

NAME: _____

COMPONENT 1 ~ GOOD & EVIL

KEY CONCEPTS

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

CATHOLIC BELIEFS ABOUT THE TRINITY

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

Catholics believe that God takes the form of **FATHER SON & HOLY SPIRIT**

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

However...

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

- They were Jews, so believed in ONLY ONE GOD
- They claimed Jesus was God (“you are the “Messiah””)
- They watched Jesus pray to God the Father and accepted this
- They received God the Spirit at Pentecost who gave them courage.

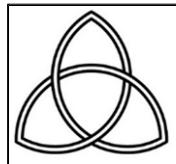
AND THEY ACCEPTED THAT ALL OF THIS WAS POSSIBLE!

DESCRIBING THE TRINITY:

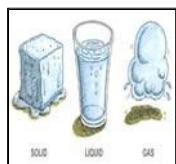
There have been various attempts at describing the Trinity over the years. The most common examples are:



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



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



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

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

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

WHY?



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

HOW DID THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH RESPOND?

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

Christians are MONOTHEISTIC. This means belief in ONE GOD.

He is a Father and a Creator

Almighty = 'having complete power' (omnipotent)

The Son is FULLY MAN; he SUFFERED as a man would!

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; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

The Spirit is worthy of the same glory as the Father & Son

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

The Son is FULLY MAN; born of a woman!

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.

Proceeds from" means that The Spirit is of the same substance as the Father and the Son

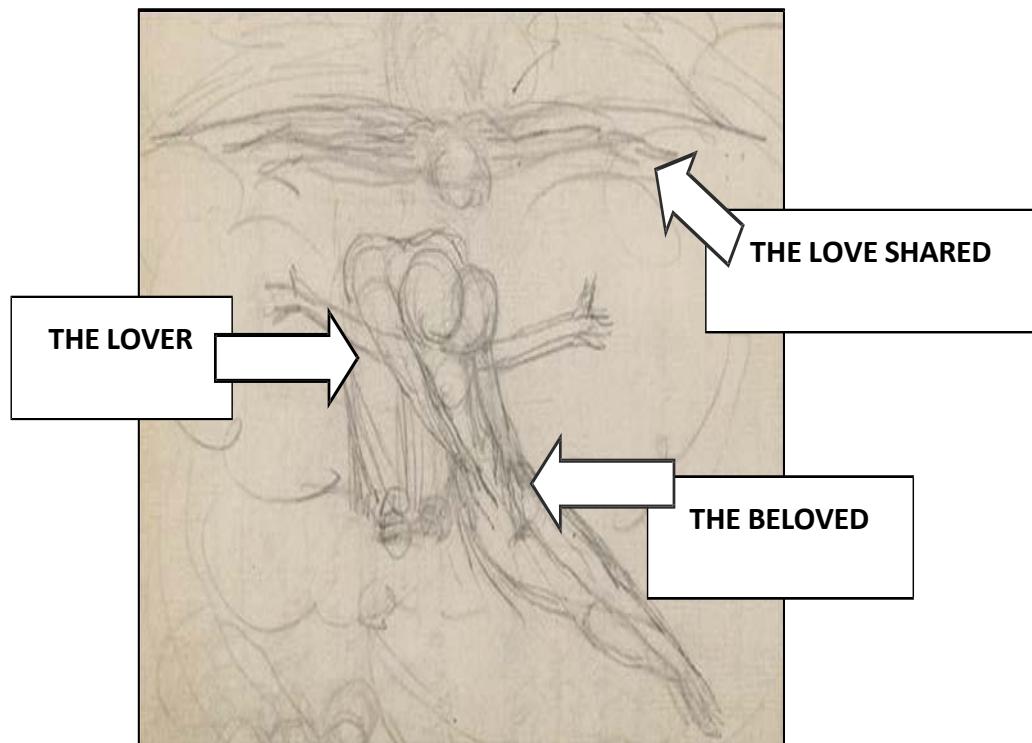
WHAT DID ST. AUGUSTINE SAY ABOUT THE TRINITY?

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

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

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

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



The nature of evil

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

MORAL EVIL



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

Many Christians recognise there is also a **"grey area"**

where it is unclear if the cause is moral or not. For example, **Poverty** can be caused by natural means such as drought, but can also be caused by greed and selfishness.

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

NATURAL EVIL



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

THE EXISTENCE OF EVIL AND ITS PROBLEM FOR CHRISTIANS

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

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

J.L. MACKIE



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



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

DAVID HUME

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



RICHARD DAWKINS

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



Christian responses to [the existence of Evil](#)

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

The table below highlights the main responses:

ATHEIST ARGUMENTS:

Natural evil affects innocent people so God **CANNOT** be benevolent **AND** omnipotent!

David Hume says that if there is a God, He can't be good at His job **OR** He doesn't exist!

Humans are not really "free" to make choices, they are controlled by genetic forces!

Humans are material beings – they cannot survive death – it is the end!

CHRISTIAN RESPONSES:

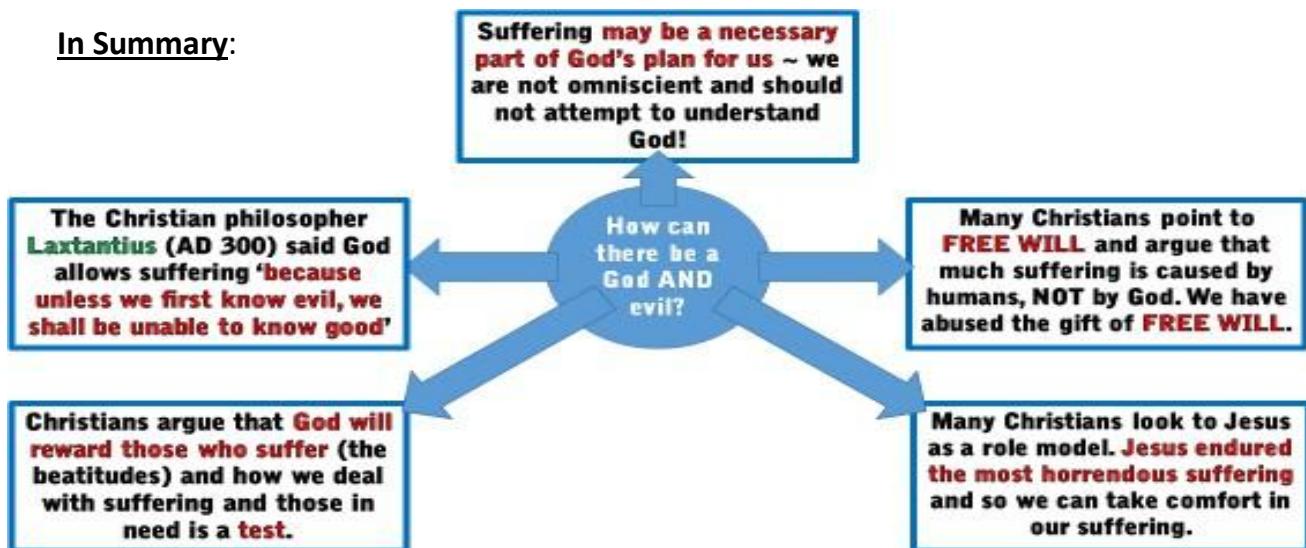
Natural evil (e.g. Earthquakes) may be a God-given necessity, essential for life to exist.

The world God is presenting us with may be the best of all possible options – and therefore omnibenevolent!

Humans are truly free – uncontrolled by any external forces. We can still **CHOOSE** our path.

Humans have souls that can survive physical death, therefore evil will always have limited power!

In Summary:



Where does evil come from? (originate)

MOST CATHOLICS AND PROTESTANTS: Believe that it comes from ["Original Sin"](#). [St Augustine](#) said that "[all evil is either a consequence of sin or a punishment for sin](#)". He looks back to the story of [Genesis](#) for this and sees a core truth of the story is where evil comes from. Humans always want more! Deep down, we don't seem to believe we are made [IMAGO DEI](#) and so we spent our time grasping at things to make us more God-like! The sadness of this is that such things often take us further away from God! (For example, when Adam and Eve got cast out of the Garden of Eden).

OTHER CHRISTIAN VIEWS: Don't speak of Original Sin but rather believe that evil & suffering are [God's way of making humanity wiser](#)! They follow the belief of [St Irenaeus](#) who said that "[our souls are made more perfect through suffering](#)".

Therefore, suffering can prove beneficial for humans

St Augustine's thoughts on evil...

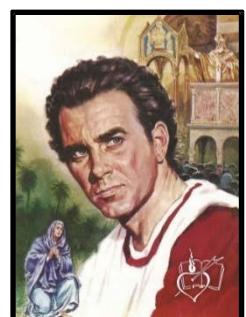
Augustine has THREE points to make about evil in his book called

THE ENCHIRIDION (*literally meaning "handbook"*):

- Remember the story of Genesis? When God made the whole of Creation he ["saw that it was good"](#). Therefore, St Augustine says, **evil was not a created "thing" so it is simply an absence** ("a privation") of goodness.

When we experience evil and suffering...we are not really experiencing anything at all, **we are just being deprived of the good things we usually have**! God doesn't really WANT us to be deprived, but either **human free will has led to it OR God has allowed it for the greater good**.

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

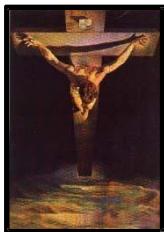


- Secondly, Augustine says that **evil helps us to appreciate the good in the world** that we otherwise might not notice. Sometimes we do not appreciate the good we have until it is not there...

“that which is called evil...only enhances our admiration of the good” (St Augustine, “The Enchiridion”)
- Thirdly, Augustine points to the fact that **sometimes suffering can be good for us!** Our sufferings can lead us to a place of greater good that we wouldn't have arrived at without the “evil” and suffering! Therefore, God is being benevolent to us in our sufferings.

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

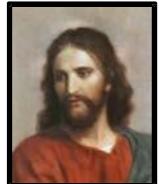
ISAIAH 53

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

Key concept...

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

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

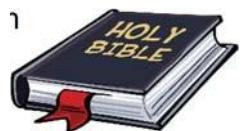


Christians faced MUCH trouble for claiming that Jesus was God but they continued to do so, ultimately settling on the phrase "God the Son" to describe God in His human form (*The Incarnation*).

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

St John writes "...and the Word was made flesh and lived among us" (John 1: 14).
In simple form:

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



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

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

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

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

THE KENOSIS HYMN:

ST PAUL



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

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

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

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

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

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

He even disregarded His godly omnipotence when facing the horrors of crucifixion! **In being so selfless and accepting his sufferings** as a weak man, **Jesus was given great glory in heaven!**



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

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

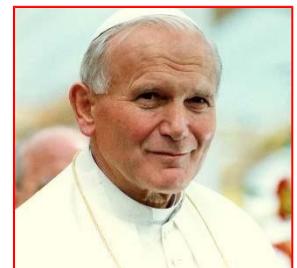
When He was in the person of Jesus, God showed us that suffering and sacrifice are an essential part of the human condition ~ to be fully human, Christians must become a suffering servant ~ willing to lay down their lives for the good of others.

GOD SHARES OUR SUFFERING THROUGH JESUS ON THE CROSS!

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



“SALVIFICI DOLORSIS”



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

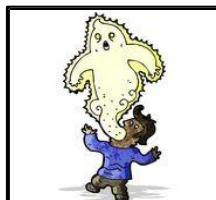
Think back to the cases of Jimmy Mizen (The “For Jimmy” campaign) and Anthony Walker (“The Anthony Walker Foundation”) for how suffering can “save us” and lead to goodness.

JESUS AS A SOURCE OF **MORAL AUTHORITY**

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



LEPERS



THOSE
"POSSESSED
BY SPIRITS"



TAX-
COLLECTORS



PROSTITUTES

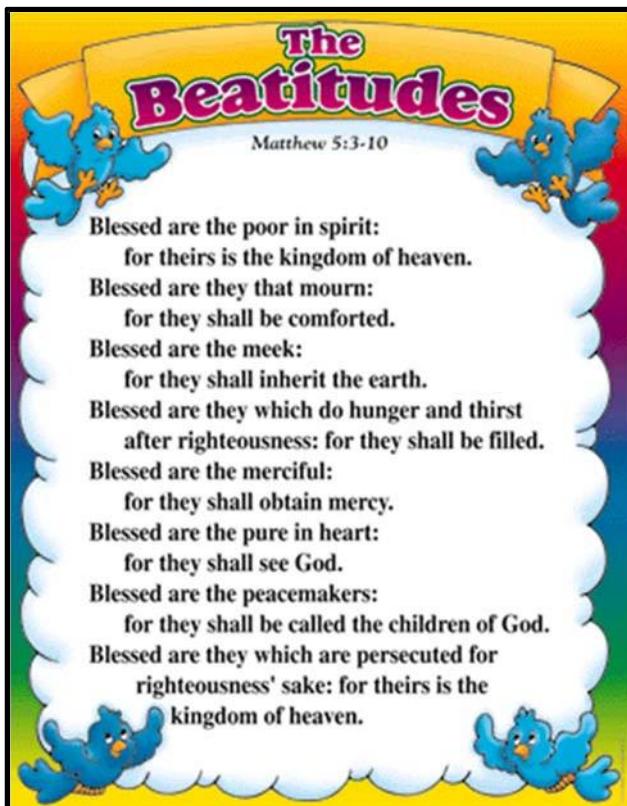


THIEVES

WHAT DOES THIS TELL US?

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

WHAT DOES JESUS ACTUALLY TEACH US ABOUT MORALITY?



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

The Sermon on the Mount.

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

THE OLD LAW AND THE NEW

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

“YOU HAVE HEARD THAT IT WAS SAID...”

But ends the phrase with

“BUT I SAY TO YOU...”

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

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

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

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

Matthew 5: 17

FINALLY...

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

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

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

Other sources of **MORAL AUTHORITY & GUIDANCE**

Natural Law

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

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

Here's an example:



After WW2, many former Nazi's were put on trial in Nuremberg, Germany for the horrific things they did in the Concentration camps. The Nazi's argued that they were just following orders...something they were paid and employed to do.

The judges rejected this as the crimes were against "Natural Law" ...the basic morality that every human is aware of.

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

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

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

Catholic views on **Natural Law**

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



Conscience

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



Conscience can be divided into 2 parts:

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

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

VIRTUES



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

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

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

Virtues are moral habits that people must continually practice if they are to become good citizens that flourish in society.

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

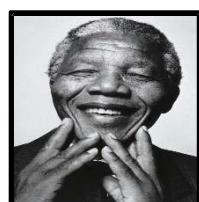
These people have all experienced suffering which has made them better people...



Malala Yousafzai



Katie Piper



Nelson Mandela



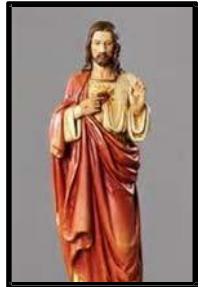
The Mizen Family



Gee Walker

WHY ARE **SCULPTURES AND STATUES** IMPORTANT?

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



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

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

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

Remember...

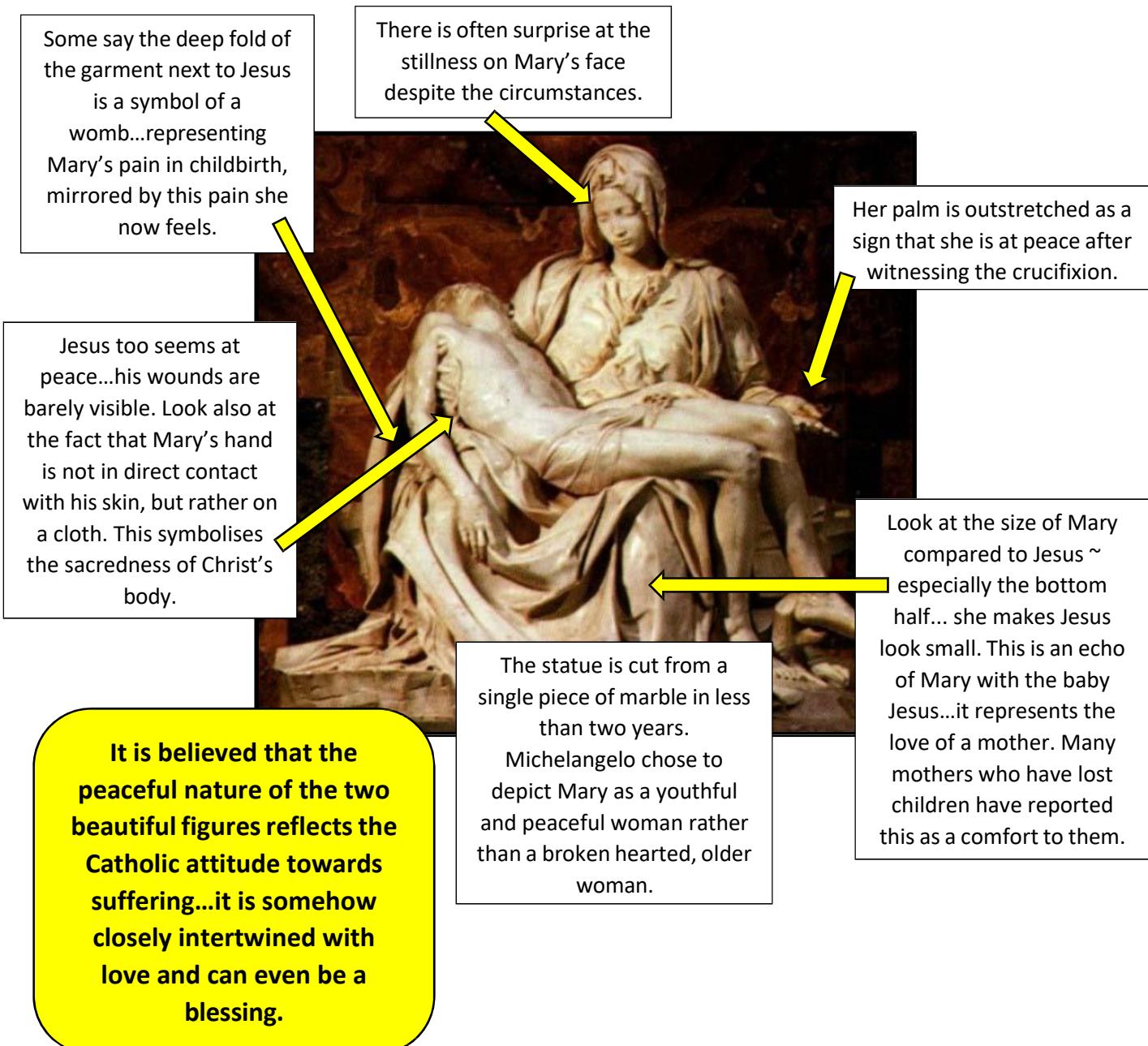
The belief in the INCARNATION is the belief that **God took on human form and lived on Earth** (as Jesus). **Catholics therefore use very earthly things in their worship**, as a clear sign of this...bread, wine, oil, incense, music. Statues are a part of this. **The crucifix is the most important "statue"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

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

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

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

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



WHAT IS PILGRIMAGE & WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

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

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



Many ancient aspects of pilgrimage still remain today:

Travelling in groups
Fasting and praying on the way to the site
Taking the sick and those in need of prayers.

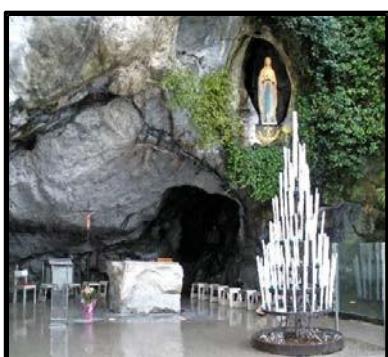
Why is PILGRIMAGE important to CATHOLICS?

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

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

LOURDES

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



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

What else happens at Lourdes?

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

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

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

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

The Rosary is an aid to worship. The name “Rosary” refers both to the prayer itself and the beads used when reciting the prayer.

The Rosary consists of three prayers

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

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



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

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

The Joyful Mysteries

The Sorrowful Mysteries

More detail on the next page

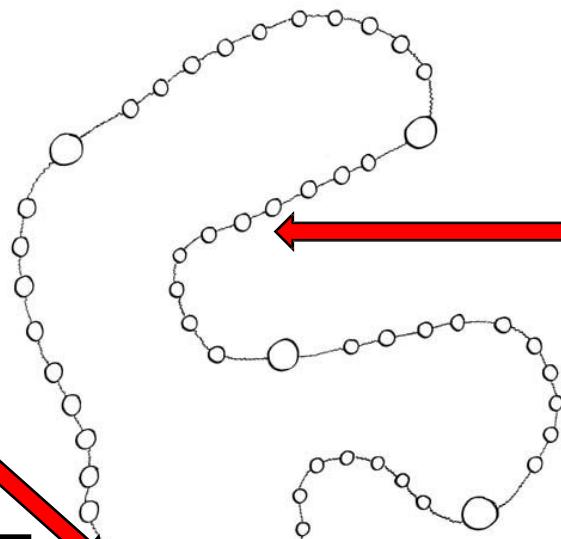
The Glorious Mysteries

The Luminous Mysteries

These Mysteries were added by Pope John Paul II.

THE MEDAL (2)

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



DECADES

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

THE MEDAL (1)

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

THE CRUCIFIX

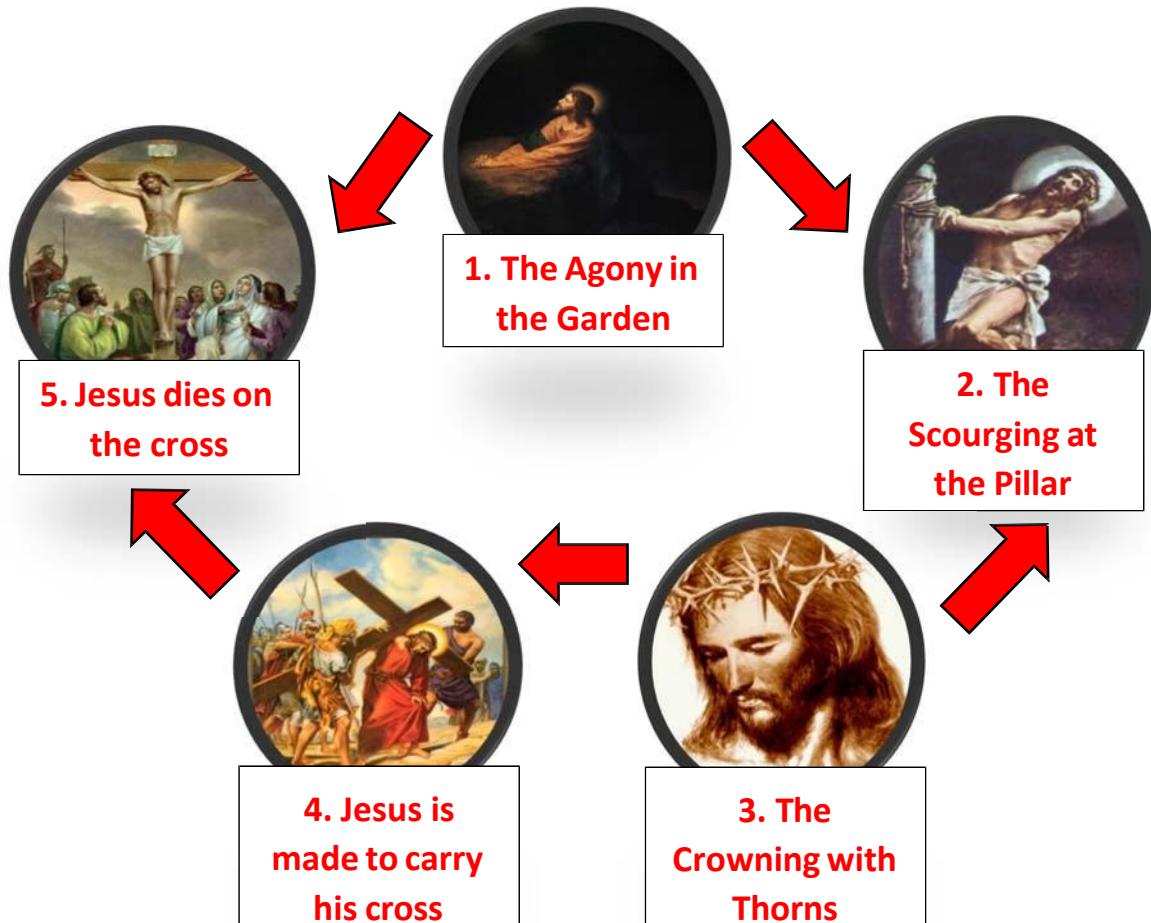
This is held by the person reciting the Rosary and at the start of the Rosary they will say the Apostle's Creed

THE 5 BEADS

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

The **SORROWFUL MYSTERIES** of the Rosary

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



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

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