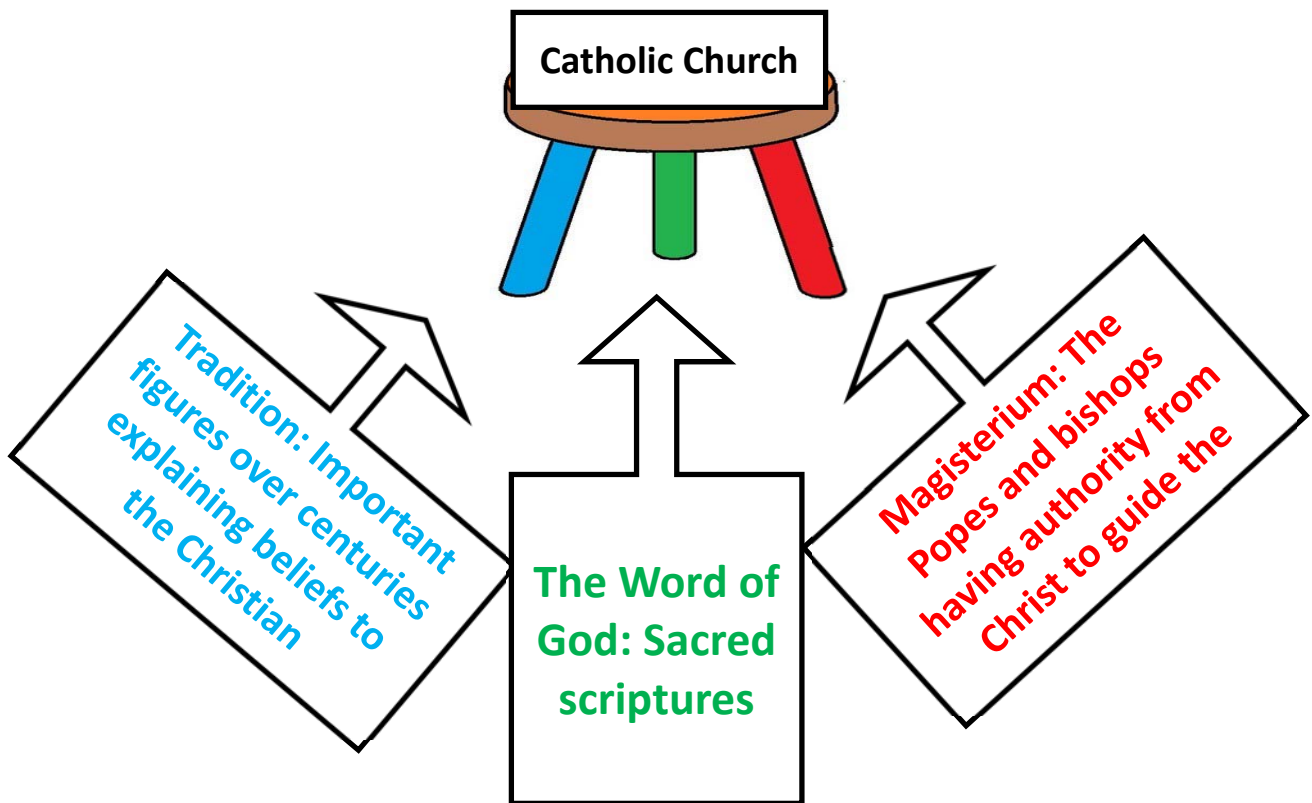
### Purgatory

A state of purifying, a time of cleansing and preparation to enter heaven. St. Paul used the image of fire to represent purgatory – A place of purifying fire. In other words, a place for those people who have died with unforgiven sins to prepare them for heaven. ***Protestant Christians do not accept the idea of purgatory.***

Catholics believe that they can help the souls in purgatory by praying for them. There is a long tradition of praying for the dead. Catholics can ask God for mercy to forgive the Soul's sins so that they can enter heaven.

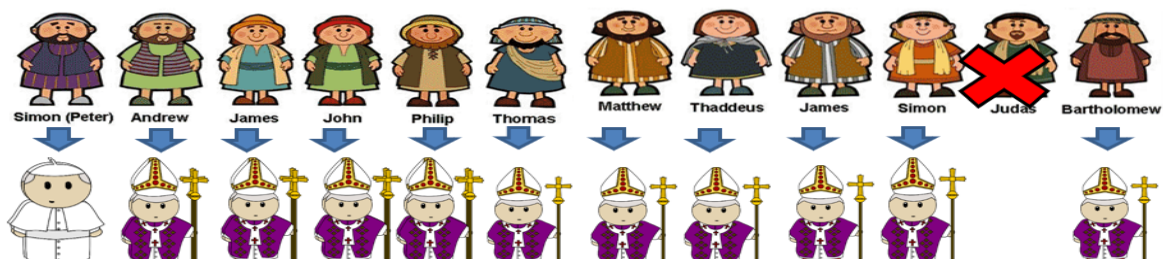


## Where does the authority of the Catholic Church come from?



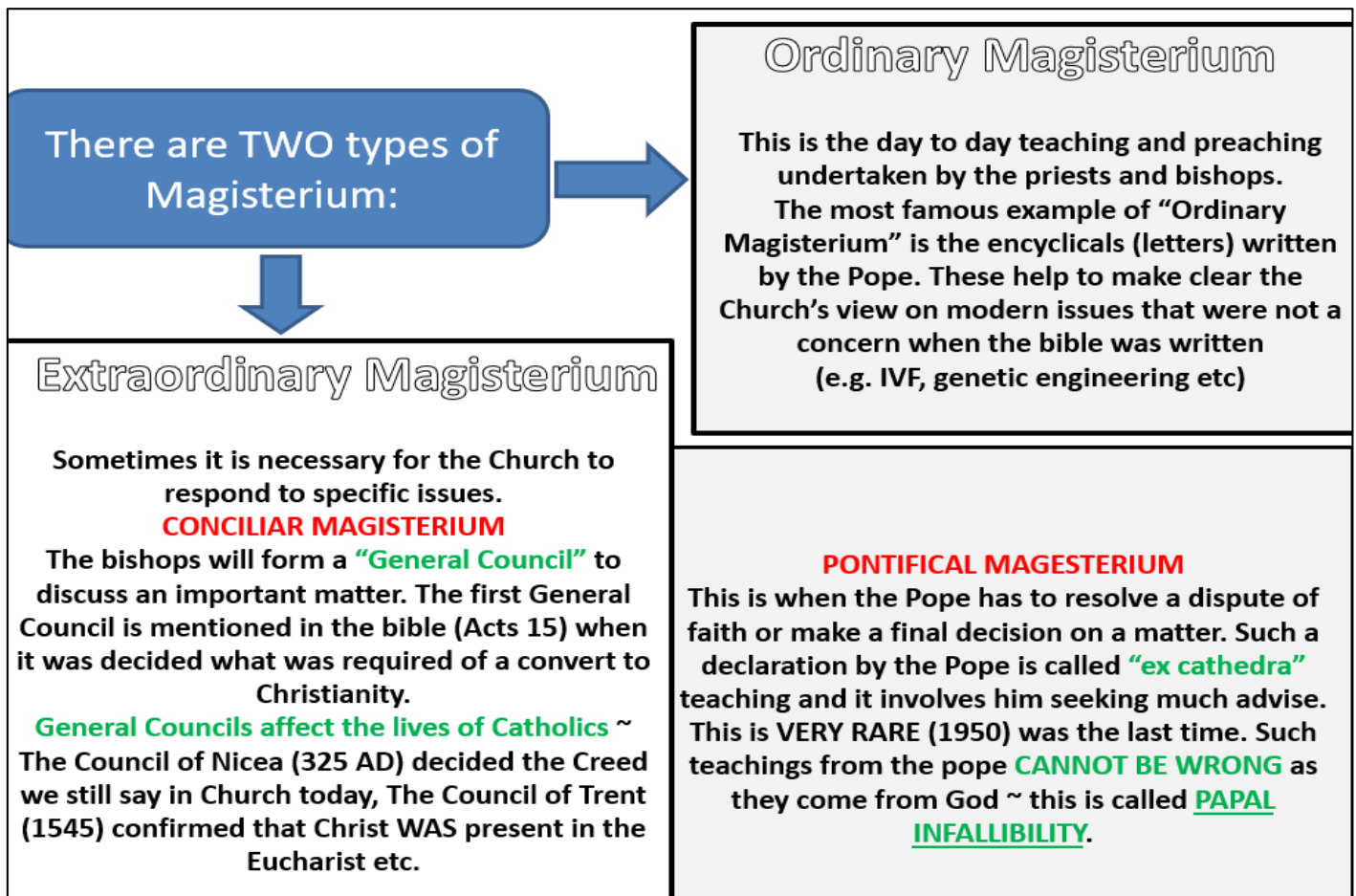
For the exam; the source of authority you need to know about is the Magisterium

- Magisterium comes from the Latin word "**magister**" meaning "master" or "teacher".
- After he rose from the dead, Christ instructed his Apostles to "**make disciples of all nations**".
- This is where the authority of priests first came from ~ Jesus himself!
- **All bishops are "descended" from the Apostles** and so they have the same authority from Jesus ~ this is called **APOSTOLIC SUCCESSION**:



It is the responsibility of the Pope and the bishops to make sure that the teachings of Jesus are protected. **They have the authority to make decisions on beliefs about Faith and Moral issues.** The Magisterium can address issues that are not contained within the Bible. Catholics believe that the Holy Spirit guides the Pope and the Bishops in their decisions.

**\*\*\*Remember – The Magisterium is specific to Catholic Christians, and therefore the teachings from the magisterium will only effect Catholics. \*\*\***



## **The Second Vatican Council (Vatican II)**

The most recent General council was in the 1960's. It was known as the 'Second Vatican Council' (Vatican II) because it was the second one to be held at the Vatican, in Rome. It was called by **Pope St John XXIII on 11<sup>th</sup> October 1962** and completed under **Pope Paul VI on 8 December 1965.**

It is important to know the context of this council. The Second World War ended in 1945. In the years that followed there was considerable change in society, technology and in politics. John XXIII became Pope in 1958 and wanted the Catholic Church to respond to these changes and to represent the faith in this new 'world'. The Council published sixteen documents.

### DEI VERBUM

#### **(Divine Revelation)**

**MAIN MESSAGE:** The importance of being familiar with the bible. It explains how the Bible and Church are inspired by the Holy Spirit. It recommends people study the bible and use it in their prayers.

**IMPACT:** More experts in the bible and more bible study groups in churches.

### SACROSANCTUM CONCILIUM

#### **(Sacred Liturgy)**

**MAIN MESSAGE:** Every Mass used to be said in Latin and the priest faced the altar (and away from the people). The Council wanted people to understand what was going on so it changed to local language and the priest faced the people.

**IMPACT:** The parishioners are more involved in the service and know what is happening at every stage.

#### Vatican II ~ The Four Key Documents

### LUMEN GENTIUM

#### **(Church)**

**MAIN MESSAGE:** The Church emphasised that the ordinary people of the Church were as important as the priests and bishops. Ordinary people were encouraged to participate in the Mass.

**IMPACT:** People reading, doing the offertory and ministers of the Eucharist etc.

### GAUDIUM ET SPES

#### **(Modern World)**

**MAIN MESSAGE:** Encouraged people to engage with the world ~ in poverty work, technology and science. Wanted the Church to be a source of "joy & hope" to the world.

**IMPACT:** Huge impact! CAFOD was established. Parishes have charity groups and Peace groups. Also the CARJ was established (Catholic Association for Racial Justice)

### Changes brought about by Vatican II

Before the Council	After Vatican II
Mass was said in Latin	Mass was now said in the local language, so people could understand what was being said.
The priest and congregation faced the altar to show the link between the Eucharist and Jesus' sacrifice	The altar turned around and the priest faces the people, so everyone can see. This encourages a sense of community and participation
The priest leads everything	Lay people are encouraged to read in Mass and be Eucharistic Ministers. More women get involved.
The congregation only receive communion in the form of bread	Communion under both bread and wine are encouraged.
Bible readings did not play a big part in the lives of many Catholics.	More emphasis on Bible readings. Catholics are now encouraged to read scripture.
Catholics were encouraged to see themselves as different from other Christians and not to mix with them. Catholics were not allowed to go to protestant Churches.	A focus was placed on what all Christians have in common rather than what divided them.
Catholics were closed off to other religions and cautious of world views.	Open to dialogue with people of other Faiths especially Judaism.

## Artefacts

- Artefacts are objects made by humans.
- Some artefacts within the Christian Church deliberately portray Christian beliefs about things such as eternal life.
- We are going to study one particular artefact called a SARCOPHAGUS.
- A sarcophagus is a stone coffin with carved images on it ~ often featuring scenes from the bible
- The sarcophagus you need to know is called JESUS' PASSION (*Jesus' Passion means the events of the last period of Jesus' life, ending with his crucifixion* ~ "*Passion*" means "*suffering*" in Latin)

This panel shows Simon of Cyrene being instructed to carry Jesus' cross by the Romans:

This next panel shows Jesus being given the crown of thorns ~ this was a mockery of Jesus **but has come to be seen as a crown of victory by Christians because his death triumphed over sin:**

This panel depicts the time that Jesus was presented to Pontius Pilate for trial (he was the Roman Governor)...



"Jesus' Passion"  
Sarcophagus  
(Museo Pio Cristiano,  
Vatican)

... which links to the panel next to it where Pilate, who saw no reason to execute Jesus, gave in to the pressure of the crowd. He washes his hands as a symbol that he takes no responsibility for the execution.

Finally, in the centre is the Christian CHI-RHO symbol ~ this represents Christ and **is an ancient symbol of the Resurrection**. It is made up of the first two Greek letters of the word CHRIST;  
Chi = X  
Rho = P

It is wrapped in a wreath (**Roman symbol of victory**) and placed in the beaks of two eagles (**representing God** as Eagles were a symbol of the Roman god Jupiter)

Despite the horrendous suffering of the Passion, Jesus death was ultimately a victory for Christians because it **overcame sin** and through the Resurrection, gave us the hope of eternal life with God

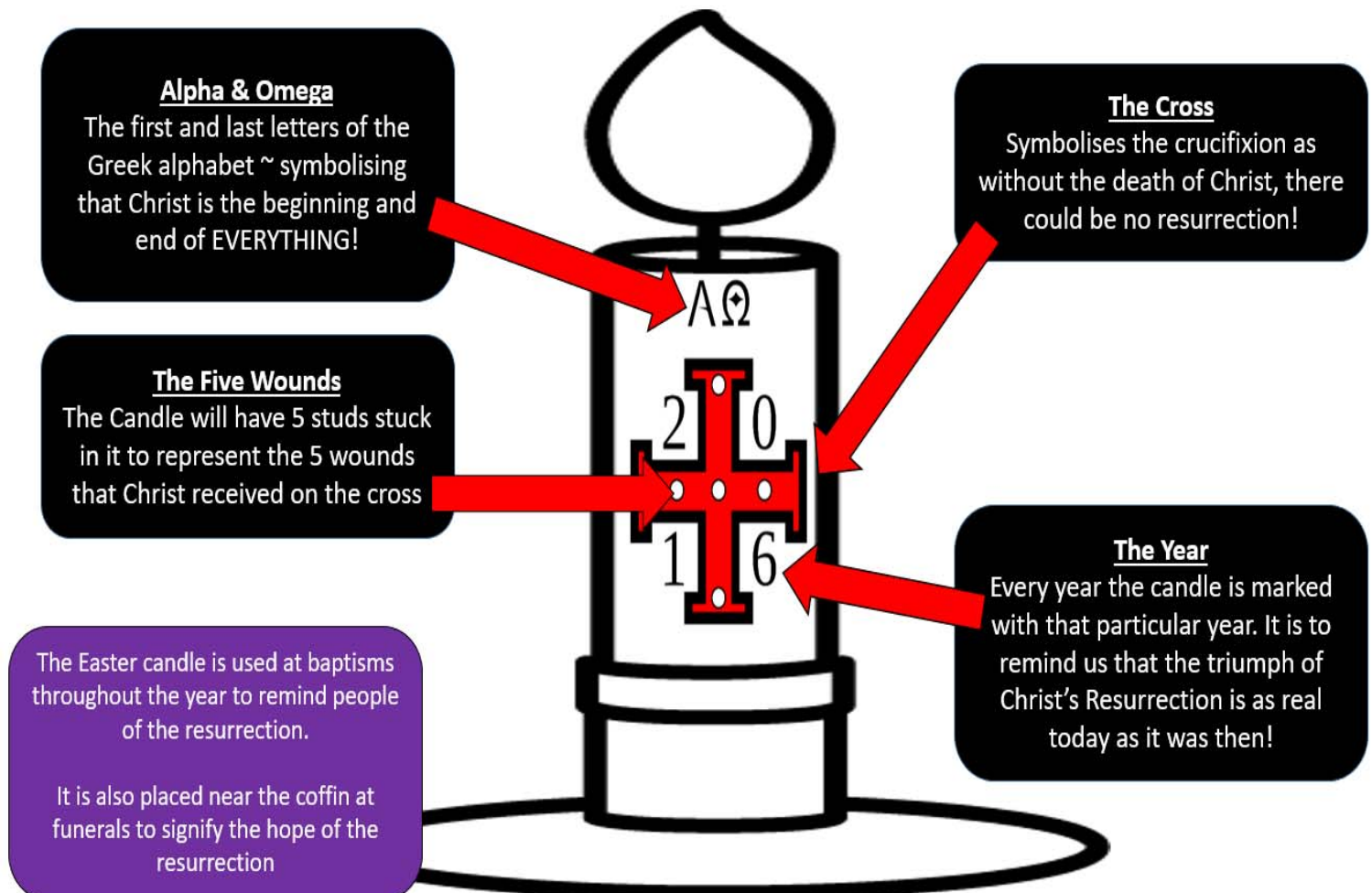


## What is the Paschal candle?

- It is a special candle used particularly during the Easter Vigil and the Catholic Baptism
- It symbolises the Resurrection of Christ

## How is it used in the Easter vigil?

- At the beginning of the Easter Vigil, the Church is in darkness.
- The Paschal Candle is lit at the back of the church and processed through.
- This symbolises Christ “The Light of the World” conquering the “darkness of sin”.
- The Paschal Candle has a number of symbols on it to reinforce Catholic belief in Jesus’ triumph over sin.
- It is placed in a prominent place in church and lit every Sunday from Easter to Pentecost as a reminder of Jesus’ triumph over sin!





# Music in the Catholic mass:



## ALLELUIA:

This is a chant for welcoming the Gospel. The congregation stand and sing the alleluia as a way of acknowledging the importance of the teachings of Jesus.

## EUCCHARISTIC ACCLAMATIONS:

In preparing to receive the Body of Christ, the congregation sing the "Holy, Holy" and the "Lamb of God". It is believed singing (either in ancient Latin or in a modern way), highlights the importance and significance of the Eucharist for Catholics.

## THE GLORIA:

This is a great song of praise for God, said towards the beginning of Mass. It is sung with great joy!

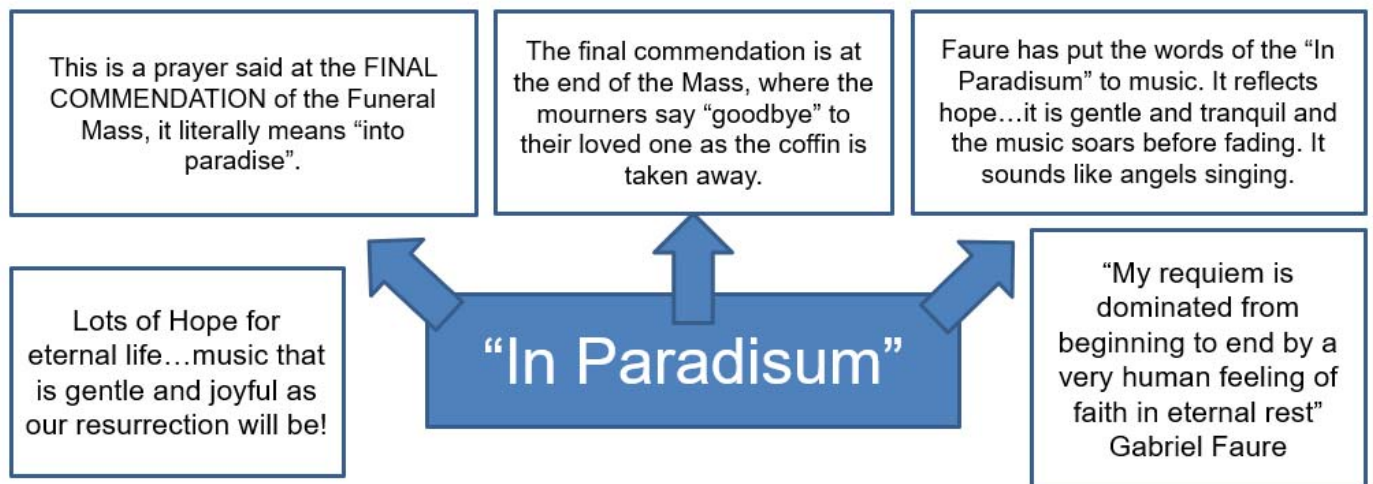
## HYMNS:

Hymns can be sung throughout the Mass and may be ancient, traditional or modern. They can support quiet prayer and can be used loudly with great joy! They often accompany the procession of bread and wine to the altar.

## How music expresses Catholic beliefs about eternal life: Faure's Requiem

### Faure's "Requiem":

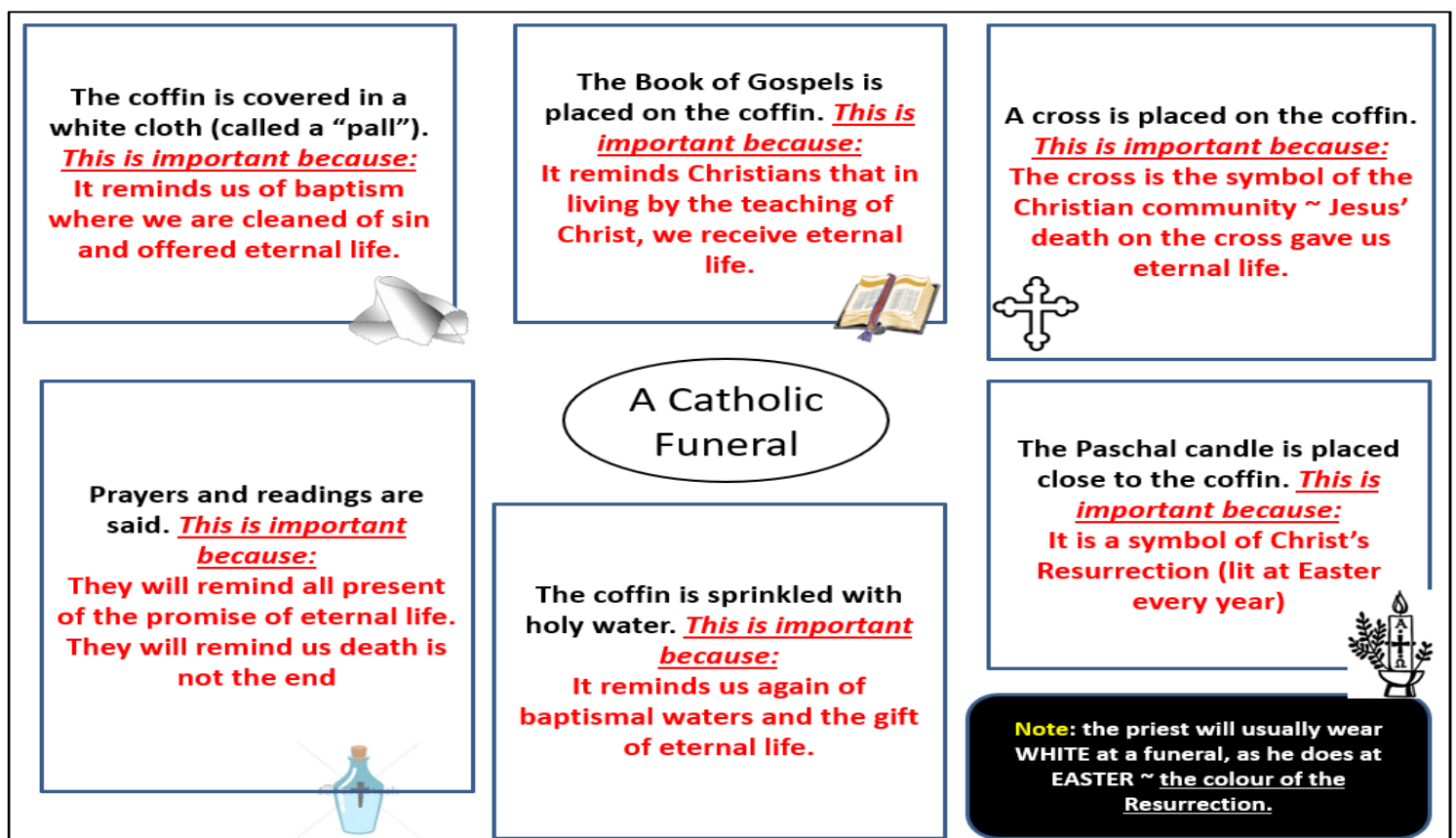
- A "**requiem**" is a mass for a funeral. Many composer's have written beautiful "Requiems".
- The word "Requiem" comes from the **Latin for "rest"**.
- **Gabriel Faure** (1845-1924) wrote his after the death of his Father.
- He wanted to show through music that you can be **sad about death while still having great hope and joy about eternal life!**
- The **beginning is solemn** ~ reflecting the **sadness of death**.
- Then it becomes **uplifting**, using **soprano (high) angelic voices, harps and violins** to reflect the **joy of resurrection!**



"May the angels lead you into paradise; may the martyrs receive you at your arrival and lead you to the holy city Jerusalem. May choirs of angels receive you and may you have eternal rest."

## The Catholic Funeral Rite

*A variety of symbols and actions are used during a catholic funeral to remind the family and friends of the deceased person of their faith and resurrection. The purpose is to allow the family to grieve for the dead person, to celebrate the love they have for them and to find comfort in the hope that they have gone on to eternal life.*

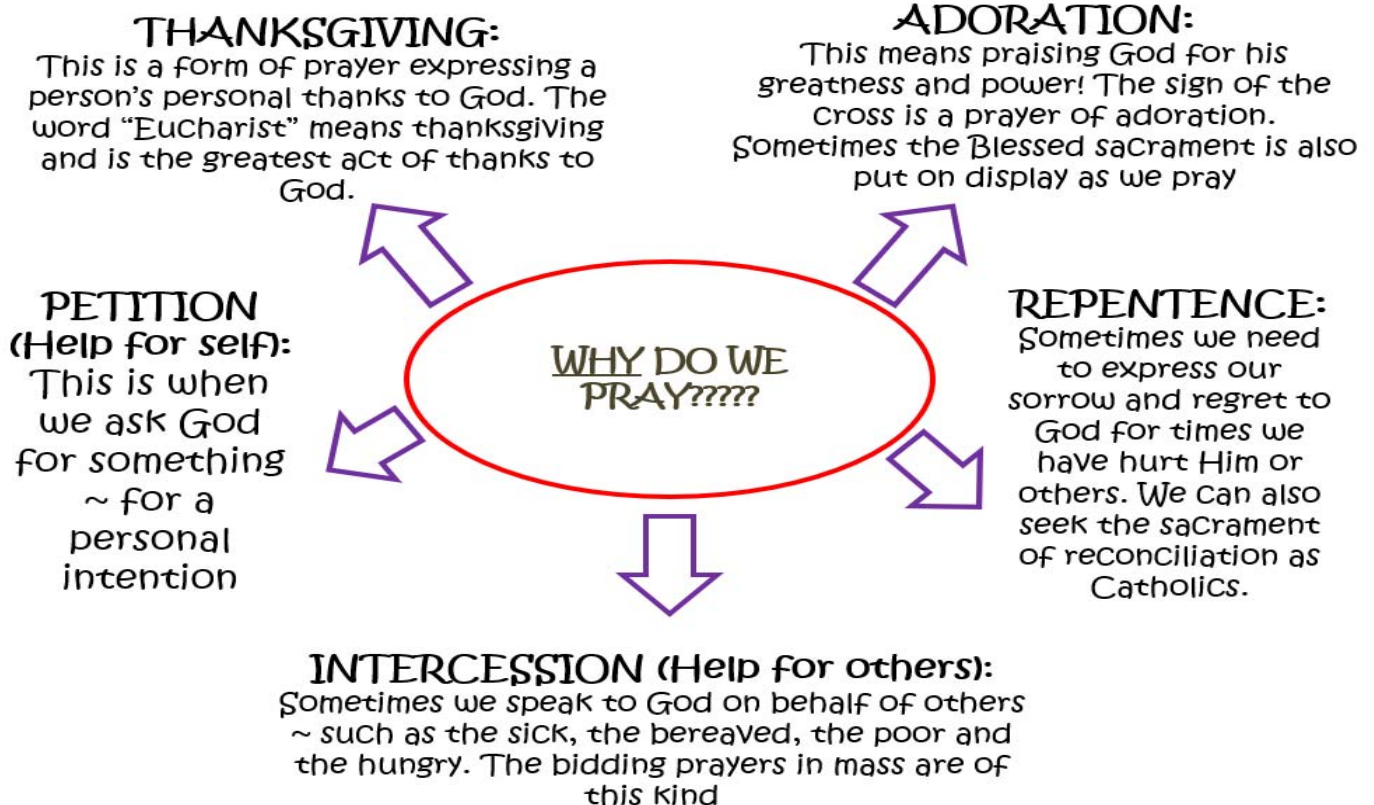


## Prayer within Catholic communities

Prayer is the central way that believers use to communicate with God. **The CCC defines it as “raising the heart and mind to God.”** It can take many different forms ~ it can be silent, or out loud ~ it can be formal and written down or spontaneous, off the top of your head! Prayer is a way of bringing us closer to God and improving and deepening our relationship with Him.



### Why do Catholics pray?



Catholics have a long tradition of praying for the dead – These prayers reflect what we believe happens after we die.

- They ask God to welcome the deceased into his presence, so they can have eternal life in heaven. The most common prayer is the 'Eternal Rest'
- A Catholic might ask a priest to offer Mass for a relative or friend that has died. The person's name may be mentioned during the Eucharistic prayer.

## Prayer usually takes two different forms:

### Formulaic Prayers ("set prayers")

Christians often use set prayers in worship ~ following a familiar 'formula' e.g. The hail Mary, The Eternal Rest and the Our Father.

The Rosary is a good example of a catholic formulaic prayer ~ following a familiar, routine pattern.

Priests, nuns and monks also have a set formulaic prayer called "Liturgy of the Hours" ~ said at set times of the day.

### Extempore prayers ('random / spontaneous prayer')

Some Christians believe formulaic prayers can be simple routine and not be heartfelt ~ so they use their own words to communicate with God.

Some Christians feel moved by the Holy Spirit in worship and express unusual sounds that are hard to understand ~ this is called "Charismatic prayer" or "speaking in tongues".

*The Our Father is an example of formulaic prayer, it is a model for prayer because it includes; Adoration, Thanksgiving, Intercession, Petition and Repentance*

### **The Our Father ~ a formulaic prayer**

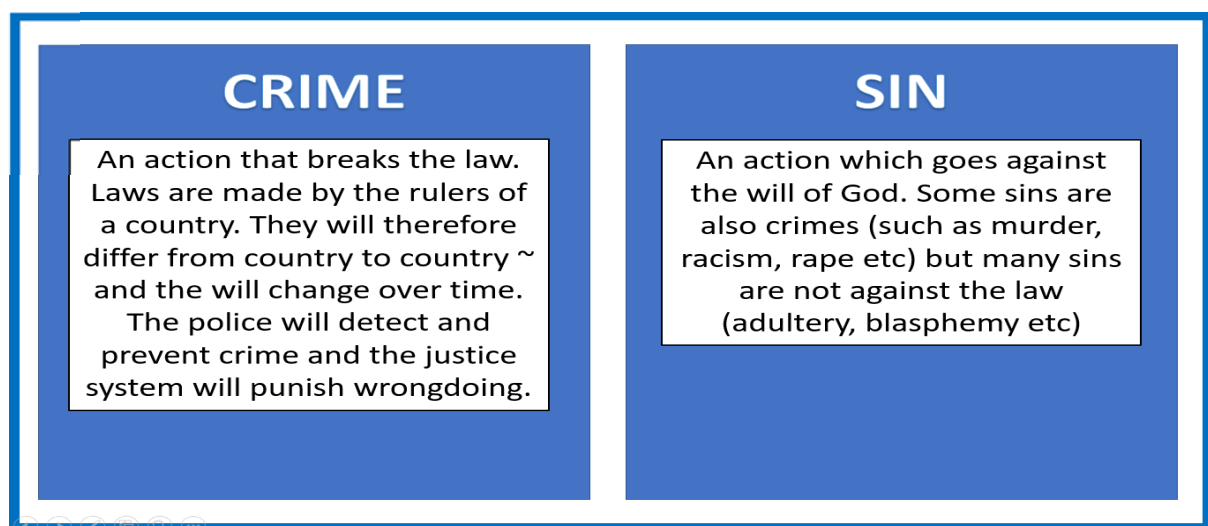




## Component 2 – 2.2: Crime and punishment

### Key Concepts

<b>Absolutism</b>	The belief that there are certain actions that are always right or always wrong. The belief that moral laws exist eternally and are not just human inventions.
<b>Eucharist</b>	Meaning “thanksgiving”. The name Catholics use to describe the rite where the bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus and is received by the people. Also the name for the real presence of Jesus in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.
<b>Evangelisation</b>	Literally means spreading the “good news” which we translate as Gospel. The sharing of the Gospel and life of Jesus with others.
<b>Forgiveness</b>	The act of pardoning someone for the offences they have caused you. Overlooking a person’s faults.
<b>Punishment</b>	The consequences of a wrong decision and a penalty imposed by a person in authority on the person who has committed wrongdoing.
<b>Relativism</b>	The belief that there is no moral law and that rules that govern what is right and wrong are human inventions and change from place to place and from age to age.
<b>Salvation</b>	The belief that through Jesus’ death and resurrection humanity has achieved the possibility of life forever with God.
<b>Sin</b>	Acting against the will or laws of God.





## Making Moral decisions

Deciding what is right and wrong is known as morality. Making decisions on how we should behave can be very complex. There are two common forms of morality.

***Absolute morality*** and ***Relative morality***.

### **Absolute morality**

This is when a person has a principle such as 'stealing is wrong'. **This applies in all situations, no matter what the context or circumstance.**

For example, stealing is always wrong. It would be wrong for me to steal food, even if my family were starving.

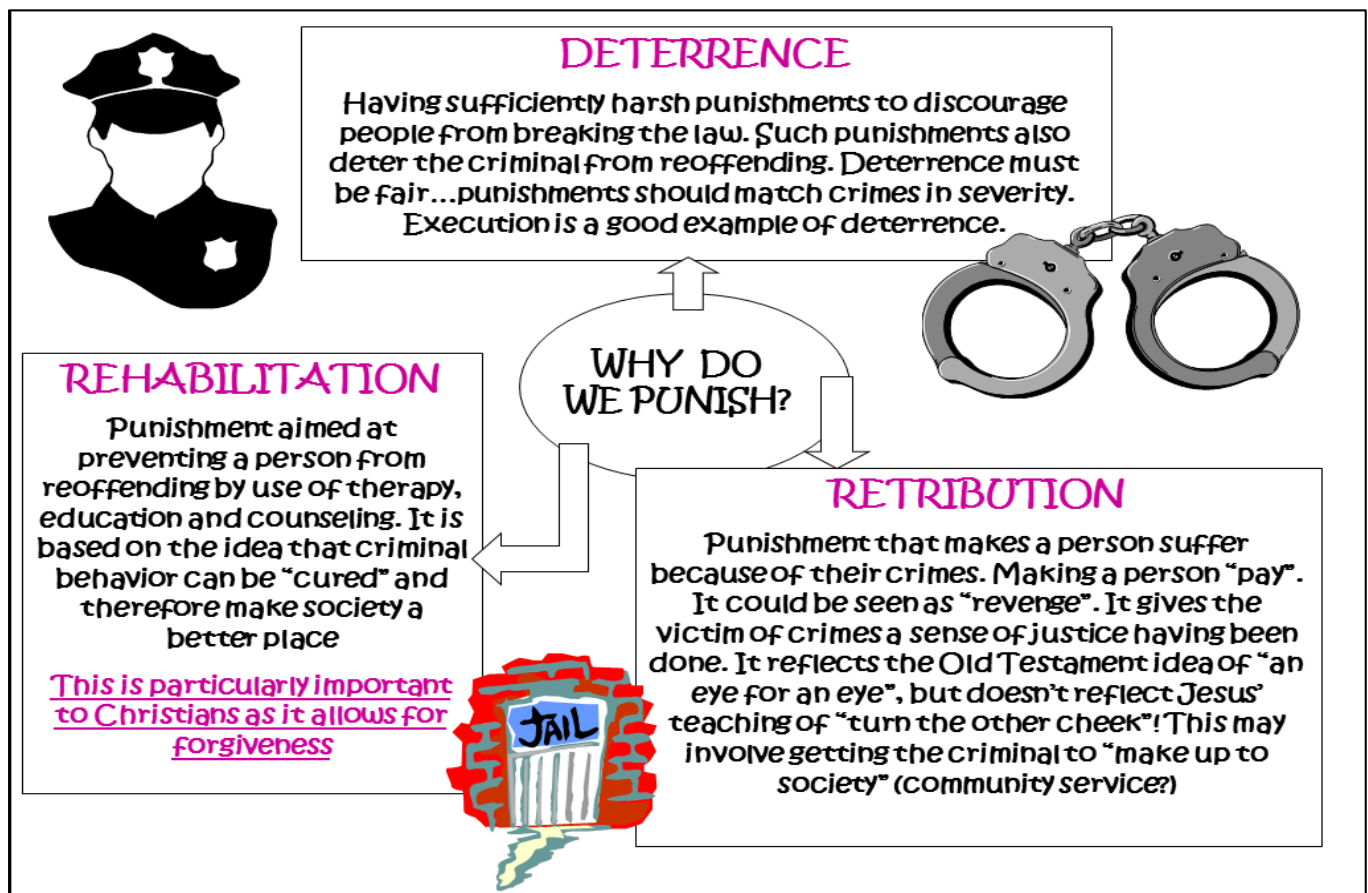


### **Relative morality**

This is the idea that a moral principle **can be changed depending on the situation.**

For example, stealing is wrong, but if I have no other way to get food then stealing is acceptable. I might think killing is wrong, but if I need to defend myself then it might be reasonable to do so.

## Why do we punish?



## Christian teachings about forgiveness

### Why is forgiveness important to Christians?

#### The parable of the unforgiving servant

A servant owed the king the equivalent of millions of pounds. When he begged the king to be patient with him, the king took pity on him and cancelled the debt.

The servant left the palace and met a fellow servant who owed him just a few pounds. He asked him to be patient with him, but the servant had his fellow servant thrown into prison for not paying him back.

The king heard and had his servant handed over to jailers to be tortured. Jesus then said

*"This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart,*

*"Matthew Chapter 18*

Peter then asked Jesus..." how many times must we forgive a person, seven times?"

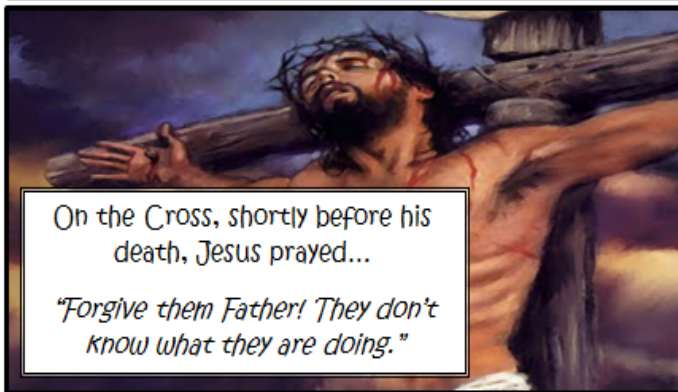
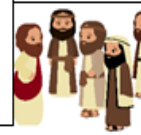
"Not 7 times" Jesus answered, "but 77 times!"

In other words, there is no limit to forgiveness!

In Matthew's gospel, Jesus said "If you forgive other people when they have sinned against you, your father in heaven will do the same. If you refuse to forgive others, your father will not forgive your sins"

Also, The Our father teaches us that forgiveness is important...  
"Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us"

If we want forgiveness from God, we must be willing to forgive others.



On the Cross, shortly before his death, Jesus prayed...

*"Forgive them Father! They don't know what they are doing."*

The woman caught in adultery was told by Jesus to "go away and sin no more"

God will wait for us to return to him and then will readily forgive us!

#### The Forgiving Father ("the prodigal son")

Jesus tells the story of a man who has two sons. The younger son asks his father to give him his portion of the family estate as an early inheritance. Once received, the son promptly sets off on a long journey to a distant land and begins to waste his fortune on wild living. When the money runs out, a severe famine hits the country and the son finds himself in dire circumstances. He takes a job feeding pigs. He is so desperate that he even longs to eat the food given to the pigs. The young man finally comes to his senses, recognising that his fathers hired workers are treated better than this! He decides to return to his father and ask for mercy. **When his son was still a long way off,** the father saw him and ran to welcome his son back with open arms of compassion. He is overjoyed by the return of his lost son! Immediately the father turns to his servants and asks them to prepare a giant feast in celebration.

### Is Forgiveness just "Letting people off"

As well as teaching about forgiveness Jesus also spoke about **justice**. He spoke about God's punishment for wrong-doers in the next life. On Judgement Day, *God will judge all humans based according to how they have behaved.*

It is up to God to judge people and **he will forgive those who are truly sorry for what they have done and want to change.**

Many Christians believe that punishment and forgiveness go together. The main aim of punishment would be to reform.

## Capital Punishment

Capital punishment is also known as the death penalty and it is when a person is put to death or executed because of the crimes they have committed. It was abolished in the UK in 1965 but it is still legal in many countries.

### TRADITIONAL ARGUMENTS:

Arguments for Capital Punishment	Arguments against capital punishment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Acts as a deterrent to others ~ crimes like murder would be more rare</u></li><li>• <u>It is a protection for society ~ removing dangerous people from the streets</u></li><li>• <u>It saves much money that would be spent on life imprisonment.</u></li><li>• The Law of Moses in the Bible stated "an eye for an eye and a life for a life" ~ capital punishment does just that.</li><li>• Christians teach that life is sacred. We should be able to protect ourselves from dangerous criminals.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jesus taught that we should not seek revenge.</li><li>• The 5th Commandment orders "thou shall not kill".</li><li>• <u>A mistake could be made ~ innocent people could be executed.</u></li><li>• <u>The death penalty punishes families as well ~ they grieve for their loved ones</u></li><li>• It doesn't allow the criminal to regret their actions or show sorrow and remorse</li></ul>

The arguments underlined could be used by atheists and religious people

### **The Catholic View on capital Punishment:**

- 1. Traditionally, the catholic Church has allowed, but NOT encouraged capital punishment ~ the CCC states **"assuming the guilty party's identity and responsibility has been FULLY determined, the Church does not exclude the death penalty"**
- 2. St Augustine recommended finding alternatives if possible; **"we would prefer to have them set free than to have the sufferings of others avenged by shedding their blood"**
- 3. St Augustine also said it prevented sorrow and therefore prevented the person from being "saved" by God; **"There is no space to reform character except in this life, once it is ended, they will not be able to bring their punishment to an end"**
- 4. Pope St John Paul II said it should be avoided unless it is the last resort; **"If bloodless means are sufficient to defend humans and protect order... authority must limit itself to such means"**
- 5. Pope Francis has in recent years stated that he is against Capital Punishment and says it is no longer justifiable. He has stated his concern that there is the possibility of the wrong person being killed



## Redemption



God's perfect relationship with man broke down when man first sinned.

### WHAT IS "REDEMPTION"?

But God loves us...so provided a way for human sins to be "paid for" so that our relationship with God could be repaired and restored and we can be with him for eternity after death.



Christians teach that God did this by becoming human (as Jesus) and dying on the cross.

### How did this "save us"?

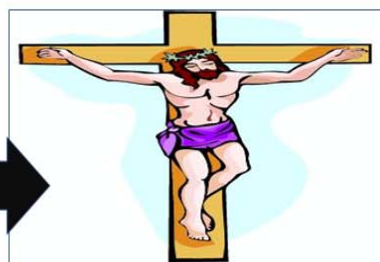


In biblical times, lambs (and other animals) were sacrificed in the hope that relationships with God could be repaired



John The Baptist referred to Jesus as "The Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world"

But because Jesus was DIVINE and perfect, this restored our relationship with God for ALL time, unlike animal sacrifices



So in sacrificing himself, he "paid the price" for our sins. He suffered punishment on behalf of all humans. He achieved salvation and offered that to everyone who believes in him.

## So How can we achieve salvation?

In short, by

- Repenting sins
- Asking for God's forgiveness
- Accepting Jesus as the Son of God and saviour of the world

### What is "Grace"?

It is hoped that receiving this gift may encourage us to live a better life.

This is the love and mercy shown by God because He wants us to have it, not because we have done anything to deserve it! It is free and undeserved!

Catholics believe that Grace is given in a **special way** through the sacraments of **baptism, confirmation, Eucharist and reconciliation**. When we receive these sacraments we should try harder to live a Christian life.

**Salvation** is to be saved from sin and achieve eternal life with God

The purpose of Jesus' life, death & resurrection was to offer salvation freely to ALL.

We do not deserve this grace but it is freely offered out of love.

We can **choose** to accept or reject grace & salvation because of Free Will

**The Paschal Mystery** is one of the central ideas within the Christian faith. It relates to the last few days of Jesus' life, his death and the events after his death.

Christians believe that Jesus was resurrected and that he was then taken from this earth to be with God in an event known as the Ascension.

The last few days of Jesus' life is remembered during Holy week, the week running up to Easter Sunday. The suffering that Jesus went through is known as the passion (from a Latin word meaning "suffering")

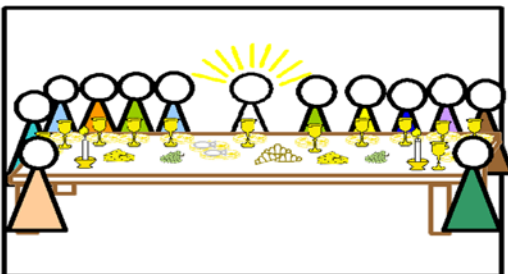
### **The life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus**

**During his *life* Jesus showed people what God is like and how to live.**

- He taught us that God is a loving Father
- Love is at the heart of the Gospel message
- God has a special place for the poor and needy, 'The first will be the last and the last will be the first'
- Jesus showed God's care by forgiving sins and healing the sick.
- Jesus spent his life with the poor and needy.

### **The events of the PASCHAL MYSTERY:**

#### **The Last Supper**

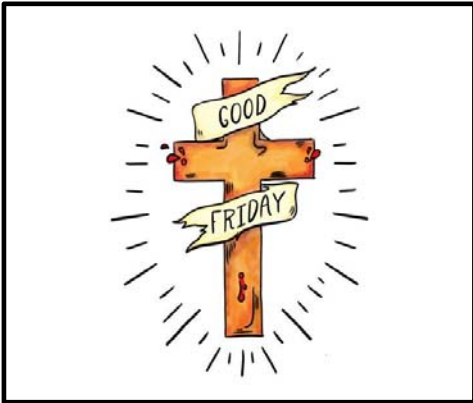


**This was the last meal shared with Jesus and his disciples. It is remembered on Maundy Thursday during Holy Week. During this event:**

- *Jesus promised his disciples he would send the Holy Spirit to them when he left the Earth.*
- *Jesus used the symbols of bread and wine to represent his body which was to be sacrificed on behalf of everyone. Today the symbols are still used in the Catholic Mass.*



## Good Friday, Jesus' arrest, trial and crucifixion



After the supper, Jesus went to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane ~ a time of human sorrow and torment ~ referred to as “The Agony in the Garden”. He was arrested after being betrayed by Judas:

- *Jesus was tried by the Jewish court (The Sanhedrin) and found guilty of blasphemy.*
- *The Roman court (under Pontius Pilate) sentence him to be whipped and crucified.*
- *This is all remembered on Good Friday, a day of sorrow. But it was ultimately good for all humans as it offered us salvation*

## The Resurrection



The Gospel tells us that after death, Jesus was buried but rose again “three days later”. This event is the one central event that lies at the heart of the Christian faith:

- *Its importance lies in that the Resurrection proves Jesus was the Son of God.*
  - *It confirms the omnipotence of God*
- *If Jesus rose to eternal life, so too can all humans.*

## The Ascension



The Gospel tells that Jesus was taken up to heaven 40 days after his resurrection, and it was witnessed by his disciples. This event is known as “The Ascension”.

- *It is important as it marks the end of Jesus' time on earth.*
  - *It shows his “mission” was successful*
- *It promised that the Holy Spirit would be with his followers to encourage and energise them.*

## Is God merciful?

Some people might ask the question 'a loving God would want to save everyone. He would not want to condemn anyone to Hell'.

- Humans have free will and must choose how to spend their life.
- If a person chooses to do evil, then they will be far from God no matter how much God wants them to come to him.
- God's love is unconditional but he cannot force it upon us, we have to accept it.
- The idea of free-will means that God can offer salvation, it is up to the individual to accept that offer.

## What exactly is meant by 'The Church'?

In the 4<sup>th</sup> Century AD, The Council of Nicea agreed upon the Four qualities that should identify the Christian Church ~ these are known as the "**Four Marks of the Church**".

They are:

- One
- holy
- catholic
- apostolic

### ONE:

God is a perfect Unity ~ He is One and so is the Church!

Jesus also came to unite ALL people equally. Also, the Holy Spirit lives in the souls of all those who believe in the teachings of Christ and binds them into a communion with each other ~ dead or alive!

We are united in our beliefs.

### HOLY:

Jesus calls us all to be holy by following his teachings and the guidance of the Church. Through baptism, we have been filled with God's grace and become holy.

However, we are also sinners and must always look for reconciliation with God and others.

### CATHOLIC:

This word was used in the First Century by St Ignatius ~ it means "Universal".

Christ is Universally present and he has given us the task to unite all people with his teachings

### APOSTOLIC:

Christ gave his authority to his apostles before ascending into heaven. This SAME authority is handed down to each generation of bishops.

Peter was given particular authority which is handed to the Pope.

## MARY AS A MODEL OF THE CHURCH

### DISCIPLESHIP

Catholics believe Mary was the greatest disciple.

She dedicated her whole life to Jesus.

She willingly accepted her role as Jesus' mother, despite the enormous danger.

**She is therefore the greatest role model!**

### FAITH

Mary had total faith, and never questioned God's will or Jesus.

She did not hide like others, or desert Jesus in his final hours.

### WHY IS SHE SO SPECIAL TO CATHOLICS?

Without Mary as the mother of Christ, there would be no Jesus and no salvation!

She had a special relationship with God, making her a mediator between us and Him!

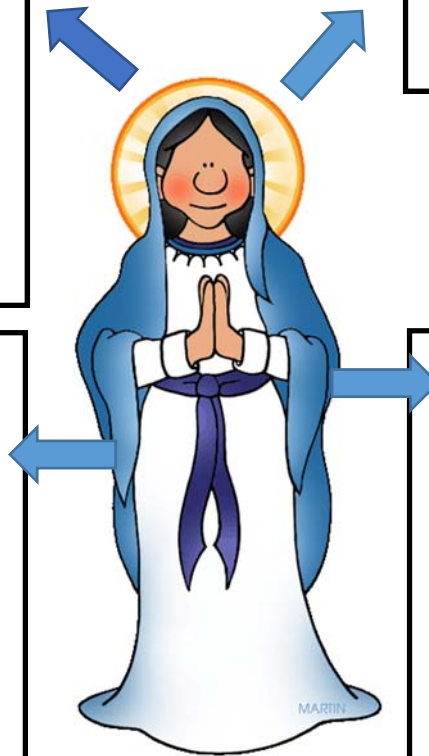
They do not believe she answers prayers ~ she is **NOT DIVINE!** But she intercedes with Christ to help us.

### CHARITY

She constantly shows kindness and compassion to others

At the Wedding at Cana (John 2), Mary wants to ease the embarrassment of her host and asks Jesus to help.

**Catholics still ask her to "speak to" Jesus on their behalf.**



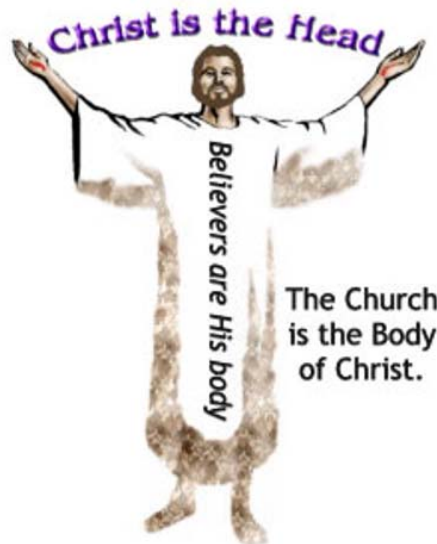
### The Church as the body of Christ

- While on earth in his physical body Jesus showed God's love in the things he did and said. He taught people how God wanted them to live and cared for the sick. He gave his life as a sacrifice so that all Christians could have a closer relationship with God.
- The teaching of the Church is the body of Christ means that Catholics believe that the work of Christ on earth did not end with the Ascension. They believe that Christ lives on through his followers, and in the Church.
- According to the Catholic Church all Christians continue the work of Jesus on earth.

# Why the Church as the body of Christ is important for Catholics

In the New Testament St Paul describes the Church as "the body of Christ". As the physical form of Jesus on earth Catholics believe they must continue Jesus' work on earth through physical work, teachings and giving help.

Each person, just like each part of the body, has a different function and is used for the good of the whole body. The Church remains united because everyone is working together.

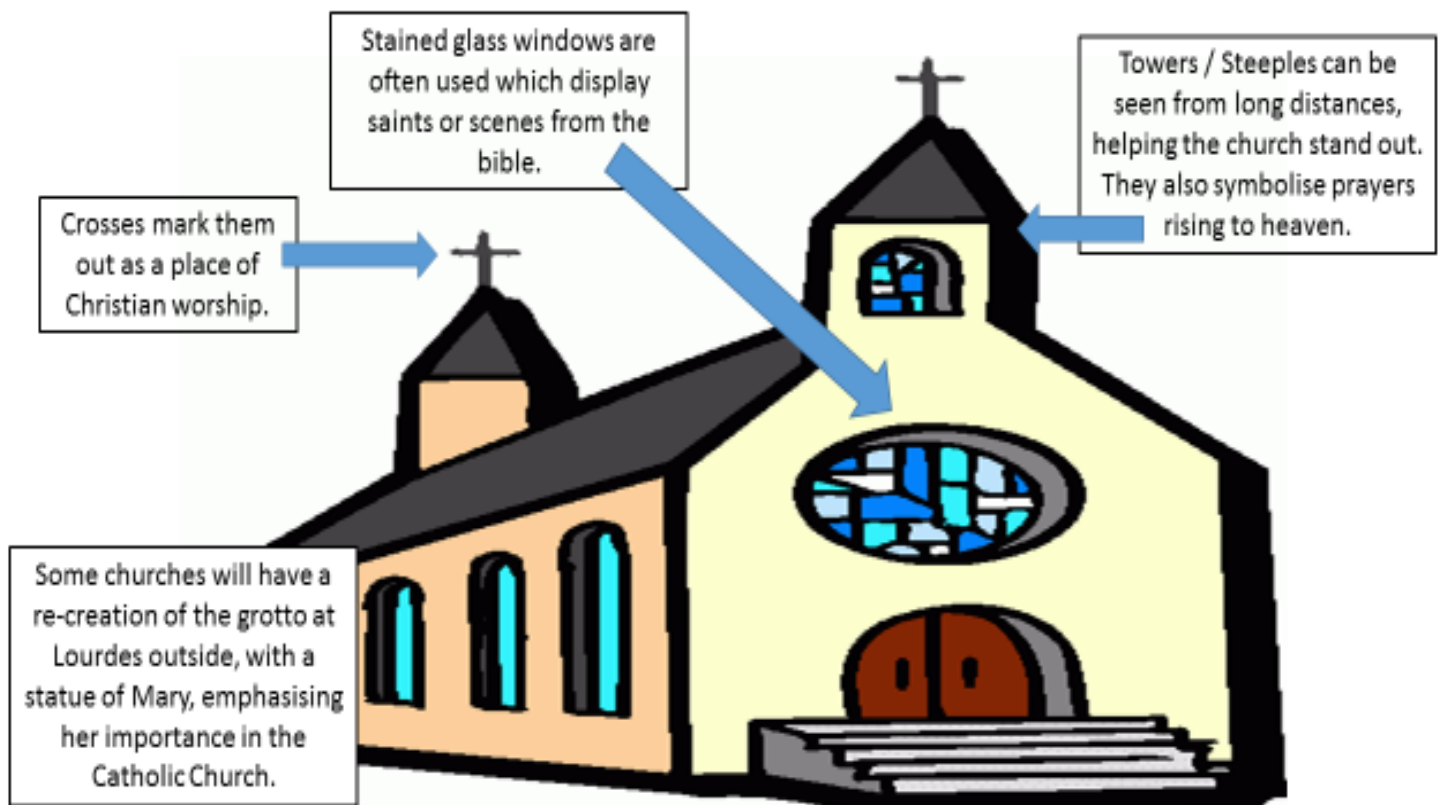


This is why Mass is so important. It is a central belief that the bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ. As they share in communion Catholics believe they are given strength to be followers of Christ in this world.

Some Christians, such as Anglicans, believe that the bread and wine are just symbols of Jesus' body and blood. However Catholics believe that Christ is fully present. This is known as Real Presence-the bread and wine transform into Christ's body and blood.

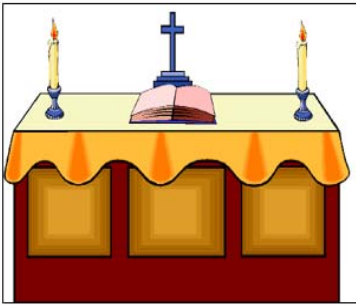
## Architectural features of the Catholic Church

### TYPICAL ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES OF A CATHOLIC CHURCH:



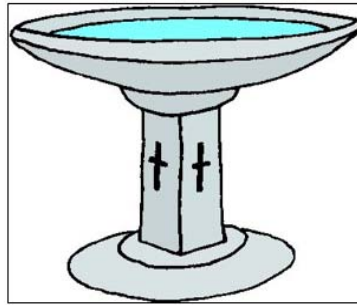


## Inside a Catholic Church



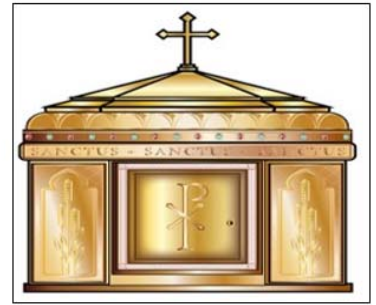
### THE ALTAR

A table (usually stone) which is the focal point of the Mass. On the altar, the bread & wine are consecrated into the body and blood of Christ. In the Old Testament, altars were used as tables of sacrifice, so the altar in church reminds us of Jesus' sacrifice.



### THE FONT

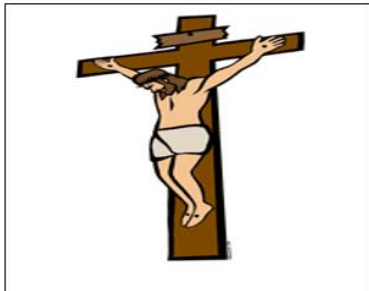
Used at baptism, it is a large basin filled with holy water. They are often positioned near the door to symbolise that baptism is where we enter into Christian life. It is linked to Salvation as it is where we are washed free of Original Sin



### THE TABERNACLE

This is an ornate "safe-like" box in which the consecrated body and blood of Christ are kept. Because it contains the sacred body and blood, it can be a focus of prayer and devotion for many Catholics.

The sanctuary lamp burns nearby as a sign that we are in the presence of God.



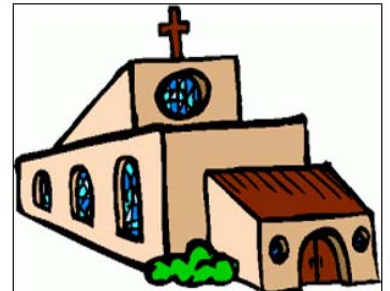
### THE CRUCIFIX

A crucifix is a cross with the image of the crucified Christ on it. There is one in every Catholic Church. It reminds us of the suffering and death of Christ in order to give us eternal life.



### THE CONFESSIONAL

This is a small room in which the Sacrament of Reconciliation takes place. The priest sits on one side and the penitent on the other. Having a dedicated room proves how important the sacrament is!



### OTHER FEATURES

The **Holy Water Stoop** is at the door for people to bless themselves with the sign of the cross as they enter. **Stations of the Cross** are 14 pictures reminding us of Jesus' Passion, death and Resurrection. A **Statue of Mary** will have votive candles where people make prayer intentions.



## Sacraments

The Catholic church says it is "an outward sign of inward grace, ordained by god, by which grace is given to the soul".

In other words, it is a visible sign of God's love for us. Each sacrament gives us the chance to "see", "touch" and "hear" Jesus.

# The "Sacraments of Initiation"



BAPTISM

The entrance to the Christian faith. Holy water is poured on the head with the words "I baptise you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit". Original Sin (the sin of Adam which stained all humans) is washed away and we become pure in God's love and grace.



CONFIRMATION

This fully completes the sacrament of baptism. The promises made on our behalf by godparents at baptism are now confirmed by us. We believe God gives us the strength of his Spirit to be good Christians and we are anointed with oil as a sign of having a special job to do.



EUCCHARIST

Catholics eat the bread and drink the wine when it has become the body and blood of Christ. At the Last Supper, Christ asked his followers to do this in remembrance of him. We believe this gives us "spiritual nourishment" to lead a good life in Christ's teachings.

# The "Sacraments of Healing"



RECONCILIATION

In this sacrament, we experience the forgiving mercy of God which renews and refreshes our relationship with Him. Expressing sorrow for sins shows a willingness to come back to Christ and his teachings.



ANOINTING OF  
THE SICK

This can calm, encourage and bring forgiveness to a sick or dying person. The priest will lay hands on the person as a sign of calling on God's strength and healing. This may also be accompanied by a communion for the dying person ~ called Viaticum ~ meaning "food for the journey".

# The "Sacraments of Service"



MARRIAGE

The couple exchange vows (solemn, unbreakable promises) to commit themselves fully to each other and ask for God's help in keeping those vows until the death of one partner. Catholic marriage is a lifetime commitment and cannot be ended.



HOLY ORDERS

This is when men are ordained as priests or bishops. The first stage in this process is becoming a deacon. Priests are given the authority of the Apostles to fulfil their service to God's people. They are also anointed with oil as a sign of having a special job to do.

## The importance of the Eucharist (Mass) for Catholics

The Mass or Eucharist is the service where Catholics gather to remember the Last Supper, when Jesus took bread and wine and asked his disciples to remember him when they did the same. Mass is celebrated every day of the year except Good Friday and Easter Saturday. Catholics should attend Mass on Sunday as often as they can.

Catholics become closer to God because they receive Jesus in the Eucharist and Catholics believe that Christ is present in the Mass:

- In the bread and wine when it has been blessed and becomes Jesus' body and blood
- In the readings, especially the Gospel
- In the believers gathered together
- Through the priest, Catholics believe that Christ works through the priest to transform the bread and wine into his body and blood.

## Mission and evangelisation in Britain and elsewhere

### **Mission**

It generally means "An important assignment given to a person or a group of people" In Christianity, it is the mission of the Church to go out to the world and teach the teachings of Christ to others.

### **Evangelisation**

Literally means "spreading the Good News" (or Gospel). It is the sharing of the Gospel message and life of Jesus with others.

Within a few decades, it had spread throughout the Roman Empire, soon reaching the centre of the Empire, Rome.

St Paul, through his letters to early Christian communities, was one of the first Christian missionaries (someone who goes out to preach Christ's message to others).

Many early Christians who went out to preach about this new religion were persecuted and even killed for their beliefs!



Obviously, the Christian Church began in Jerusalem with the life, death, Resurrection and teachings of Christ.

## Evangelising over the years:

- Over the last 500 years, Christian missionaries have gone out from Europe to Asia, Africa and South America.
- They have concentrated on communities that have not heard the gospel of Christ before.

## Evangelising today:

- Today, Christian missionaries concentrate their efforts on the Western World (places like Europe).
- They focus on communities that know the gospel but have become increasingly SECULAR (non-religious)

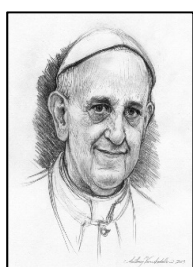


# How and why does the Church evangelise?

Jesus told his disciples to "Go forth and teach all nations" ~ we must continue to do this. We can only achieve salvation if we have faith...we must encourage others to have that faith.

LOCALLY	NATIONALLY	Globally
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The work of the parish through mass, sacraments, social events, prayer groups etc.</li> <li>The parish should make links with local organisations such as food banks to make the community better</li> <li>The parish can distribute newsletters / local catholic papers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The conference of Bishops within a country guide others in the right direction</li> <li>In 2015, the Cardinal, Vincent Nicholls introduced a programme called "Proclaim '15" to help the Church evangelise.</li> <li>National Catholic newspapers (The Universe / Catholic Times) spread the Good News</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Vatican has a special department that focusses on evangelisation</li> <li>The Vatican has a TV station and radio station</li> <li>CAFOD works globally, spreading the Good News</li> </ul>

## Evangelii Gaudium



In 2013, Pope Francis wrote an encyclical (a letter to the world) called *Evangelii Gaudium* which means "The joy of the Gospel".

The theme of this encyclical was the Mission of the Catholic Church to evangelise to the world (teach them about Christ's message).

Pope Francis said that the heart of Christ's message is to love one another...therefore we must motivate others to help the poor and work for social justice.



### IMPORTANT QUOTES FROM THE ENCYCLICAL:

- Catholics must care for *"the homeless, the addicted, refugees, indigenous peoples, the elderly who are increasingly isolated and abandoned, and many others"*
  - The Pope wants *"a Church which is poor and for the poor"*
- He wants the church to have special love for *"above all the poor and the sick, those who are usually despised and overlooked"*





What else did  
Pope Francis  
Say?..



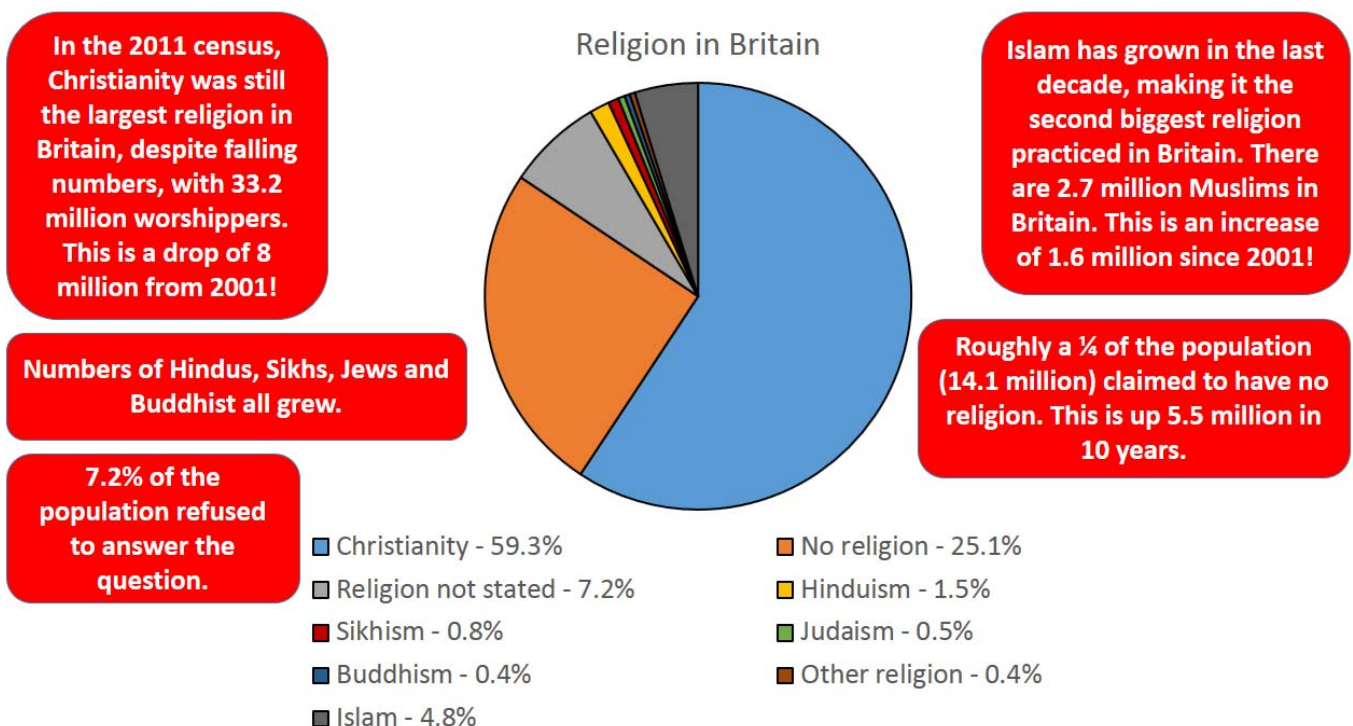
The local parish should spread Jesus' message...including through Catholic primary and secondary schools where the young can be educated.

The parish must be welcoming and ready to greet new people.

The Catholic Parish must always be looking for new ways to spread God's



## Evangelisation in Britain



## How does this effect evangelisation?

- Despite over ½ the population identifying as Christian, church attendance is down and continuing to decline.
- Churches have recently had to close which makes it less easy to spread the gospel.
- Fewer men are becoming priests and existing priests are getting older so sacraments (including Mass) can be difficult.
- Christians should work with other faiths to promote common values of respect, tolerance, charity and non-violence

## UK Laws, Festivals and Traditions.

# UK Laws, Festivals and Traditions

Christianity arrived in Britain almost 2000 years ago. It is therefore deeply embedded in many British laws and traditions!

The Church of England has been the “established” religion in Britain since the 16<sup>th</sup> Century and its values are reflected in many of our laws.



Two of the main holiday periods within the UK remain Easter and Christmas (though festivals such as Eid and Chinese New Year are becoming increasingly popular too)



In the House of Lords ~ one of the Law-making bodies in the UK ~ 26 of the Lords are senior bishops within the Church of England. This means that the Church has a direct role in passing UK laws.

Christian prayers are said in both the House of Lords and the House of Commons and the Ten Commandments are reflected in some of the UK laws (Do not steal, Do not Kill etc)

Until recently, it was commonplace in UK courts of Law for witnesses to swear on the bible

Christian hymns are often used at official British events such as the Remembrance Day parades.

## Has anything changed?

YES!

- With the decrease in Church attendance and increase in other faiths, marriages, funerals and birthing rituals that are humanist or otherwise non-religious are becoming more commonplace.
- Some Christian Laws (such as Sunday trading) have been relaxed in recent years to reflect non-religious beliefs and attitudes.
- People who do not relate to the Christian faith now do not have to swear on the bible during court sessions.