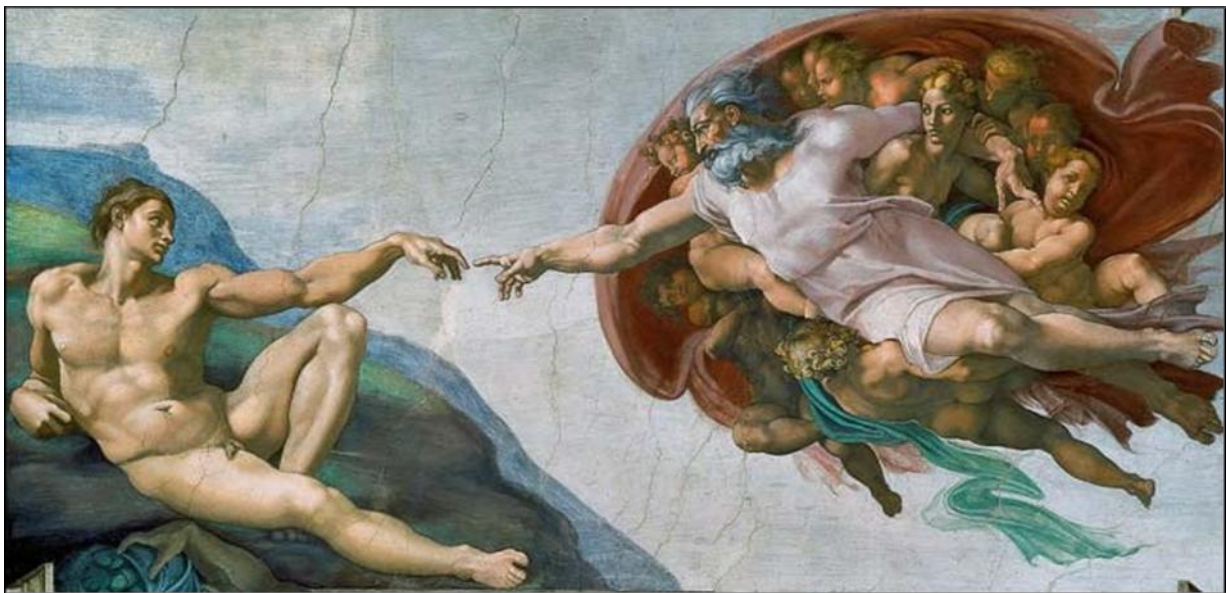




Component 1

Origins & Meaning



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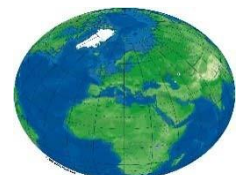
COMPONENT 1: UNIT 1 - ORIGINS & MEANING

KEY CONCEPTS

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

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

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



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

CREATION EX NIHILO



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

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

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

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

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

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

THE TEACHINGS OF THE CATHOLIC POPES

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

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

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

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

WHY DO THEY BELIEVE THIS?

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



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

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

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

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

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

We will look at two main atheists here:

1. **STEPHEN HAWKING:**

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

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

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

“the laws of physics are enough to trigger the Big Bang, ‘God’ is not needed for this”

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

2. **RICHARD DAWKINS:**

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

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

He argues that all organisms are just “survival machines”

Evolution is a scientific process of reproduction and mutation

He claims unlike religion, his work is based on evidence

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

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

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

ATHEIST VIEWS IN SUMMARY:

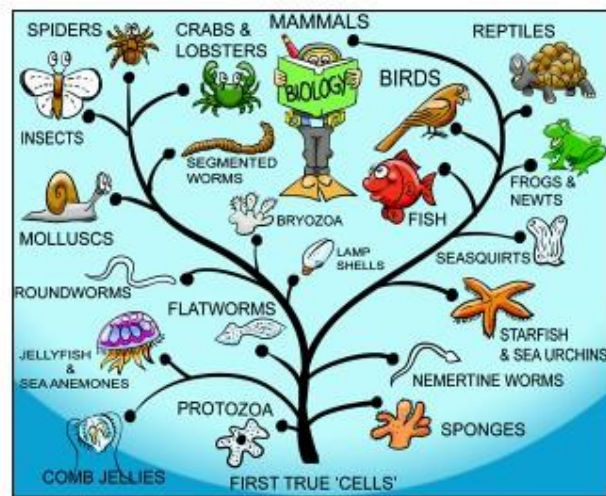
As Roman Catholic Christians do, atheists point to The Big Bang and Evolution as to how the world began.



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

EVOLUTION IN SUMMARY:

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



WHAT IS IMAGO DEI?

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

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

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

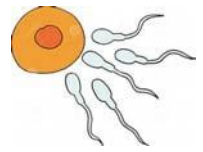
In her Dialogue, she said that when we know we are made in the Image of God (IMAGO DEI), it gives our soul a great dignity and we should be thankful to God for this.

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

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

CATHOLIC BELIEFS ABOUT THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE

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



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

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



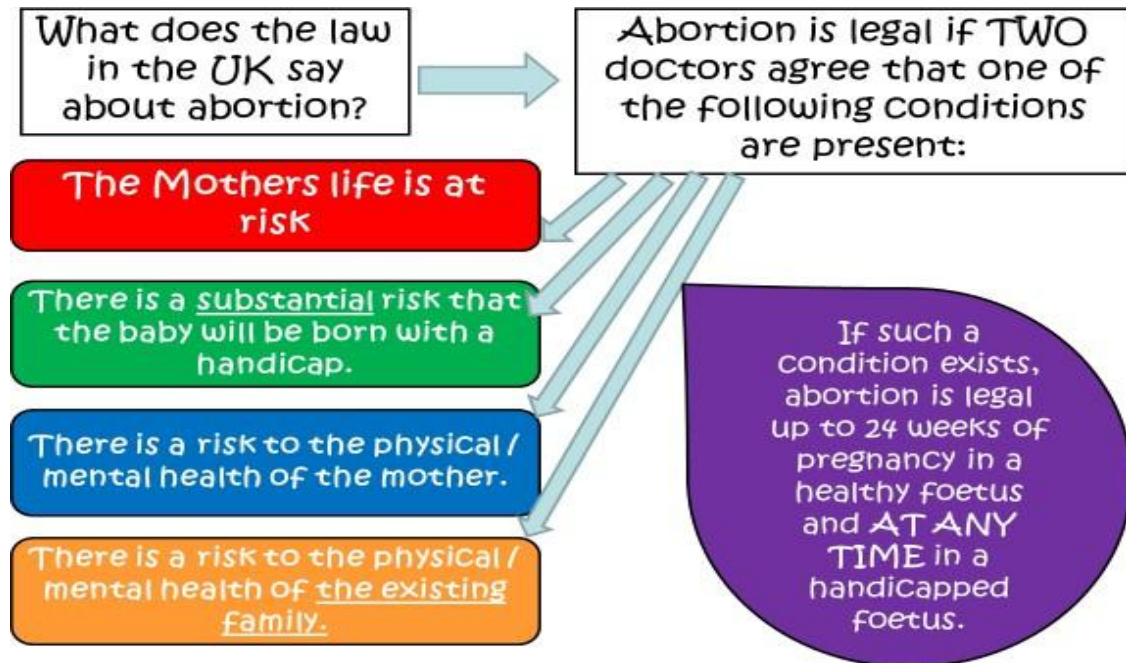
This means that God is involved in the process of conception...whether an egg is fertilised or not lies in his hands! It also means that God is the sole being who can end human life

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

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

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT **CATHOLIC BELIEFS ON ABORTION?**

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



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

HOWEVER...

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

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

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

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

DO ALL CHRISTIANS FEEL THE SAME?

No!

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

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

However...

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

HUMANIST BELIEFS ABOUT THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE

A HUMANIST:



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

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

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

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

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT HUMANIST BELIEFS ON ABORTION?

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

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

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

WHO IS PETER SINGER AND WHAT IS SPECIESISM?

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

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

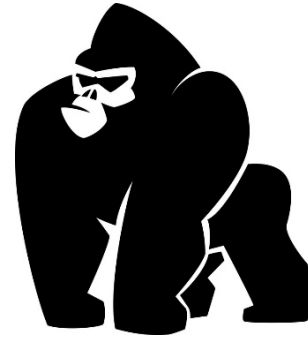
Peter Singer, an Australian philosopher believes that we should help as many people as possible to enjoy life and eliminate the suffering of as many people as possible. He says that **quality of life for all animal species** (including humans) **is related to the amount of suffering/enjoyment** (or pleasure)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

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

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

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

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



A CATHOLIC RESPONSE TO **SINGER’S** VIEWS

Catholics would argue that since God gives humans a soul, they are and remain ‘persons’ whether they are conscious or not, even when they are asleep, in a coma, or haven’t yet been born. With regard to Singer’s views on speciesism, Catholics would agree that human beings should respect and care for animals, since they are God’s creatures and part of his creation. However, humans are more important than other species because they have been made in the image of God. Humans have a special dignity that animals don’t, they should care for animals and must not inflict unnecessary cruelty, but they can use animals for food and clothing

CATHOLIC & HUMANIST VIEWS ON PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

CATHOLICS AND HUMANISTS BOTH BELIEVE THAT THE ENVIRONMENT **MUST** BE PROTECTED

HOWEVER...

THEY HAVE **VERY** DIFFERENT REASONS FOR THIS BELIEF...

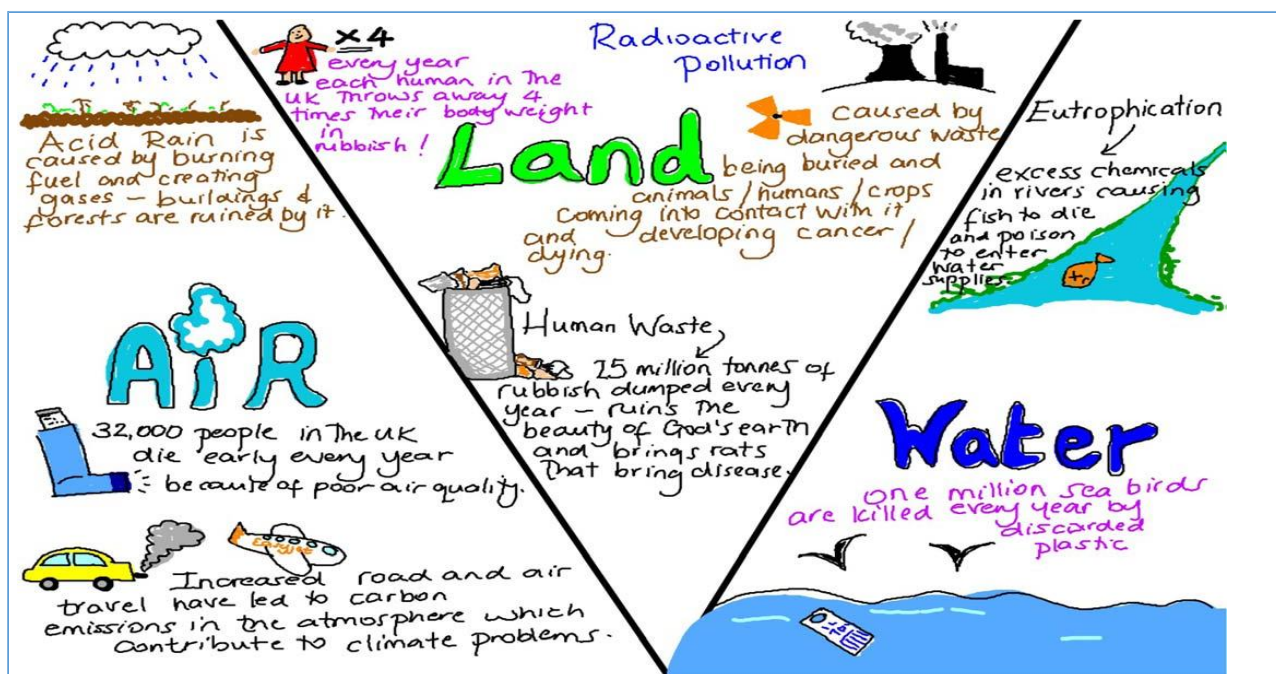
ROMAN CATHOLIC BELIEFS:

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

HUMANIST BELIEFS:

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

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



WHAT DO THE CREATION STORIES TEACH US ABOUT GOD?

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

TRANSCENDENCE

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



OMNIPOTENT

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

ETERNAL



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

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



OMNIBENEVOLENT (ALL LOVING)

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



OMNIBENEVOLENT

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



WHAT DO THE CREATION STORIES TEACH US ABOUT HUMAN BEINGS?



ABOUT HUMANS

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

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

SANCTITY OF LIFE

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



STEWARDS OF GOD'S CREATION

stewardship

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



IMAGO DEI

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

MALE AND FEMALE

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



FREE WILL

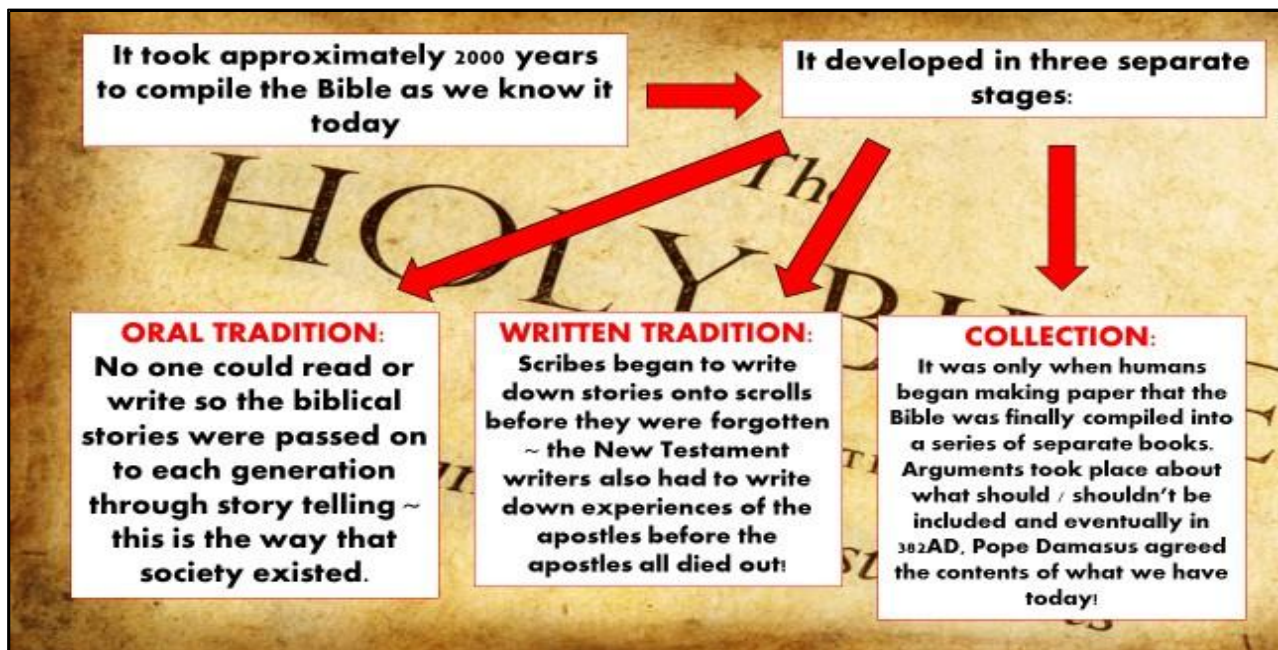
- God gives Adam and Eve freedom to do God's will and choose not to.
- 'And the LORD God commanded the man, *'You are free to eat from any tree in the garden, but you must not eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.'* (Genesis 2: 16-17).
- Although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



...AND WHY SHOULD CHRISTIANS CARE?

- Remember what we said before...Christians believe themselves to be stewards of God's creation ~ it's our duty to look after it. In Genesis, we were commanded "to tend the earth and cultivate it".
- Christians are told that the greatest commandments are to love God and to love others. This means that Catholics need to be concerned about those who bear the brunt of the devastating effects of climate change.
- God made the world to be "good" (Genesis) ~ we have no right to make it bad.
- Catholics believe that every individual has a duty to contribute to the good of society, the common good.
-

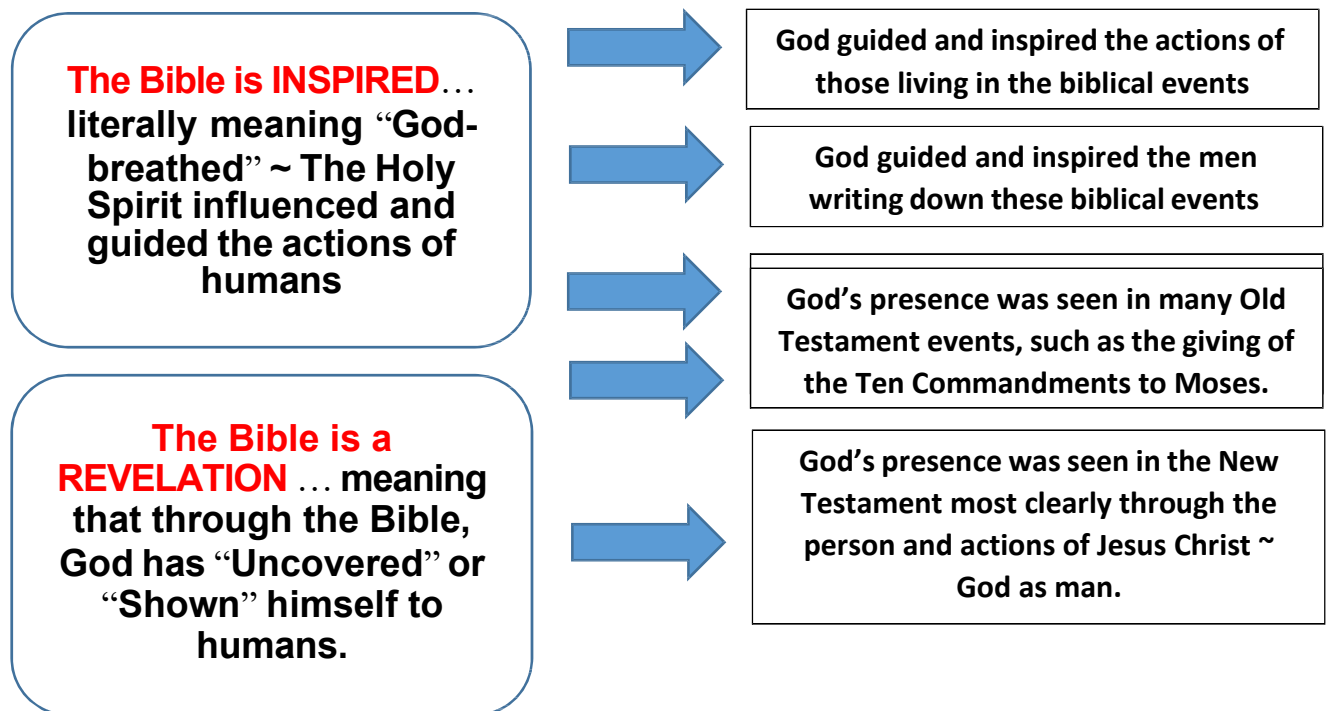
WHAT IS THE BIBLE & WHERE DID IT COME FROM?



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

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

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



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

No!

CATHOLIC:

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

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

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

FUNDAMENTALIST:

Every passage should be read in the same way.

There are no different literary forms.

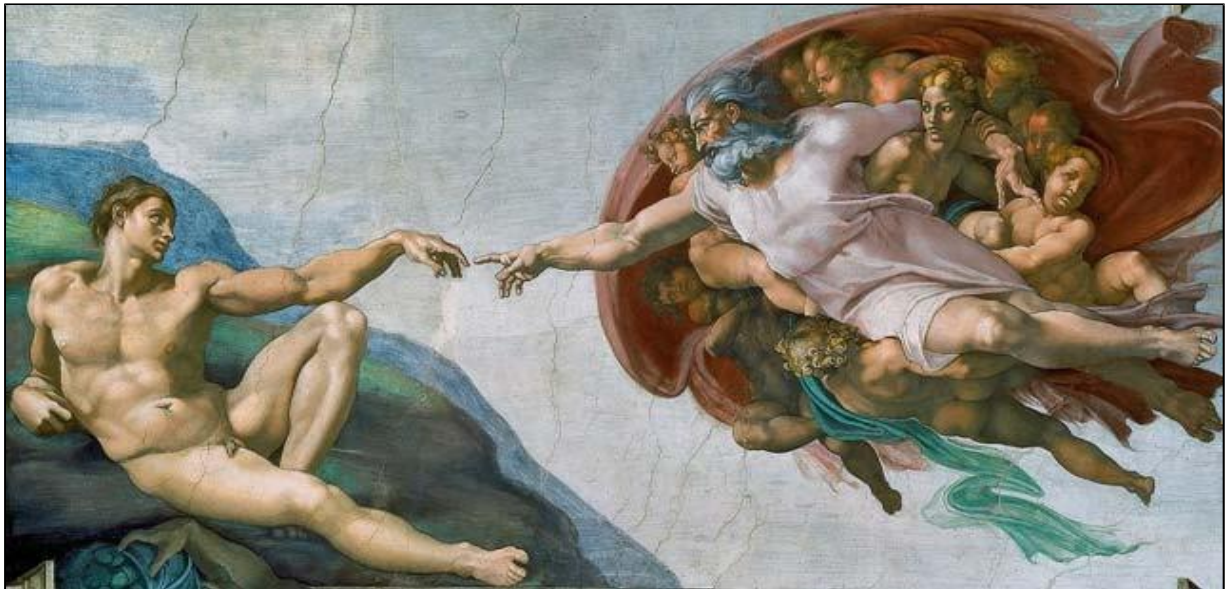
The Bible contains the literal truth. There is no need to interpret its meanings, it is all true.

INTERPRETING RELIGIOUS ART

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

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

1. THE CREATION OF ADAM:



WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

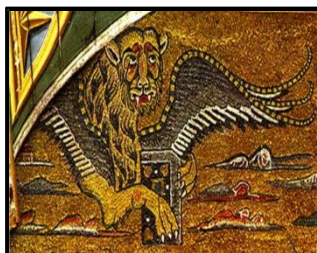
- One of the main messages of Michelangelo's paintings in the Sistine Chapel is that **God is the creator of everything**. Nothing comes into being without God.
- The **hands** of Adam and God are **reaching out to each other** to reflect the longing for a close relationship between God and man ~ they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

2. THE TREE OF LIFE APSE:



WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

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



MARK:

THE WINGED LION

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



MATTHEW:

**THE WINGED
MAN
(ANGEL)**

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



LUKE:

THE WINGED OX

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



JOHN:

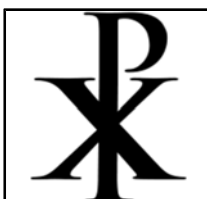
THE EAGLE

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

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



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



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

WHAT IS CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING? (“CST”)

CATHOLIC: The teachings of the Roman Catholic Church

SOCIAL: About key issues in society (poverty, human rights, war, justice etc.)

TEACHING: Given to the people of the Church, from various popes, through special letters called “ENCYCLICALS”.

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

“YOU GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT!”

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



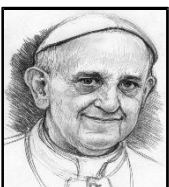
Others would say it began in **1891** when oppressed workers (during the Industrial Revolution demanded fair Rights and rich factory owners refused to treat them fairly...Pope Leo XIII (13th) criticised this and said:

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

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



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

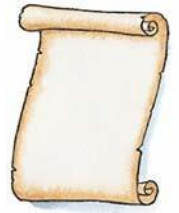


Today, Catholic Social Teaching continues to challenge the world about the way we speak out and fight against injustices. Pope Francis said in one of his encyclicals, *Evangelii Gaudium*:

“MONEY MUST SERVE, NOT RULE”

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

GAUDIUM ET SPES (Latin for JOY & HOPE)



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

Equality

Dignity

Courage

Love

Justice

Imago Dei

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

GAUDIUM ET SPES
29 POPE PAUL VI
(6th) 1965

WHAT ELSE DOES **GAUDIUM ET SPES** SAY?

‘Peace is not merely the absence of war; nor can it be reduced solely to the maintenance of a balance of power between enemies; nor is it brought about by dictatorship. Instead, it is rightly and appropriately called an enterprise of justice... peace is never attained once and for all, but must be built up ceaselessly.’ **Gaudium et Spes 78**

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

GAUDIUM Et SPES

"Peace is the result of all men thirsting for justice"



"Imago Dei" ~ we're created in the image of God



POPE PAUL VI: 7TH DEC. 1965

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

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

Working for Justice



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

Many people in our world today have their human rights abused and they are not treated with dignity and respect.

Consequently the Catholic Church calls on believers to challenge these situations in the world and to not rest until all of God's children experience peace and justice and every type of discrimination is eliminated.

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

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

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

Working for Reconciliation



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

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

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THE WORK OF ONE GLOBAL CATHOLIC CHARITY

CAFOD

CAFOD
Just one world

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

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

Their work underpins the values of Catholic Social Teaching.

CAFOD works to provide

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

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

They provide vocational training and adult education.

They **DEVELOP** communities to stand on their own two feet.

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

The Final Judgement

(also known as the Parable of the Sheep and Goats)

Matthew 25:31-46



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

41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Away from me, you that are under God's curse! Away to the

SHEEP →



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

CAFODs main development projects:

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

THE WORK OF ONE LOCAL CATHOLIC CHARITY

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

It is a society, working to **relieve poverty** within the UK (and other places)

St Vincent lived 1580 – 1660 and dedicated his life to prisoners and the poor.

It has **16,000 volunteers** in the UK alone ~ often attached to Catholic Parishes

It carries out **over 1,000,000 visits annually** in the UK



SVP works to provide

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

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

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

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

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

WHAT ELSE DO SVP DO:

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

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

There are 6 main World Religions within Britain:

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

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

WHY DO WE NEED INTER-FAITH DIALOGUE?

Living in a multi-faith society brings many benefits. Different religious cultures and traditions bring with them a variety of food, clothes, music and literature into our lives. With this come new ways of living and enjoying life. By living and working alongside those from other religious backgrounds we can gain greater tolerance, respect and understanding towards those who have different viewpoints to us. This leads to harmony and a safe, happy society.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND INTER-FAITH DIALOGUE

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

Pope Francis’ predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI, stressed on many occasions the importance of inter-faith dialogue in the modern world:

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

In the 1960s, Pope Paul VI spoke to the Church in a document called *Nostra Aetate*, which was a declaration on the relationship of the Catholic Church to non-Christians. One very important statement was that Jewish people should not be blamed for the death of Christ, something they have been persecuted for over the centuries.

In this document Pope Paul referred to Church teaching on *Imago Dei* to implore people to respect the faith of others:

‘We cannot truly call on God, the Father of all, if we refuse to treat in a brotherly way any man, created as he is in the image of God.’

HOW DOES THE CATHOLIC CHURCH PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING, RESPECT AND TOLERANCE BETWEEN DIFFERENT RELIGIOUS AND NON-RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS?

- In 1964, the Catholic Church established the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. This council aims to promote respect and collaboration between different faiths and religions.
- The Catholic Bishop's Conference of England and Wales has a number of advisers from a range of religions and beliefs. The department has three main branches:
 1. the Committee for Christian Unity
 2. the Committee for Catholic/Jewish relations
 3. the Office of Relations with Other Religions
 - The committees recognise and acknowledge that through dialogue with other faiths and traditions they may find God, and that in modern times, more than ever, dialogue is essential.
 - The Catholic Church is part of the inter-faith network which was established in 1987 to promote good relations between people of different faiths.

In 2011 the Vatican announced a new initiative called 'Courtyard of the Gentiles' aimed at promoting dialogue between theists and atheists.