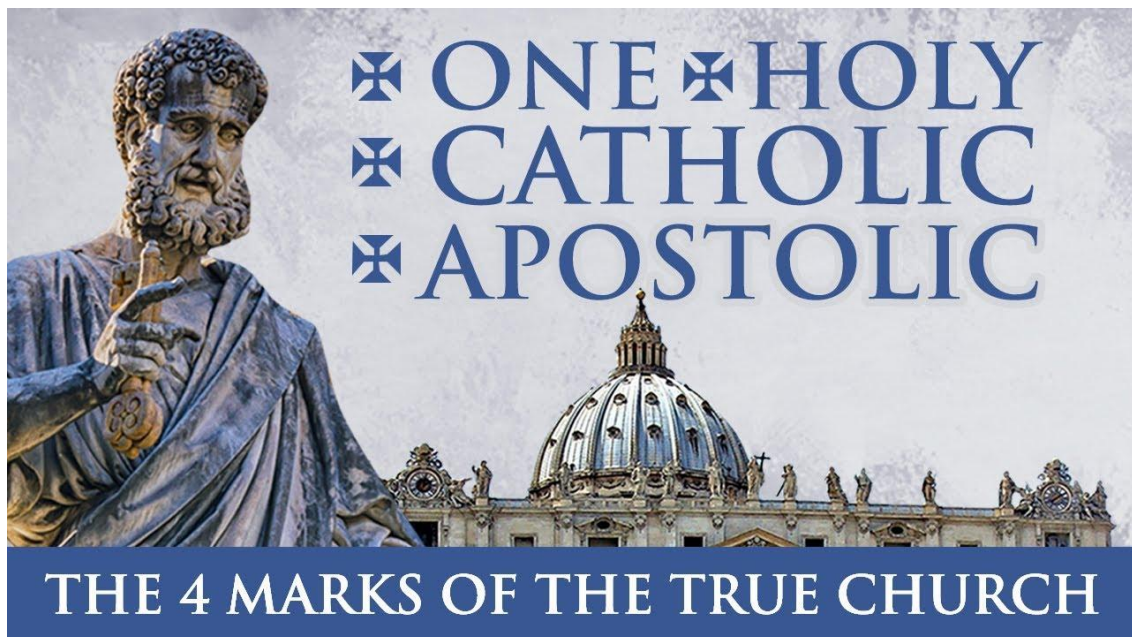




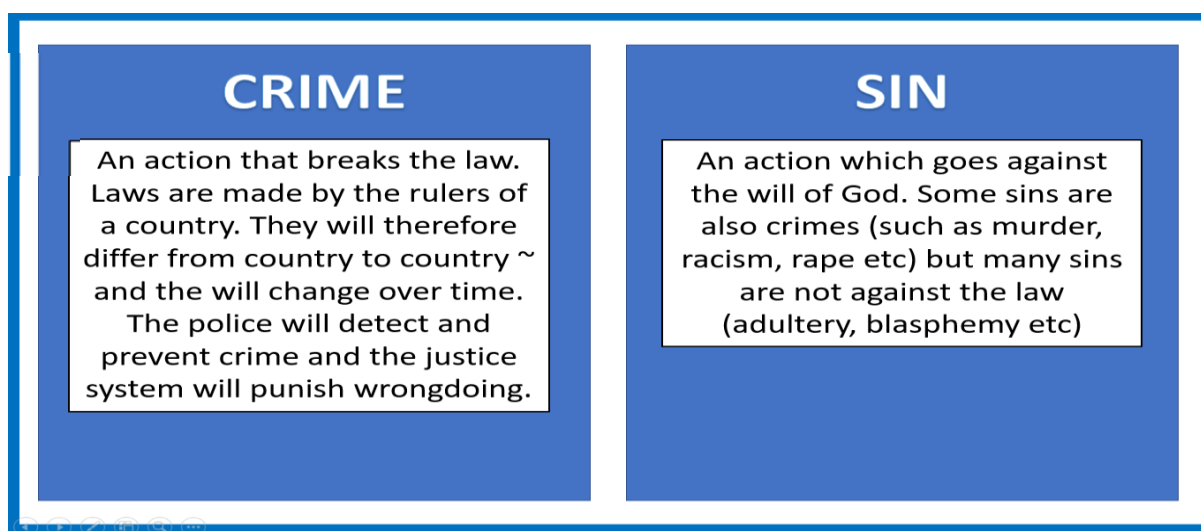
Component 2

Sin & Forgiveness



NAME:

Absolutism	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.
Eucharist	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.
Evangelisation	Literally means spreading the “good news” which we translate as Gospel. The sharing of the Gospel and life of Jesus with others.
Forgiveness	The act of pardoning someone for the offences they have caused you. Overlooking a person’s faults.
Punishment	The consequences of a wrong decision and a penalty imposed by a person in authority on the person who has committed wrongdoing.
Relativism	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.
Salvation	The belief that through Jesus’ death and resurrection humanity has achieved the possibility of life forever with God.
Sin	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.

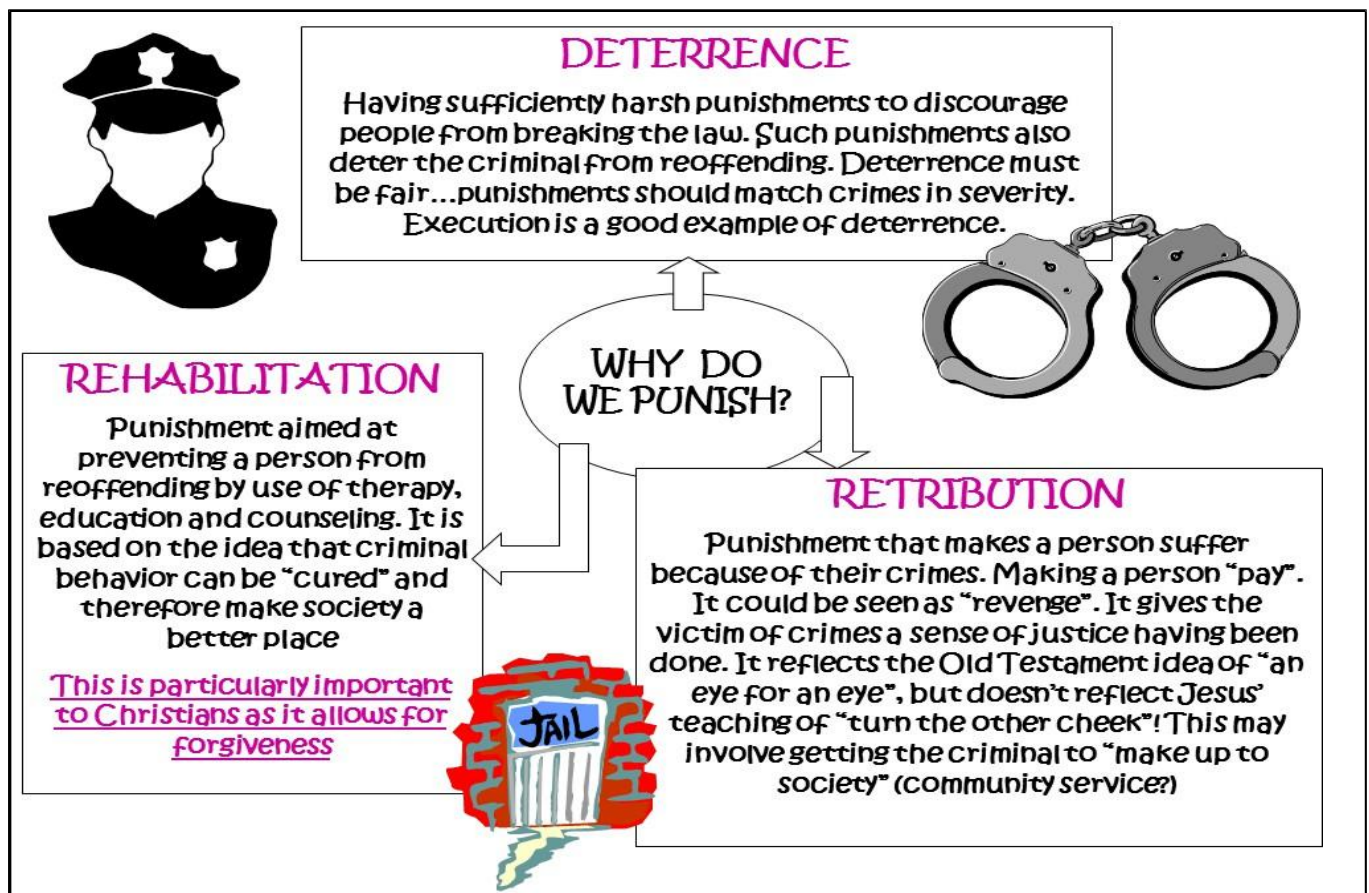


Relative morality

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!"

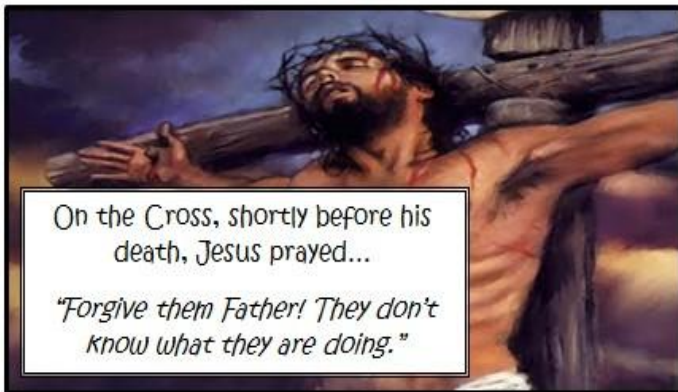
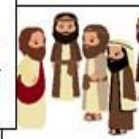
In other words, there is no limit to forgiveness!

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:

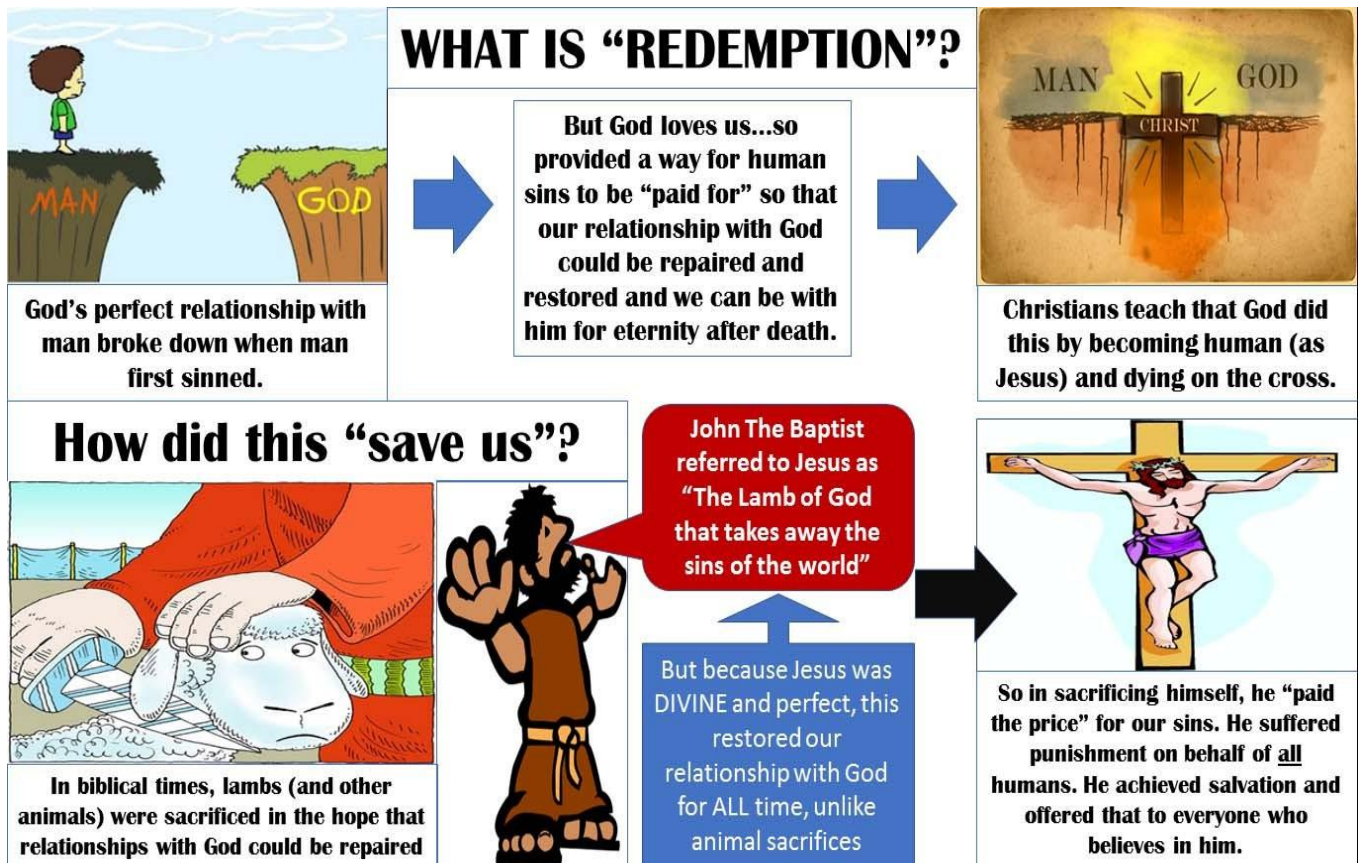
Arguments for Capital Punishment	Arguments against capital punishment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Acts as a deterrent to others ~ crimes like murder would be more rare</u> • <u>It is a protection for society ~ removing dangerous people from the streets</u> • <u>It saves much money that would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

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



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")

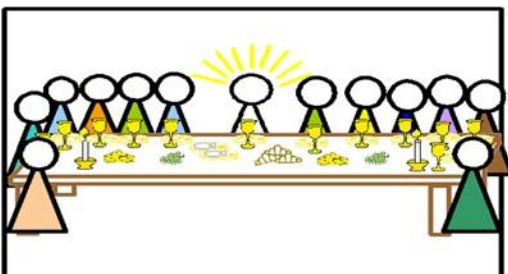
The life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus

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:

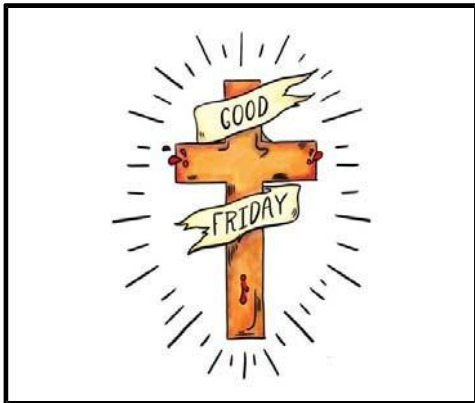
The Last Supper



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.*

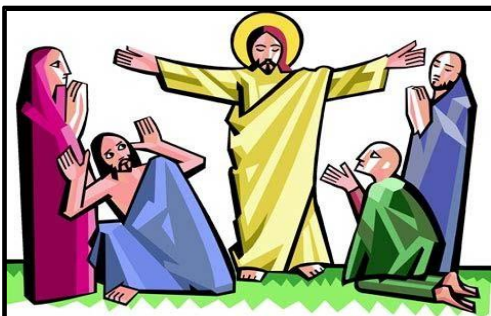
Good Friday, Jesus' arrest, trial and crucifixion



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) sentenced 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.*



Will everyone be saved?

*The philosopher **John Hick** believed in a concept called **universal salvation**. He, and many others argue that all people will be reconciled with God in the end (although it may take some people longer to get to him).*

*Some Christians understand that we are not free to choose to accept or reject salvation because our ‘will’ will always choose to do the wrong thing due to original sin. Only God can save Christians through his grace. This is called **predestination** and includes more than one belief. Some of those who accept this doctrine argue that God has predestined salvation to those whose faith and morality he foreknew (he is omniscient).*

A more extreme version is the idea of double predestination associated with the 16th century scholar John Calvin. According to this doctrine, God has determined for eternity those he will save and those he will damn. Nothing Christians can do will alter his choice.

According to the Catholic Church, God does not send 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. Hell is not a punishment but a consequence of choosing to go against God.

*Since Jesus established the Catholic Church as necessary for salvation, those who knowingly reject him or his Church cannot be saved. As Jesus said, **“He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters” (Matt 12:30)***

What exactly is meant by 'The Church'?

In Greek 'ecclesia' is the word for Church. It means assembly or gathering together of God's people.

There are two meanings of the word 'Church':

- A church (with lowercase 'c') is a place of worship for Christians, a building
- The Church (with a capital 'C') refers to the community of believers

In the 4th Century AD, The Council of Nicaea 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 & COURAGE

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!

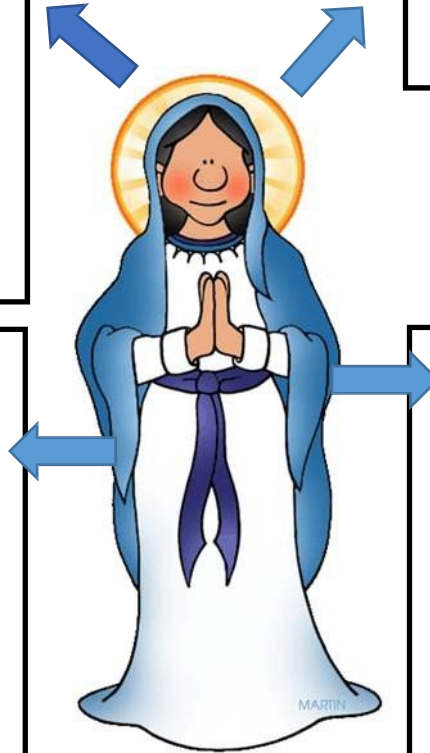
They do not believe she answers prayers ~ she is **NOT DIVINE!** But she intercedes with Christ to help us.

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.



Outside the Church there is no salvation

The phrase 'outside the Church there is no salvation' is a very old one and comes from the writings of early Christian thinkers. For example, it occurs in one of the letters of St Cyprian, a Catholic bishop in Africa in the 3rd century. This phrase expresses the belief that only Catholics will go to heaven.

Catechism (CCC) states: '*...all salvation comes from Christ the Head through the Church which is his body*'. This echoes **Jesus'** own words, '***I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me***'.

The Church teaches that everyone is saved through Christ's death and resurrection – whether they know it or not. God is bigger than the Church so people who are not Catholic can be saved by God's power. People who have not heard the Gospel of Jesus but have lived good lives can be saved because it is not their fault that they are not Christians. They are sometimes referred to as anonymous Christians or accidental Christians.

Within Christianity there are different attitudes about whether people who are not Christians can be saved. These attitudes are:

Exclusivists	Believe their own faith tradition is the only completely true religion. Other religions might have elements of truth, but they are largely false. Anyone who does not accept Jesus as the incarnation cannot be saved.
Inclusivists	Believe their own religion is the only completely true religion. They do not view other religions as wrong but think other religions are incomplete faiths. The sure way to achieve salvation is through belief in Jesus as the Son of God, but they believe it is possible for people who are not members of the Church, or who lived before Jesus, to be saved. Most Catholics regard themselves as Inclusivist.
Pluralists	Believe all faith traditions are deserving of respect since there are many paths to God and all paths are equal. Jesus said, 'In my Father's house there are many rooms'

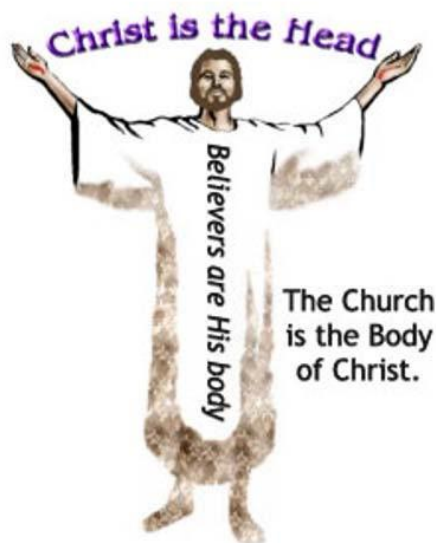
The Church as the body of Christ

- While on earth in his physical body Jesus showed God's love in the things he did and spoke. 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.

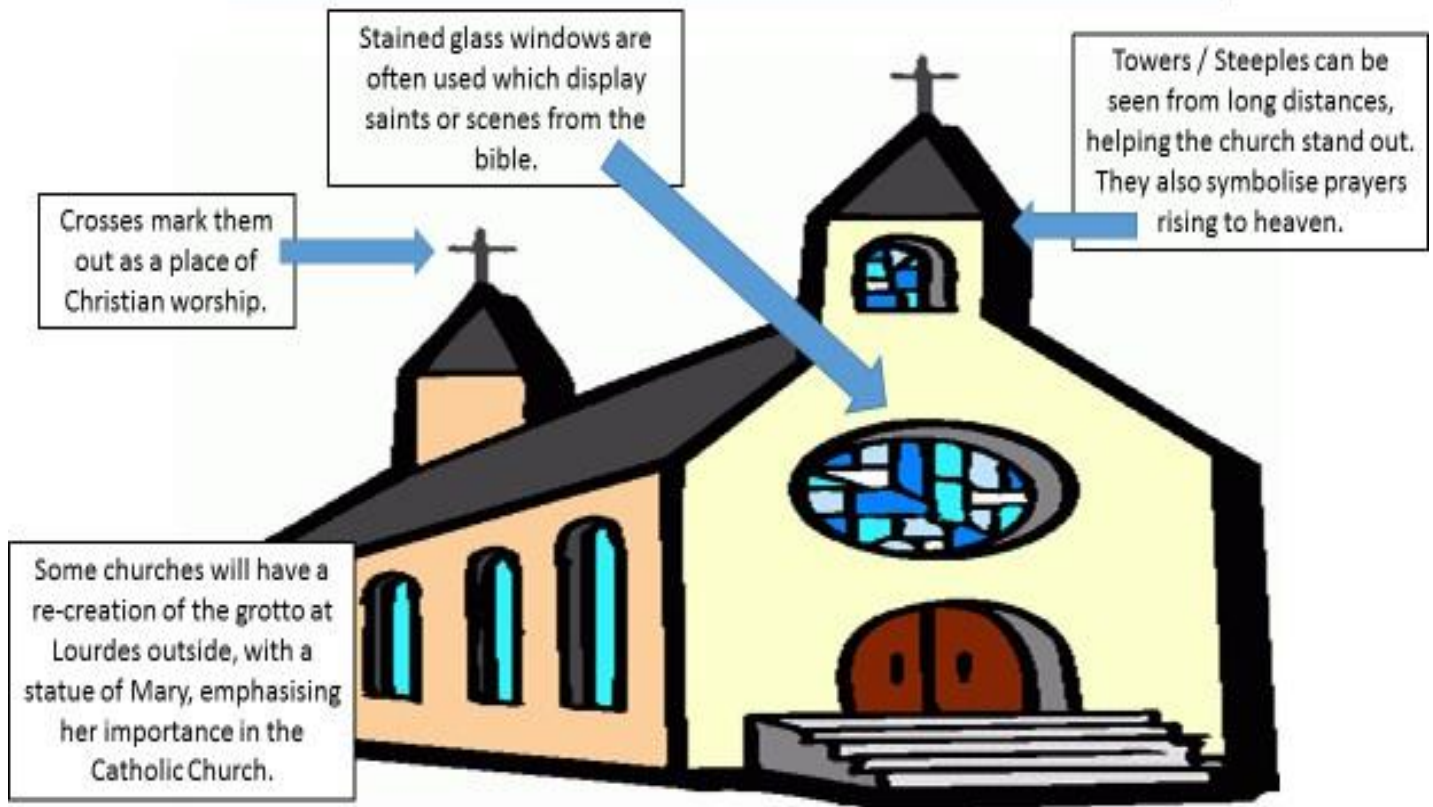


This is why Mass is so important. It is a central belief that the bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ. As they share in communion Catholics believe they are given strength to be followers of Christ in this world.

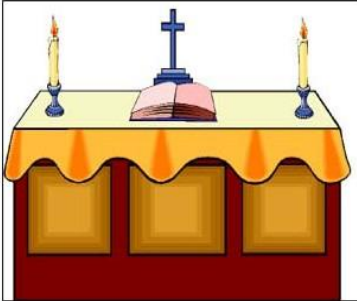
Some Christians, such as Anglicans, believe that the bread and wine are just symbols of Jesus' body and blood. However Catholics believe that Christ is fully present. This is known as Real Presence-the bread and wine transform into Christ's body and blood.

Architectural features of the Catholic Church

TYPICAL ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES OF A CATHOLIC CHURCH:

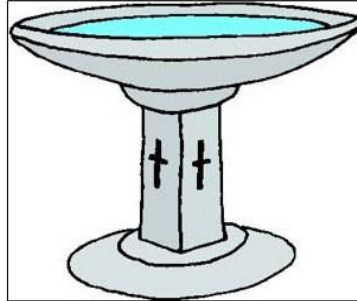


Inside a Catholic Church



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

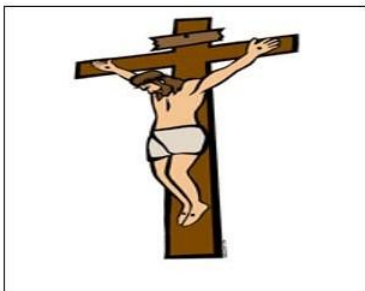
Used at baptism, it is a large basin filled with holy water. They are often positioned near the door to symbolise that baptism is where we enter into Christian life. It is linked to Salvation as it is where we are washed free of Original Sin



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

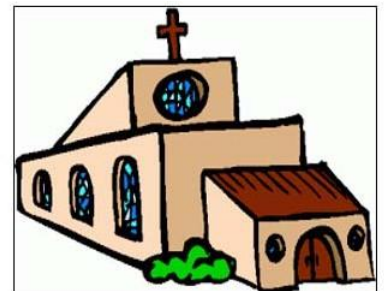
A crucifix is a cross with the image of the crucified Christ on it. There is one in every Catholic Church. It reminds us of the suffering and death of Christ in order to give us eternal life.



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 a sacrament 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.

Catholics also believe that the whole of creation shows the presence of God. This means God’s presence and love are around us every day. This means they see every natural and human thing as a way for God to communicate with us. They call this ‘**The sacramental nature of reality**’.

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.

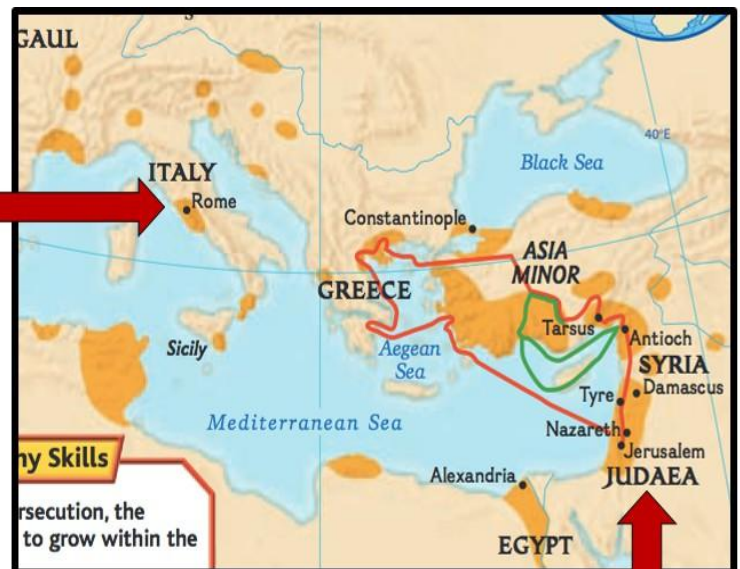
Evangelisation

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:

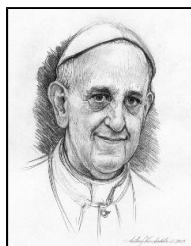
- Today, Christian missionaries concentrate their efforts on the Western World (places like Europe).
- They focus on communities that know the gospel but have become increasingly SECULAR (non-religious)

Evangelii Gaudium

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



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



The main 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?..



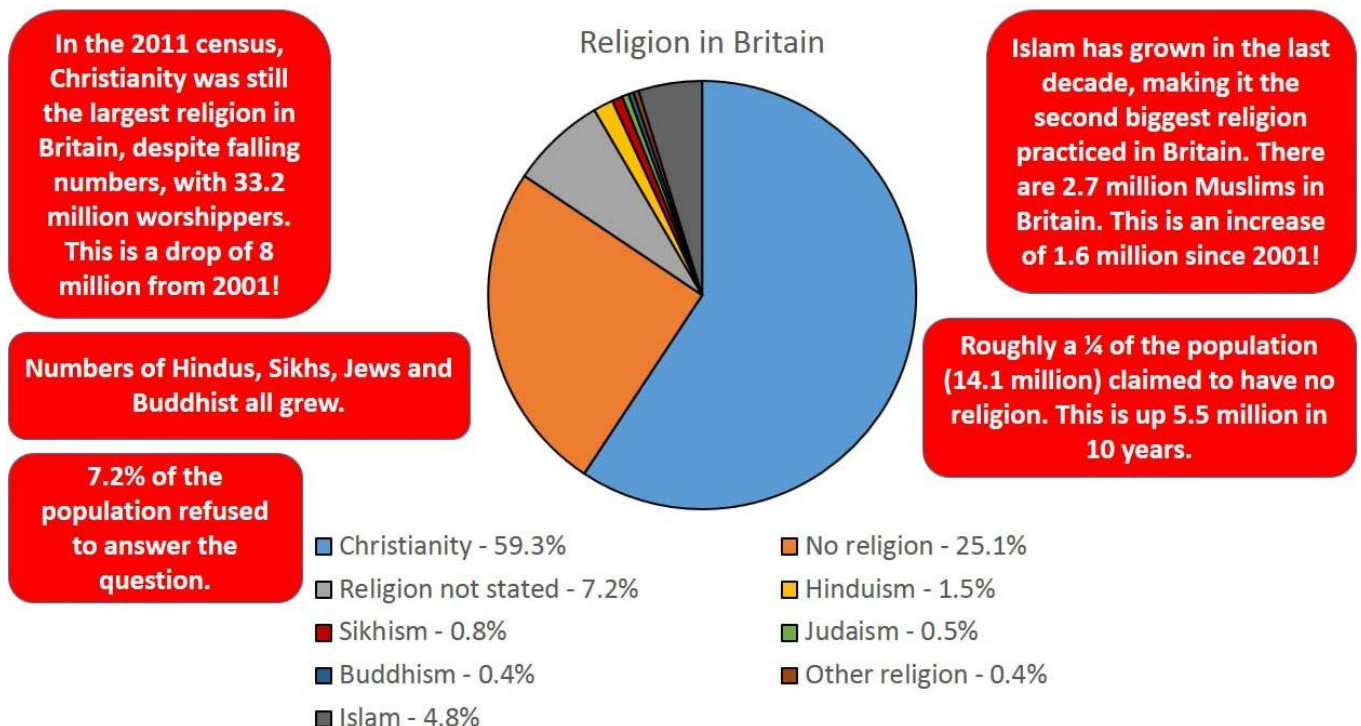
The local parish should spread Jesus' message...including through Catholic primary and secondary schools where the young can be educated.

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 16th 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 birth 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.