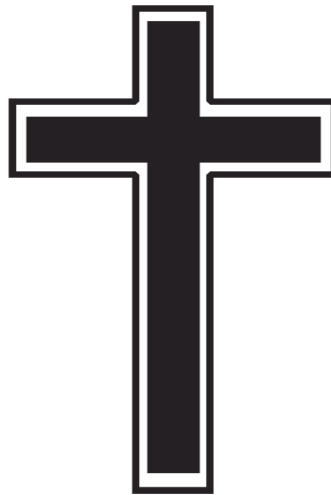


Catholic Christianity:

Life & Death

GCSE Course Information



Name:

Teacher:

Information for Students

This course information booklet covers all areas of GCSE Paper 2 Section 1:

Area of study	Content
Catholic beliefs about dying well (Palliative Care) Euthanasia & Assisted Suicide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catholic beliefs about death, palliative care and their beliefs about euthanasia and assisted suicide • Contrasting views regarding the quality of life with reference to Peter Singer and Humanism
Catholic, Religious and Non-Religious beliefs about life after death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catholic beliefs about the resurrection of the body • Other Christian beliefs about the immortality of the soul • Alternative religious and non-religious arguments about life after death
Eschatology: Roman Catholic beliefs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catholic beliefs about heaven and hell • Catholic beliefs about judgment and purgatory • The parables of the Rich man and Lazarus and the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant
The Magisterium & The 2nd Vatican Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What the Magisterium is and how it works • The Pontifical and Conciliar aspects of the Magisterium • The importance of the 2nd Vatican Council and its 4 key documents
Artefacts: Scenes of the Passion Sarcophagi & Paschal Candle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of the Paschal Candle and what the candle represents • How the candle is used in Baptism and at Easter • The use of Sarcophagi and the use of the Scenes of the Passion Sarcophagi
The Funeral Rite & Catholic Music (Faure's Requiem)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The different symbols that are used within the Roman Catholic Funeral Rite • How these symbols reflect beliefs about eternal life • How Faure's Requiem expresses Catholic beliefs about eternal life
The importance of prayer and Prayers/Masses for the dead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The significance of prayers and the different types of prayer that Roman Catholics use • Difference between Formulaic and Extempore prayers with reference to the 'Our Father' • The significance of prayers and Mass for the dead

Catholic teachings on Assisted Suicide, Euthanasia and Dying Well

Catholics believe that death is not the end of our existence. Jesus taught that those who believe in him would have **Eternal Life**; they would go on to live with God after death. This belief should affect how Catholics live their lives - it gives purpose and meaning to their existence. It affects how they should treat those who are dying and approach death themselves. Death should not be seen as the end of life, just a way into a new form of life.



Assisted suicide and Euthanasia

The Catholic Church rejects **Assisted Suicide** and **Euthanasia** as ways of ending a life. This teaching is based on the belief that all human life is sacred. Life is a gift from God and so should be respected from conception to natural death. Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide are seen as going against the Sanctity of Life and against the instruction in the Ten Commandments - '**Do not murder**'.



The Catholic Church argues that we have the right to die with **dignity** but this does not mean they agree with Euthanasia or Assisted Suicide.

Any deliberate action that brings life to an end is wrong:

"I confirm that euthanasia is wrong as it breaks the law of God" Pope John Paul II

The Church sees 'Palliative Care' as alternative to euthanasia and assisted suicide.

Dying Well: The importance of palliative care

Catholics promote the work of **hospices** and other organisations that provide **palliative care** when treatment to cure a medical condition is no longer possible.

Hospices, and those organisations that offer similar care, are guided by doctors to provide pain relieving medication, nursing care, supervision and practical help until natural death occurs. The Catholic Church, along with many other Christians, support those who provide palliative care because it respects the value of every person until their natural death. Medication is provided to reduce pain and to enable the individual to retain as much dignity and quality of life as possible.



Baroness Jane Campbell

When Jane Campbell was born, the doctors told her mother to take her home and enjoy her because they thought she would probably not live for longer than a



year. But, over 50 years later, she is a leading campaigner for the rights of people with disabilities and a member of the British House of Lords. Baroness Campbell continues to be strongly opposed to euthanasia and assisted suicide. She supports the charity '**Care Not Killing**' which promotes Palliative Care for people with degenerative and terminal illness.



Views on Quality and Sanctity of Life

Humanists - The right to die

Humanists reject belief in God and have long supported people in their right to die. They argue that people who suffer from incurable diseases might choose to end their life before their illness reaches the final stages. It means that they can choose to control the disease or illness before it becomes too painful. They wish to end their life before their quality of life is diminished. A person who is fully conscious and rational has the freedom to choose when to end their life. In 2017, Humanist, **Peter Singer** wrote an article for the Guardian newspaper supporting this approach and stated: **"We should end the suffering of patients who know they are dying and want to do so peacefully"** (Peter Singer 2017)



Sanctity of Life

Catholics believe in the **sanctity of life**, that all human life is sacred and belongs to God. Life is precious and should be respected from conception to natural death. This teaching comes from the book of **Genesis** and is reinforced in the commandments and by **St Catherine of Siena** when she described the human soul.

Catholics believe that suffering can have a purpose. It unites the person with the suffering of Jesus and can be offered up. This was the teaching presented by St John Paul II in **'Salvifici Doloris'**. Catholics argue that people should be allowed to die with dignity using good palliative care. Hospices offer support and care and it is acceptable to turn off a life support machine if the medical evidence shows the patient is brain dead. It is also acceptable for a person to refuse treatment which would prolong a painful illness. Withdrawing feeding of someone in a coma is also acceptable as it may be the most compassionate and loving thing to do. However, no direct form of euthanasia or assisted suicide is permissible.



Sources of Wisdom & Authority

"And God said, Let us make man in our image" (Genesis)

"Thou shalt not kill" (Exodus)

"Her dignity is that of her creation, seeing that she is the image of God, and this has been given her by grace, and not as her due. In that same mirror of the goodness of God" (St Catherine of Siena)

Quality of Life

Some Christians and Humanists argue that **quality of life** is more important than sanctity of life. This is the idea that life must have some benefits for it to be worth living. If a person is free from pain and lives with dignity, they can be said to have a good quality of life. If they are in constant pain and are unable to enjoy activities they once may have enjoyed they can be said to have a poor quality of life. Some would argue that if a person has a poor quality of life they have a right to die.

Contrasting views regarding Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide

Arguments against Euthanasia/Assisted Suicide	Arguments for Euthanasia/Assisted Suicide
The Decalogue (commandments) clearly state "Do not kill"	The Golden Rule – Jesus taught that you should "Treat others as you would like to be treated yourself." If you were suffering then you may want to end your life so we should allow others the same option.
Non-voluntary euthanasia can lead to discrimination of disabled people. It shows that their lives are not as valuable as the lives of others.	In 1947 we were given the Declaration of Human Rights. Many people argue that we should have the human right to die how and when we wish.
Sanctity of life - Life is sacred and belongs to God	Many illnesses have no cure and the prospect for the person suffering is that they will be in more pain in the future.
The Catholic Church believe there is a clear alternative to euthanasia. People can be supported in their dying. Doctors and professionals can prescribe drugs and offer support and let a person die naturally.	Jesus taught his followers that they should love their neighbour as they love themselves. Euthanasia can be seen as the most loving action.
Euthanasia and Assisted suicide can lead to 14 years in prison for a doctor a family member that may be responsible.	Quality of life - Life must have some benefits for it to be worth living. If this is not the case then a person should be allowed to die.
Slippery slope argument - If we legalise euthanasia for terminal illness where do we draw the line? Do we start to allow it for depression and curable illness like the common cold?	Euthanasia literally means 'an easy and gentle death'. It is a loving action as it combats pain and suffering of patients and their families.



Catholic belief about life after death

Catholic beliefs about life after death are summed up in the Nicene Creed. The Nicene Creed is a statement of Catholic beliefs that was formulated in 325AD at the **Council of Nicaea**. It teaches that Jesus was crucified, died and was buried. Three days later Jesus was resurrected from the dead and later he ascended into heaven where he will judge the living and the dead.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
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 early Christian leader, **St. Paul** wrote a number of letters outlining beliefs about Jesus and life after death, in particular the belief in the resurrection of the body. In his first letter to the **Corinthians**, Paul explains what will happen after death:

Source of wisdom & authority

"If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith." (1Cor 15:12-14)

"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day... he appeared to Peter, then to the Twelve" (1Cor 15:3-8)

"The dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. The mortal will become immortal." (1Cor 15:42-45)

Catholic belief in resurrection with reference to 1 Corinthians 15

In **1 Corinthians 15**, St. Paul teaches that Jesus rose from the dead and what happened to Jesus will also happen to his followers. **Resurrection** is the belief that after death people will have a bodily existence. Paul teaches that people will have a resurrection like Jesus, and will have a spiritual resurrection body given to them by God. This will be a glorified body. When Jesus rose his body was familiar but at times his disciples did not recognise him. This will also happen to believers.



Key Concept

Resurrection = The raising of the body to life following death. Catholics believe Jesus rose from the dead on the third day.

Popular beliefs about survival of the soul

Christianity, Judaism and Islam believe in the existence of a **soul**. The soul is the spiritual part or essence of a person. It is non-physical and lives on after death.

Most Christians believe in the **immortality of the soul**. They believe that when the body dies, the soul leaves the body to live with God. The soul is the essence of a person and at death it leaves the body. It is eternal and continues to live on to everlasting life in **heaven**.



Some Christians say the body and soul are one and cannot be separated. After death the soul is temporarily apart from the body, but body and soul will be reunited on Judgement day. At the resurrection we will rise bodily from the dead, just as Jesus rose from the dead.

Key Concept

Soul = The spiritual part of a human that can never die. The part created by God that lives on after the death of the physical body.

Contrasting Views about death as the end of personal existence

Most humanists and atheists are **materialists**. The famous atheist, **Richard Dawkins** takes a materialist approach and rejects the existence of the soul and that our life or our bodies can continue after death. Materialists argue nothing else exists apart from matter or material. Humans are just a physical body. This means there is no soul, we are just made of matter. There is no spiritual aspect to life. This is the only life we have and therefore should make the most of it. There is no life after death.

Some people believe in **reincarnation**. Sikhs and Hindus believe that at death the soul passes to a new body. How you are reborn depends on good or bad actions in this life. People are reborn countless times in many different ways.

Eschatology

Catholic teaching on heaven and hell

In Christianity, **eschatology** is the study of what happens at the 'end times' or the 'end of the world'. The Catholic Church's teaching about life after death is summarised in the **Four Last Things**:

1. Death
2. Judgement
3. Heaven
4. Hell.



Key Concept

Death = The end of physical life. Catholics see death as a change rather than an ending.

When a person dies they are judged by God and this decides if they go to heaven or hell.

Heaven

Catholics believe that a person who has lived a holy life will be rewarded with eternal happiness in heaven. Heaven is to be at one with God. In the Bible, heaven is often described as a banquet or a feast, but Christian ideas about it vary widely. The Bible teaches that there is no sadness, pain or suffering in heaven. Christians take this to mean that heaven is a holy, happy and peaceful state of being with God. Catholics agree that it is difficult to accurately describe what it is like, since it is beyond human experience.



Key Concept

Heaven = Eternal existence in God's presence

Hell

Christianity teaches that **hell** is a place or

state of being where unrepentant sinners go after death. An unrepentant sinner is someone who does not regret the things they have done wrong and refuses God's offer of forgiveness and **salvation** through Jesus. A well-



known image of hell, as an underground place of eternal fire and suffering, is based on images in the Bible. Most Christians believe that hell is a place of suffering and of eternal separation from God. The punishment takes the form of isolation from God.

Key Concept

Hell = The lack of God for all eternity

Many people have a problem with the idea that an all-loving God would allow people to go to hell. However, Catholics believe that God is just and fair, and so cannot let evil go unpunished.

Catholic teaching on purgatory

Catholics believe in a state after death called **purgatory**. It comes from the word “**purge**”, to cleanse or get rid of sin. They think that most people are not bad enough to go to hell but not good enough to go straight to heaven, as they have sinned in their lives on earth. Purgatory is a state of purifying, a time of cleansing and preparation to enter heaven. St. Paul used the image of fire in his first letter to the Corinthians, “**It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person’s work. If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward.**” (1Cor 3:13) Protestant Christians do not accept this idea of Purgatory as there is no mention directly of purgatory in the Bible.



Catholics believe that they can help the souls in purgatory by praying for them. There is a long tradition of praying for the dead. Catholics can ask God for mercy to forgive the soul’s sins so that they can enter heaven and have eternal life with God.

Key Concept

Eternal Life = Spiritual existence in heaven after the death of the body.

Key Concept

Judgement = Judging someone on their actions. Catholics believe God will judge people on how they have lived their lives.

The Parables of Judgement

Catholics believe that when a person dies, God passes judgement on his or her soul. This is called ‘**particular judgement**’. Each person is responsible for their own actions. There will be a final judgment called ‘**General Judgement**’ when the whole of creation will be judged.

Parable of the Sheep & Goats

Beliefs about judgement are found in the **Parable of the Sheep and the Goats** (Matt 25:31-36). The parable teaches that God will separate the ‘good’ and the ‘bad’ just like a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.



Parable of the Unmerciful Servant



God’s judgement and mercy is found in the **Parable of the Unmerciful Servant**. This parable is used by Catholics to help them understand beliefs about forgiveness and life after death. If you are willing to show mercy and forgive others then God will show mercy and forgive you.

Parable of the Rich Man & Lazarus

Beliefs about heaven, hell and judgement are found in the **Parable of the Rich Man & Lazarus**. This parable is used by Catholics to help them understand what heaven and hell may be like. It informs Catholics about the type of actions that are required to gain access to heaven with God.



Sources of Wisdom & Authority

Matthew 18:21-35 The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

- Jesus tells of a man who owes money to the king.
- Not wanting to go to prison, he begs the king for mercy.
- After receiving mercy and being free from his debt, the man goes in search of a man who owes *him* money.
- This other man asks him for mercy, however, he rejects the requests for mercy.
- The king is furious and puts the first man in prison until he pays what he owes.
- Jesus finishes the story with these words: *'This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother and sister from your heart'* (Matt 18:35)

Luke 16:19-31 The Rich Man and Lazarus

- A rich man lives a life of luxury but ignores Lazarus, the beggar who lives at his gate.
- Lazarus dies and is taken to heaven. At the same time the rich man dies and is taken to hell.
- The rich man asks for some comfort, but he is reminded: *"Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony."* (Luke 16:19-31)
- The message of the story is that everyone will be judged on how they have lived their life and rewarded accordingly.

The Magisterium

In the Catholic Church, there are several figures and groups of people who are also believed to be sources of authority. This means, people who can pass on important teachings and ideas about God and the Catholic faith. The Catholic Church is a hierarchy, which is a system where members of an organisation are ranked according to their authority:

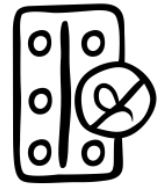
- **Pope**- He leads the Church. Every **Pope** is the successor of St. Peter. This means he does the same job Peter once did. What Jesus said to Peter applies to his successors too.
- **Cardinals** – They are a small group of bishops whose job it is to elect the Pope.
- **Archbishops** – Senior bishops.
- **Bishops** – they are responsible for a diocese and all the priests within it. They give the sacrament of Holy Orders.
- **Priests**- they are responsible for the spiritual care of a parish and celebrate the sacraments.



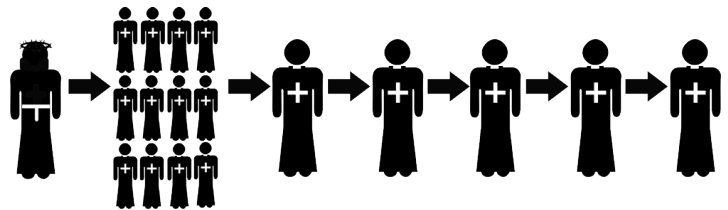
Key Concept

Magisterium = The teaching authority of the Roman Catholic Church that comes from the Pope and Bishops.

The Latin word **Magisterium** means “teaching authority”. This is the teaching authority of the Church that includes the Bishops and the Pope. The Magisterium puts forward Catholic Teaching in response to issues that were not considered in the Bible or covered by tradition. It might make reference to issues like IVF, Social Media, Euthanasia, same-sex partnerships, contraception, Ecology and Nuclear weapons. Catholics believe the Holy Spirit guides the Pope and bishops in their decisions. As the Pope is guided by the Holy Spirit, Catholics believe he is infallible. This means he cannot make a mistake when talking about matters of faith.



The Magisterium is linked to ‘**Apostolic Succession**’. This is the idea that the authority of the Church and Pope comes from Jesus and the Apostles.



The Magisterium is split into two main parts:

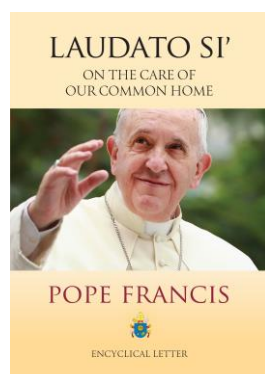
1. **Ordinary Magisterium**
2. **Extraordinary (Conciliar & Pontifical)**

1. Ordinary Magisterium

The ordinary Magisterium is the regular teaching of the Pope and his **Cardinals (lead Bishops)** on everyday issues that influence the lives of Catholics. This teaching is often put forward in letters known as **encyclicals**. These are letters written by the Pope that are then shared with the whole of the Church. These letters/teachings are then shared with the Catholic community through Catholic churches.



One of the most well-known encyclicals was written in 1995 by **Pope John Paul II**. It was called ‘**Evangelium Vitae**’ which means the **Gospel of Life**. Its main teachings were about issues surrounding the sanctity of life. For example abortion, euthanasia and capital punishment. One of the most recent encyclicals was written by Pope Francis in 2015 and is called ‘**Laudato Si**’ which means ‘**Care for Our Common Home**’.



2. Extraordinary Magisterium

This form of Magisterium is called extraordinary because they don't happen very often. It is split into two main parts:

- i. Conciliar (Councils)
- ii. Pontifical (Teaching of the Pope)

i. Conciliar (Councils)

They are large councils that invite the lead Bishops of each country to meet and discuss matters of the Church. The first council is recorded in the Bible and took place in Jerusalem. One of the most important councils was the council of Nicaea as this is where the Church (magisterium) put together the Nicene Creed which outlines important Catholic beliefs such as:

- The Trinity
- The Incarnation
- God as an omnipotent Creator
- Jesus death and resurrection



The most recent council took place between 1962-1965 at the Vatican in Rome. It was called the **2nd Vatican Council** and during this council many important documents were written that influenced the Catholic Church. One of the documents is called '**Gaudium et spes**' and this focused on how the Church should act in the modern world. It is linked to the work of **CAFOD** and **Catholic Social Teaching**.

ii. Pontifical (Teaching of the Pope)

Another form of the Magisterium are declarations (teachings) made by the Pope himself. The Pope has the authority to make the final decision on issues that Bishops in the Church might not agree. Roman Catholics believe that the pope speaks **infallibly** when speaking **ex cathedra** on questions of faith or morals. Ex cathedra is Latin for "from the chair" and is considered to be a statement that is without error. One example of a pope speaking 'ex cathedra' was when **Pope Pius XII** declared in 1950 that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was physically taken up to heaven after her death.



The Second Vatican Council (Vatican II)








History and importance

The 1960s saw dramatic changes around the world. The Second Vatican Council was an **ecumenical (universal)** council of the Catholic Church during which Bishops from all over the world came together to discuss how Catholics needed to meet the challenges of the modern world. The Council, took place between 1962 and 1965. It was started by **Pope John XXIII** who died in 1963 and completed by Pope Paul V.



The four Major documents of the Second Vatican Council	
Gaudium et Spes (The Church in the Modern World)	Sacrosanctum Concilium (The Sacred Liturgy)
This is a document about Catholic social Teaching . This encouraged Catholics to respond to the issues of poverty and social justice, the impact of science and technology. It encourages people of faith to engage with the modern world.	This document covers changes to the Church's official public worship. Before the Council Mass was said in Latin and everyone faced the altar. So the words were translated into the local language and the altar was moved so that the priest now faces the people and their actions are more easily seen. In addition, the lectionary (the collection of Bible passages read at Mass) was revised so that Catholics get a richer and wider selection of Bible readings.
Dei Verbum (The Word of God)	Lumen Gentium (The Church)
This document sets out how important the Bible is. It encouraged Catholics to use the Bible as part of their prayers. It has led to an increase in specialist biblical scholars and more bible study groups in parishes.	Lumen Gentium means 'the light of the peoples' and this document encouraged ordinary Catholics to take a more active role to be part of the mission of the Church and to serve Jesus. This means that all Catholics should act on the promise they made at their baptism to be 'lights to the world' by being of service to others.

Changes brought about by Vatican II

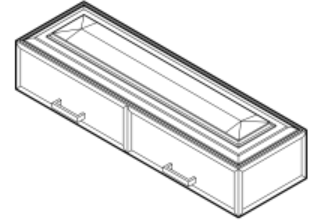
Before the 2 nd Vatican Council	After the 2 nd Vatican Council
The Mass was said in Latin	The Mass is now said in the vernacular (local language) so people can understand what is said 
The priest and congregation faced the altar to show the link between the Eucharist and Jesus' sacrifice	The altar turned round and the priest faces the people so everyone can see. Increases sense of community and participation 
The priest leads everything	Lay people are encouraged to read and be Eucharistic ministers. More women become involved 
The congregation only receive communion in the form of bread	Communion under both bread and wine encouraged 
Catholics did not read the Bible	More emphasis on the liturgy of the Word. Catholics encouraged to read scripture 
Catholics encouraged to see themselves as different from other Christians and not to mix with them. Catholics were not allowed to go to Protestant churches	Emphasis placed on what all Christians believe in common. Catholics encourage to work for Christian Unity and pray with other Christians. This is called Ecumenism 
Closed off to other religions and world views	Open to dialogue with people of other faiths especially Judaism. Catholics encouraged to see Jews as brothers and sisters under the same God 

Artefacts

From very early on in the history of Christianity believers have expressed their faith through objects, from the decorations carved into **sarcophagi** through to the lighting of the **paschal candle** at Easter.

Sarcophagi

In Rome it was custom for wealthy people to be buried in stone tombs called sarcophagi. They were usually decorated with scenes from mythology and with Roman gods. The first Christians adapted this practise, they continued to use the stone tombs but developed images that would reflect their beliefs about eternal life.



Sarcophagus with Scenes of Jesus' Passion

One example is the **Sarcophagus with Scenes of Jesus' Passion** that is now in the **Museo Pio Cristiano in the Vatican, Rome**. It dates from the 4th Century and has a variety of images that reinforce the belief that Jesus' death and resurrection was a triumph over sin and a sign of hope. The entire decoration is based on the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus. In the Early Christian period, when believers were working out ways of visually show their religion, they relied on the example of art around them and biblical stories.

- On one panel, there is an illustration of the scene where **Simon of Cyrene** was helping to carry Jesus' cross to the crucifixion.
- The next panel shows Jesus being given a **crown of thorns** by the soldiers guarding him, they gave him the crown to mock him as he was accused of calling himself king of the Jews. However, the crown in the image is actually filled with jewels which symbolises that Jesus' death was actually a triumph over sin.
- Another panel shows Jesus being presented for trial before the Roman governor **Pontius Pilate**.
- Next to it is the scene of Pilate, who did not want to execute Jesus but gave in to the pressure of the crowd and the Jewish authorities, **washing his hands** to symbolise that he wouldn't take responsibility for crucifying Jesus.
- Christ is not shown here hanging on the cross. The early Christians did not depict Jesus either as dead or in suffering.
- In the centre, there is a cross with the '**Chi-Rho**' symbol standing for Jesus. The Chi-Rho is an ancient symbol of the resurrection. It is formed from the first two letters of the title 'Christ' in Greek. (Chi = X, Rho = P), merged together they form the 'Chi-Rho'.
- The **Chi-Rho** is placed within a wreath that is held in the beaks of two eagles. The wreath is the Roman symbol of victory. The eagles represent God because in Roman religion they were used to represent the God Jupiter. This shows the fact that Jesus' death was a victory over sin and death.
- This cross sits above two soldiers who are looking up at it in wonder. It expresses the hope in life after death that Jesus achieved through his sacrifice and resurrection.



The Paschal Candle

The Paschal Candle is a candle used during Easter week in the church, it symbolises the fact that Jesus' **resurrection** was a triumph over death.

The Easter Vigil

The Paschal Candle is lit at the **Easter Vigil** (the night before Easter Sunday). At the beginning of the Easter Vigil the church is in darkness. Outside the Church a fire is lit and the Easter (Paschal) Candle is lit from that fire and processed (walked through) into the church.



The candle is raised three times with the chant "**The light of Christ**" and the people respond, "**Thanks be to God**". This symbolises that 'light of Christ overcoming the **'darkness of sin'**'. The procession is completed with an ancient hymn, called the **Exultet**, which proclaims Christ's triumph over sin because his resurrection defeats death.

The Symbols on the Candle

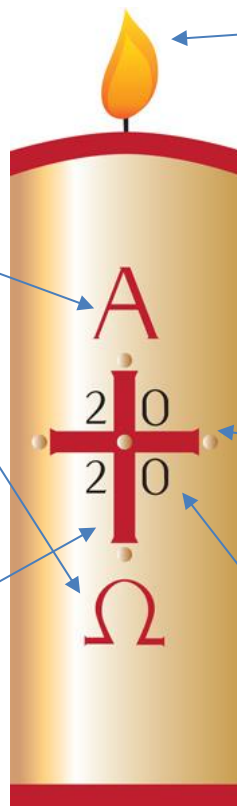
The Paschal candle represents Jesus' light overcoming sin and death. It is decorated with symbols to show this:

The 'Alpha' and 'Omega': These are the first and last letters in the Greek alphabet. They symbolise Christ as the 'first' and the 'last'; the 'beginning' of all things and the 'end' of all things.

The Flame: The flame represents Jesus as the light of the world. It shows that Jesus' sacrifice overcame sin and death.

The Five Wounds: The candle has five studs on it to represent the five wounds Jesus received during his crucifixion.

The Cross: This is the symbol of Christian faith because it is due to the crucifixion of Christ that the resurrection was possible.





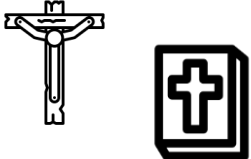

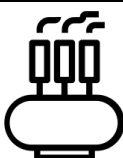



The year: Each year the candle is marked with that particular year. It reminds people that Jesus is the same for all time and that the salvation earned by Jesus is as real now as it was in the past.

Catholic Funeral Rite (rite = religious ceremony)

Catholics believe that death is not the end. They look forward to eternal life with God in heaven. At a Catholic funeral, the mourners pray for the person who has died, asking God to take care of them and give them eternal life. They believe that God listens to their prayers and will be merciful towards the departed person.

The symbols of the Catholic funeral rite in Britain

A Roman Catholic funeral is usually a Requiem Mass. Requiem means 'rest' in Latin and it reflects the fact that Catholics are praying that the person who has died is now at peace with God.

Symbol	Image	How the symbol reflects beliefs about eternal life
The Coffin Pall		The white coffin pall is symbolic of the white garment that the deceased person wore at their baptism. It gives hope of the resurrection that the person will rise to have eternal life with God.
Holy Water		The coffin is sprinkled with holy water as a reminder of the dead person's baptism and the promise of sharing in Jesus' resurrection.
Crucifix and Gospels		The priest places a book of the gospels and a crucifix on the coffin. The gospels signify the person's life dedicated to the teachings of Jesus, and the crucifix reminds believers that will share in Jesus' victory over sin and death.
Paschal Candle		The Paschal Candle is lit and represents the belief that Jesus won a victory over death and they can share in the resurrection and have eternal life.
Incense		The incense is burned and the smoke rises which symbolises the soul of the deceased ascending to heaven to have eternal life with God.
Readings & Prayers		Mass is celebrated with readings and prayers focused on the Christian hope of eternal life. After the Liturgy of the Word comes the homily, when the priest explains the meaning of the readings. The homily normally includes a tribute to the person who has died.
Music		The music, traditionally Faure's Requiem, is played at the funeral. Music lifts our hearts and minds toward God.
Handfuls of earth		Relatives and friends throw handfuls of earth into the grave, showing that they are sharing in laying their loved one to rest.

The significance of different forms of music in worship

Singing and music has been a part of Catholic worship since the earliest days of the Church. As Christianity has its roots in Judaism it continued to use the book of Psalms for its prayers. The **psalms** are poetic and were written to be sung. They continue to be used today in worship, but they also became the model for Christian hymns.



A **hymn** is a type of religious song, written for worship or prayer. Catholic hymns are often written with special or seasonal themes and these are used on holy days such as Christmas, Easter or during particular seasons such as Advent and Lent.

Other hymns are used to encourage respect for the Holy Bible or to celebrate practices such as the **Eucharist or Baptism**. Some hymns praise or address individual saints, particularly the Blessed Virgin Mary; such hymns are very common in Catholicism.

Music for the Mass

The main form of Catholic Worship is the Mass. Music is an important part of Mass and most Masses will include hymns, probably at the beginning and ending with one. It is also likely that there will be a hymn at

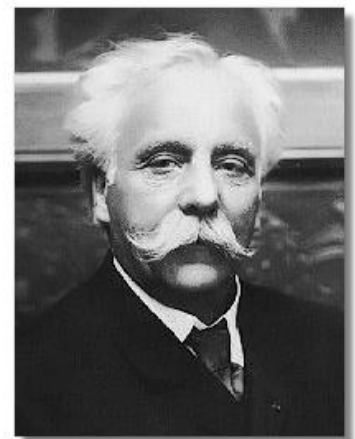


the offertory, when the bread and wine are taken up, and during communion. The hymns used will probably be based on the readings for the day or be influenced by the liturgical year. For example, you would expect hymns in Easter to reflect the joy of the resurrection as that is what Catholics are celebrating then.

Fauré's Requiem

The Requiem Mass is a modified version of the ordinary mass which is said at a Catholic funeral. One of the most famous pieces of music used at a requiem was composed by **Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)**. Faure attempts to express Catholic beliefs about eternal life in his music.

In the requiem he wanted to show that you could be sad about the death of loved ones while also hoping that after death they had gone on to eternal life with God. Fauré said that he did not want to express a fear of death. The requiem focuses on:



- The hope that the dead will be in heaven and share eternal life with God.
- The harps, violins and angelic sopranos are designed to lift the music skyward in the hope that the prayers of the funeral go to God.
- Fauré's music helps the grieving to have faith, comfort and hope.
- It does not focus on sadness, but on the peaceful and fear-free nature of death. The music brings a sense of calm and peace.

The Importance of Prayer for Catholics

For Catholics, prayer is communicating with God, usually through words and music. Catholics pray together through liturgical worship, most commonly the Mass. This is also called public worship and involves Catholics coming together in church to celebrate and pray together. Catholics are also encouraged to pray on their own, this is called private prayer or private worship.

Liturgical Worship = this is a form of public worship that usually takes place in a church.

Formulaic and Extempore Prayer

Catholics can use **formulaic** prayers, which are prayers that have a set structure. These have been passed down over many years as part of the Church tradition. There are many of these prayers that Catholics can use. For example:

- The Lord's Prayer (Our Father)
- Glory Be
- Hail Mary



Catholics also use **extempore** prayers, which are prayers where a person might use their own words to speak to God. These prayers are more spontaneous and do not require planning or preparation. They might be prayers that you say to yourself or a prayer that you share with others.

The Purpose of Prayer for Catholics

Jesus taught his disciples to pray using the Lord's Prayer or Our Father. It is a model for prayer because it contains the four main reasons why people pray. The acronym **ACTS** is used to remember four key parts that are found in many formal prayers. Catholics use these in their informal, personal prayers.

1. **Adoration** - Praising God, e.g. "Dear God, I know that you are all-loving..."
2. **Confession** - Saying sorry, e.g. "Please forgive me for the horrible things I have said about..."
3. **Thanksgiving** - Thanking God, e.g. "Thank you for the amazing weather this week..."
4. **Supplication** - Asking for something, e.g. "Give me strength to..." This can also be called intercession.

Sources of authority

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.

(Matthew 6:9-10)

"Prayer is the raising of heart and mind to God" (**Catechism of the Catholic Church 2259**)



Praying for and offering masses for the dead

Catholics have a long tradition of praying for the dead. They ask God to welcome the deceased into His presence so they can have eternal life in heaven. The most commonly used prayer is:

'Eternal rest grant unto him/her, O Lord.

Let perpetual light shine upon him/her.

May he/she rest in peace.

Amen.

A Catholic might ask a priest to offer a mass for a relative or friend who has died. Catholics pray for the dead because of their belief in **purgatory**. This is a state before heaven. It comes from the word “purge”, to cleanse or get rid of sin. They think that most people are not bad enough to go to hell but not good enough to go straight to heaven, as they have sinned in their lives on earth.

Purgatory is a state of purifying, a time of cleansing and preparation to enter heaven. By offering a Mass and prayers for the dead you are asking God to allow that person to have eternal life in heaven following God's judgement.



Catholic Christianity:

Sin and Forgiveness

GCSE Course Information



Information for Students

This course information booklet covers all areas of GCSE Paper 2 Section 2:

Area of study	Content
Crime and Punishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Difference between a sin and a crime➤ Aims of punishment: retribution, deterrence and rehabilitation➤ Catholic teaching on capital punishment (Augustine and Pope JPII <i>Evangelium Vitae</i>)➤ What does the Bible teach about forgiveness?➤ Arguments for and against capital punishment
Salvation and Redemption	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ What is meant by the terms 'Salvation' and 'Redemption'➤ How and why Catholics believe Jesus life, death and resurrection will save them➤ Can an omnibenevolent God send people to hell?
The Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The four marks of the Church (One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic)➤ Mary as a model of the Church➤ Church as the Body of Christ➤ Whether or not people outside the Church can receive salvation
Church building	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The internal and external features of a Catholic church➤ Specific focus on the font and the altar
Sacraments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ What are the sacraments of initiation?➤ What are the sacraments of healing?➤ What are the sacraments of holy orders and marriage?➤ The meaning and effects of the sacraments➤ Importance of the Eucharist as the source and summit of the Catholic faith
Evangelisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ What is evangelisation?➤ How and why Roman Catholics evangelise➤ The teachings of <i>Evangelii Gaudium</i>

Crime and Punishment

What is a crime?

When someone breaks the law they commit a crime. Laws are there to show what acceptable behaviour is so that people can live safely and without fear. Laws are made by the government and can vary from country to country. For example, in some States of America you need to be 21 to buy alcohol, whereas in Britain it is 18. What is lawful can change over time, for example, homosexuality was illegal in this country but is not anymore.



What is a sin?

A sin is an action which goes against the will or laws of God. Some sins are crimes, for example, murder and stealing. Other sins such as adultery and pride are not against the law.



Key Concept

Sin – An act against God

Making Moral Decisions

Sin and crime are concerned with our behaviour. Deciding what is right or wrong is known as morality. Making decisions on how we should behave can be complex; very simply there are two common forms of morality.



Absolute Morality	Relative Morality
<p>This is when a person firmly believes that an action should always apply. For instance, “stealing is wrong”. This applies in all situations, no matter what the context or circumstance. It would be wrong for me to steal food, even if my family were starving.</p> <p>Another example would be the belief that it is wrong to kill. This would apply in all situations such as war, abortion and euthanasia. There is no circumstance where it is acceptable.</p>	<p>This is the idea that a moral principle can be adapted or adjusted in certain situations.</p> <p>So stealing in principle is wrong, but if I have no other way to get food then stealing can be seen as acceptable.</p> <p>The Humanist Peter Singer would argue that cases of abortion and euthanasia are relative because we need to consider the circumstances such as the quality of a person’s life.</p> <p>For example, if the life of a pregnant woman were at risk then Singer would argue that abortion should be carried out. Likewise, if a person has a painful and terminal illness then they should be allowed euthanasia.</p>

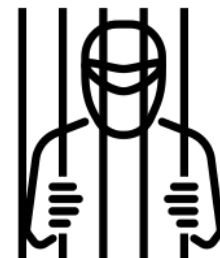
Key Concept

Absolutism - The belief that there are certain actions which are always right or always wrong.

Key Concept

Relativism - The belief that certain actions are right or wrong depending on the situation or circumstances.

Aims of Punishment



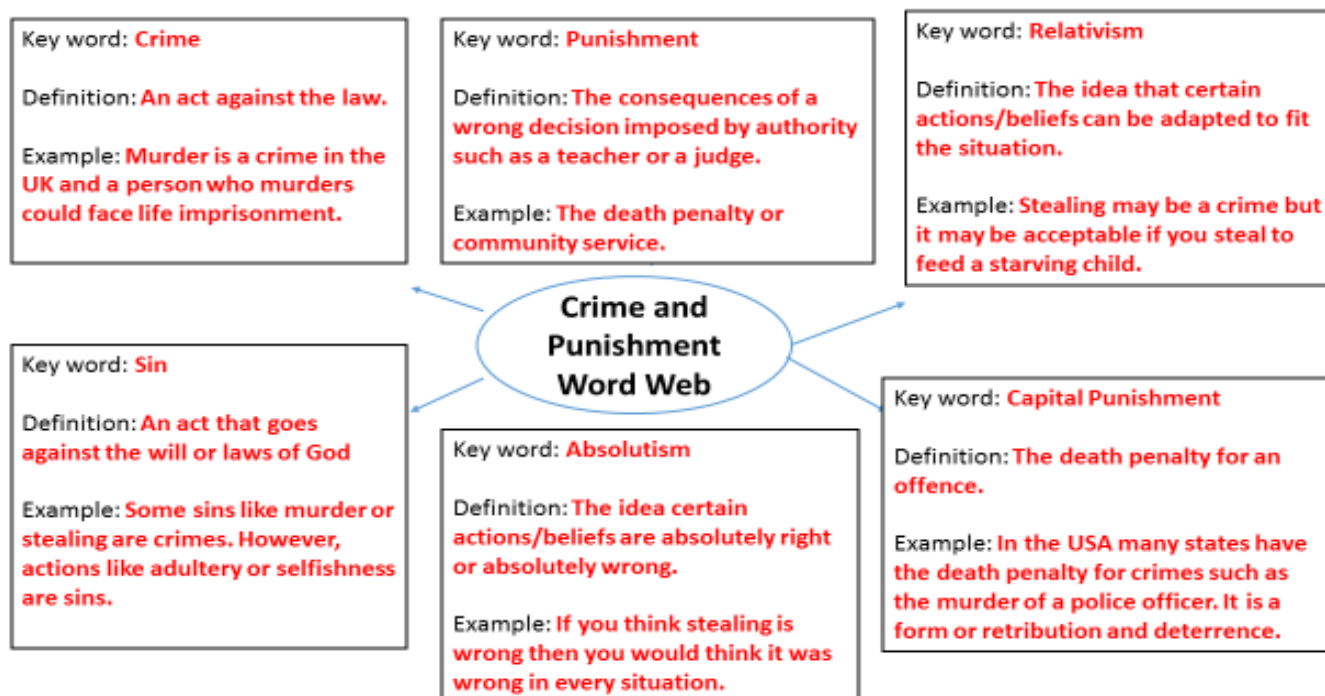
When a criminal is found guilty of a crime, there are a number of punishment options available to a judge, such as prison, fines and community service. A judge will consider the advantages and drawbacks of several different purposes when sentencing a person for the crime they have committed. There are three main aims of punishment:

1. Retribution
2. Deterrence
3. Rehabilitation

Key Concept

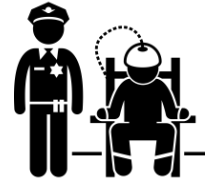
Punishment - The consequences or penalty for someone that has committed a crime.

Type	Definition	Example	Explanation
Retribution	Making a criminal pay for their crime.	The death penalty for someone that has committed murder.	This is seen as a fair and just reaction to a crime e.g. "An eye for an eye a tooth for a tooth"
Deterrence	A punishment that is so severe it puts other people off from committing a crime.	During the London riots in 2011, a 19-year-old man stole a crate of water from a shop. He was given a one-year prison sentence.	Knowing that they face a severe punishment will make a criminal think twice before breaking the law.
Rehabilitation	Helping criminals to reform (change) so they do not commit crimes again.	Providing education, counselling and training to stop criminals from reoffending.	A criminal who has been educated is more likely to avoid committing further crimes.



Capital Punishment

Capital punishment is also known as the death penalty. It means a person is put to death or executed as a punishment for their crime. It was abolished in the United Kingdom in 1965, but it is still legal in many countries.

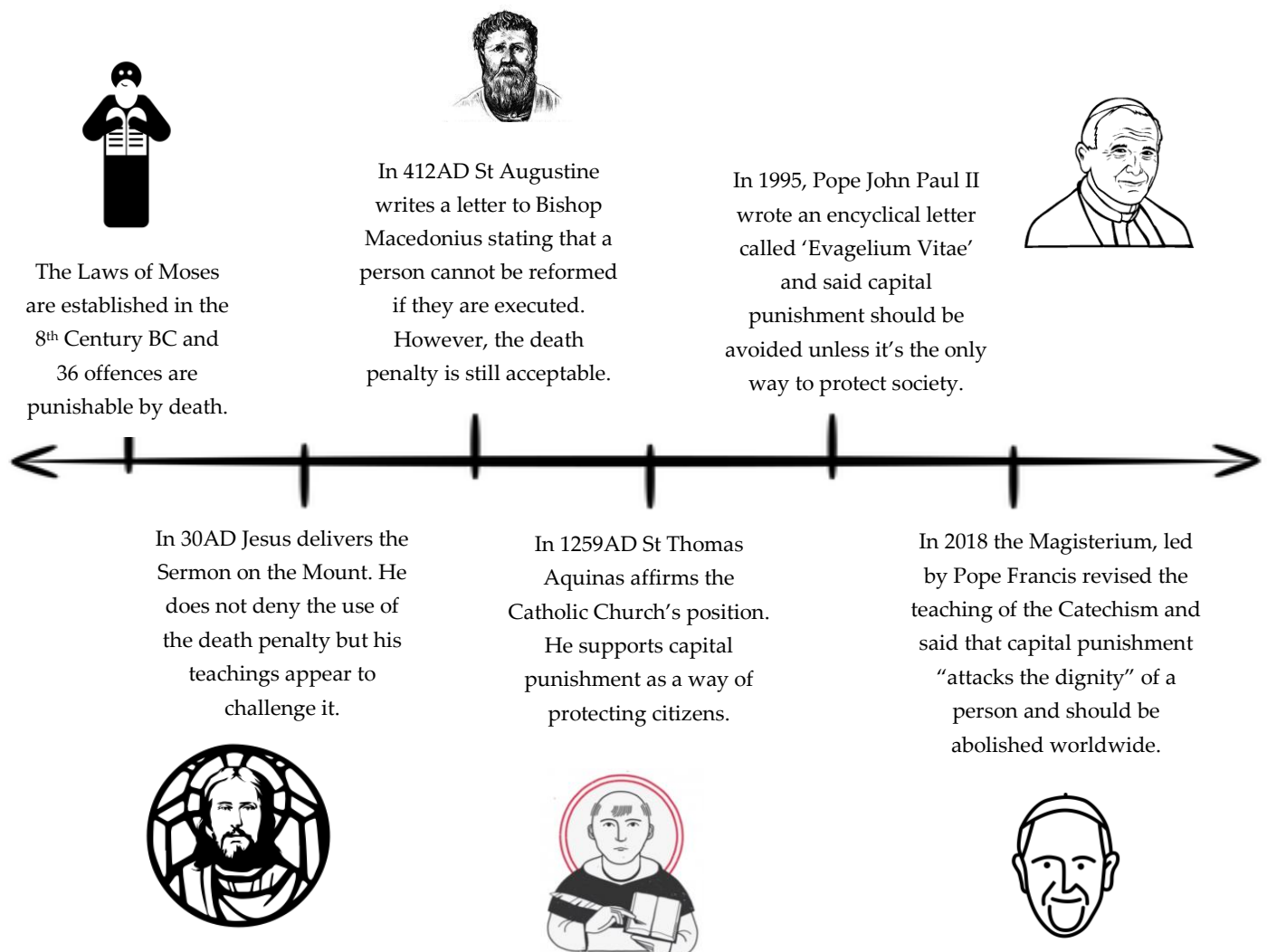


Some people think it is a good form of punishment because it deters people from murdering others and takes a life for a life. Other people disagree with capital punishment because evidence shows it does not deter, and innocent people can be killed for crimes they did not commit.

Development of Catholic Teaching on Capital Punishment

The Magisterium, which is the teaching authority of the Church, had traditionally allowed capital punishment based on the tradition of the Bible and prominent Catholic figures. The Old Testament Law of Moses outlined 36 offences which were punishable by death. In the New Testament, Jesus does not speak directly in support of it, but he does not deny the use of it either. However, many of Jesus' teachings have been used to argue against the death penalty.

The consistent teaching of the Catholic Church for the past 2000 years has been that capital punishment is allowed, but should not be encouraged. However in 2018, the Magisterium, led by Pope Francis revised the teaching and supports the view that the death penalty should be abolished (stopped) worldwide. The timeline below outlines the development of Catholic teaching:



Sources of Wisdom and Authority

"Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed" **Genesis 9:6**

"An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth" **Exodus 21:24**

"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you: "Turn the other cheek"
Jesus in Matthew 5

"We would prefer to have them set free than to have the sufferings of our brothers avenged by shedding their blood" **St Augustine**

"For those who refuse to obey God's laws, it is correct for society to use capital punishment"
St Thomas Aquinas

"If bloodless means can be used they should, but if public safety is at risk then it can be used"
Pope John Paul II Evangelium Vitae

"Say 'Yes' to life and 'No' to death" **Pope Francis**

"In the light of the Gospel, the death penalty is an attack on dignity of the person" **Magisterium**

Arguments For and Against Capital Punishment



In favour of Capital Punishment	Against Capital Punishment
Jesus never taught the death penalty was wrong.	The commandment says, "Do not kill."
The Old Testament teaches that the death penalty should be used for some crimes.	It goes against the 'sanctity of life' – all life is sacred and belongs to God
St. Paul teaches that Christians should accept and obey the laws of their country, which might include the death penalty.	It goes against the 'imago dei' – humans are all created in the image of God
Retribution is a major part of punishment and the only retribution for murder is the death penalty	Jesus taught a message of reform and forgiveness. He also taught us to love our enemies
It acts as a good deterrent and can protect society	Statistics show that the death penalty does not lower the murder rate
Human life is the most important thing there is and the value will only be shown by giving those who take human life the worst possible punishment	There is a risk an innocent person will be killed and some see life imprisonment as a worse punishment

Catholic teachings about Forgiveness in the Gospel of Matthew



Forgiveness was a central part of Jesus' teaching found in the Gospels. Jesus' example and teaching shows Christians that they should treat others with compassion, love, mercy and forgiveness.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus taught 'The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant'. He makes it clear there is no limit to forgiveness. The main message of the parable is that God will forgive those and show mercy to those who are willing to forgive and show mercy to others:

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. (Matthew)

Key Concept

Forgiveness - The act of pardoning someone for the offences they've caused you. Overlooking a person's faults.

The importance of forgiveness is also emphasised in the Gospel of Matthew

through the Lord's Prayer (Our Father). Catholics ask God to **"forgive their sins, as they forgive those who have sinned against them"**. This means Catholics can only expect to receive forgiveness from God if they are forgiving towards others

There are many examples from Jesus' life for Christians to follow:



- Jesus forgave the woman accused of adultery in the Gospel of John, telling her to "go and sin no more."
- The parable of the Prodigal son is one of Jesus' best known stories. Some think it should be called the parable of the Forgiving Father because the father forgives his son and welcomes him back even though he had done wrong.
- Jesus showed forgiveness in the last moments of his life as he was being put to death. While he was on the cross he says, "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing."

Should Catholics always forgive or is forgiveness just letting people off?

In the Bible, there is a tension between forgiveness and punishment. As well as teaching about forgiveness Jesus also spoke about justice. He also spoke about God's punishment for wrong-doers, in the next life. On Judgement Day, God will judge all humans according to how they have behaved. If they have behaved justly they will be rewarded in heaven.



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 can go together. Many Christians would see the main role of punishment as being to help the person involved to reform.

the BIG QUESTION

Should Christians should always forgive?

Jesus taught in the 'Our Father' – "Forgive us or trespasses are we forgive those who trespass against us"



The Old Testament says "an eye for an eye". This is retribution not forgiveness.



Christians believe in rehabilitation and reform. This means we should forgive others and aim to change their behaviour so they do not commit sins/crimes again.



Some crimes are so terrible that people should not be forgiven e.g. murder or rape.



Roman Catholics believe that Jesus died on the cross for the forgiveness of sins. His death was a sacrifice on behalf of all people. We should follow Jesus example and forgive others.



Jesus tells Peter that you should forgive not seven times but seventy-seven times showing how important it is.



Jesus taught in the 'Beatitudes' – "Blessed are the merciful". Gee Walker forgave her sons killers as she was a Christian.



The Old Testament teaches "whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed" – this is a message of revenge not forgiveness.



Some people are remorseless sinners. This means they do not feel sorry for the suffering or harm they have caused others. These people don't deserve forgiveness











In the parable of the Unforgiving servant and the parable of the Rich man and Lazarus God punishes those who do not forgive others.



The Meaning and Significance of Salvation and Redemption for Catholics

Roman Catholics believe that they require salvation. Salvation is the belief that through Jesus' death and resurrection humanity can achieve the possibility of life forever with God. Without salvation humans are unable to overcome the problem of sin which means they may not achieve eternal life.

How and Why Catholics need Salvation and Redemption	Image
Roman Catholics believe that God created the world perfectly as shown in the book of Genesis. However this perfect relationship was destroyed through the actions of Adam and Eve. Humans require redemption, which is God's grace (love and mercy) to repair the damage and set them free.	
The Magisterium (through the Catechism) teaches that humanity can be saved through the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus: "by your cross and resurrection, you have set us free"	
Roman Catholics believe that God took human form in the person of Jesus. This is called the Incarnation which literally means 'made flesh'. God took this form so that he could help repair the damage created by sin and rebuild the relationship with humanity.	
Jesus showed God's love for humanity through his actions. Jesus cared for the poor, healed the sick and forgave sinners. These actions inspired others to follow his example and live good and holy lives. Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount taught his followers how they too could show the love of God.	
The most important way in which Jesus provided salvation for humans was through his death on the cross. Catholics believe that Jesus' death was a sacrifice . Just like the Jewish people sacrificed a lamb at Passover so that they could escape slavery in Egypt, Jesus became a sacrifice so that humanity could escape from sin. Jesus was referred to as the "lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world" .	
Another way in which Jesus gave salvation was the resurrection . This is the belief that following his death, Jesus rose from the dead. This event confirmed that Jesus was the Son of God and was omnipotent (all-powerful) . Catholics believe that if they accept Jesus then they will also be resurrected and given salvation.	
40 days after his resurrection Jesus is said to have ascended to heaven. This event was witnessed by his disciples. This event provides salvation because Jesus has repaired the relationship and reopened heaven for everyone.	
Finally, Jesus also gave clear ways in which people can receive salvation and grace (God's love and mercy). The 7 sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Holy Communion (Eucharist), Confirmation, Marriage, Holy orders and the Anointing of the Sick are all ways in which people can achieve salvation. For example, when Catholics are baptised their original sin is washed away.	

The Life, Death, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus

The Life of Jesus

During his life Jesus showed people what God is like and how to live. For example:



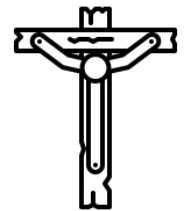
- He taught us that God is a loving father.
- Love is at the heart of the Gospel message.
- God has a special place for the poor and needy, **“The first will be last and the last will be first.”**
- Jesus showed God’s care by forgiving sins and healing the sick.
- Jesus spent his life with the poor and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

Key Concept

Salvation - The belief that through Jesus’ death and resurrection humanity has achieved the possibility of eternal life with God.

The Death of Jesus

The Gospels record that after the Last Supper, Jesus went with his disciples to a garden called Gethsemane, he was arrested there after one of his disciples, Judas, told the authorities where to find him.



Jesus was tried by the Sanhedrin (the Jewish religious leaders). He was found guilty of blasphemy, the crime of either insulting God or pretending to be God. The punishment for blasphemy was death. Pontius Pilate, the Roman in charge of the city of Jerusalem, sentenced Jesus to be whipped and crucified. Roman soldiers then mocked and beat Jesus before leading him away to be crucified.

Jesus’ death is often explained using the idea of sacrifice:

- In the Bible, animal sacrifice was common.
- The person making the sacrifice hopes to mend a relationship with God.
- The animal was seen as taking the blame for something it did not do, and the sacrifice was believed to free human beings from the sins they had committed.
- Jesus’ total obedience to God was so powerful that it made up for the sins of human beings in a way that other sacrifices could not – he was **“the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world”**

The Resurrection

The Resurrection is the central belief of Christianity and lies at the heart of the Christian faith. The Gospels record that after Jesus died on the cross, his body was buried, but he rose from the dead three days later. Catholics believe Jesus overcoming death proves he was the Son of God as only God can conquer death. The resurrection demonstrates that Jesus is their saviour and Jesus was the incarnation, God made flesh.



The Ascension

The Gospels’ account of Jesus’ ascension tells how he was taken up into heaven 40 days after his resurrection. The significance of the ascension for Catholics is Jesus’ mission on the earth was complete. He had completed everything God the Father had intended him to do. Jesus returns to heaven to prepare a place for his followers. Jesus’ ascension prepared the way for the Holy Spirit to come to earth, as he had promised at the Last Supper.



If God is omnibenevolent, how can Christians believe in Hell?

Some people might ask the question: “Would a loving God not want to save everyone? Would God want to condemn anyone to hell?”

God is RIGHT to condemn people to hell	God is WRONG to condemn people to hell
Humans have free will and choose their own actions. This means that it is right and just for God to judge them if they are sinful.	God is omnibenevolent. Scholar D.Z. Philipps argues that punishment and suffering does not fit with the belief that God is all loving.
God can offer salvation and redemption through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus but it is up the individual to accept the offer.	Some Christians argue that God’s love and mercy is unconditional. This means no one deserves to be punishment for eternity.
Jesus taught the parable of the unmerciful servant and the parable of the rich man and Lazarus. The message of both these parables is that punishment is acceptable for those who are unwilling to forgive and punishment is acceptable for those who show no compassion to those in need.	Hell is defined an eternal separation from God. This seems extreme and not in keeping with the message of forgiveness that Jesus taught.
The parable of the Sheep & Goats highlights that God is right to condemn. The parable shows that God will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. Those who are punished are those who did not show ‘love of neighbour’.	Jesus taught that we should forgive “ not seven times, but seventy-seven times ”. This seems to show that Jesus is teaching a message of unconditional forgiveness.
Some actions may be classed as being absolutely wrong. For example, Catholics believe that abortion and euthanasia are wrong in all circumstances. If a person takes a relative approach then God may be right to condemn.	Jesus seems to teach a message of reform and rehabilitation. There is no room for reform if a person is condemned to an eternity in hell. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus taught his followers to love enemies. This teaching should apply to everyone, even those who are sinners.
Punishment is necessary. As a parent or a teacher, we understand that there needs to be a punishment or a consequence to deter people from committing wrong actions.	



The Nature of the Catholic Church

In Greek, 'ecclesia' is the word for Church. It means assembly, or gathering together. The Church *is* the People of God gathered together. The word *church* with a small c is used to refer to the building where Christians come to pray. When it is written with a capital C, Catholics mean everyone who is a member of the Church, all believers gathered together. The Church is an important idea to Catholics.

The Four Marks of the Church

At the Councils of Nicaea and Constantinople in the 4th century, Church leaders agreed upon a single statement of faith called the Nicene Creed. It identifies four marks, or distinguishing qualities, of the Church: One, Holy, Catholic, and apostolic.

One

There is one God and one Church. Catholics believe that the Church was given to the world through his son, Jesus. Catholics believe the Church is the one body that will help people to achieve salvation (eternal life with God).

Holy

Catholics believe Jesus is the source of all holiness. Jesus makes the Church holy and uses it to make people holy. This is because Jesus is the 'incarnation' – God made flesh. The holiness of the Church comes through its teaching, prayer, worship, sacraments and good works which make the Church a visible sign of holiness.

Catholic

The Church is Catholic. Saint Ignatius of Antioch used this word, meaning "universal" to describe the Church. The Church has the task of reaching out to the whole world with the message of Jesus. The Church is for everyone.

Apostolic

Jesus chose twelve disciples (disciple means pupil) and when he died they became apostles (those who are sent). The Catholic Church believes in apostolic succession, and that the Pope's authority has been handed down from St Peter. All members of the Catholic Church are expected to go out and spread the message of the Gospel.

The Church is one which means there is one God and one Church in which to hear his message. It is holy because it was founded by Jesus who is the source of all holiness. Jesus makes the Church holy and all people who are in the Church can be holy by following the message and example of Jesus. Holiness can be shown through Church teachings such as the Sanctity of Life and the Imago Dei. It can also be shown through prayers such as the Our Father or the Hail Mary. Furthermore, holiness can be shown through the good work and actions of people in the Church.

The Church is catholic because the word means 'universal'. The Church has the task of spreading the message of Jesus to the entire world. The Catholic faith is available to all people of all races and nationalities. It is catholic because it is for everyone.

The Church is apostolic because when Jesus died it was his apostles that were sent out to spread the message and start the Church. The Church believes in apostolic succession which is the belief that the authority can be traced all the way back to St Peter and ultimately Jesus himself.

Mary as the Model of the Church

Catholics hold Mary in great honour. She was chosen to be the human mother of God the Son, Jesus Christ and you will often hear her described as Mary, Mother of God. Without Mary, there would be no Jesus, no **incarnation** and therefore no **salvation**. Mary is often called “**Our Lady**” by Catholics. This is a special title given to no one else showing how special she is. All Catholic churches will have a statue of Mary and there is a special **devotion** to her.



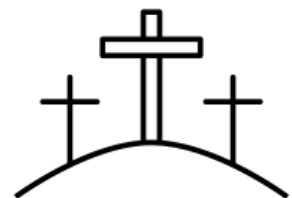
As Mary had such a special relationship with God, Catholics believe that she acts as a **mediator** between them and God. Catholics pray to Mary, but not in the way they pray to God. They do not believe that she can answer prayers in the way that God can but they believe that she will pray to God on their behalf. This is known as **interceding**. Catholics might light a special candle called a **votive** candle and place it on a stand by her statue in church as a symbol of their prayer.



The Bible describes Mary as a perfect **disciple** (follower of Jesus), a person of **true faith**, a model of **dedication** and an example of **flawless charity**. Mary is a true disciple. She spent her whole life dedicated to Jesus. In Luke’s Gospel, Mary was told by the angel that she was to be the mother of Christ, she accepted willingly and joyfully. This makes her a role model and a guide to the way Christians should serve God.



Mary shows her dedication because she had **total faith** in God and in her son. She **did not question** God when she was told that she would have a child, even though she was a virgin. At the very end, she did not desert her son, but was one of his few followers to follow him right up to the foot of the cross. She is also an example of flawless charity and total self-giving. She did not hold back but gave her whole life to God. The Gospels show that Mary was **with Jesus throughout his entire life and present at his crucifixion and resurrection**. As Mary gave her whole life to the service of Jesus she is an example of charity and inspires groups such as CAFOD and the SVP in how people can give what they have to others.

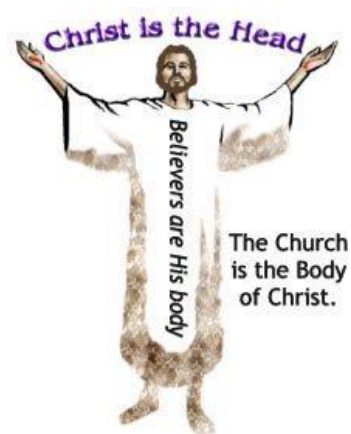


The Body of Christ and the People of God

In the New Testament, the Church is described as **‘the body of Christ’** especially by St Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 12:27).

“Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ”

This means all members of the Church are united with Jesus. He is the head and all those who follow and believe in Jesus make up his body which is the Church. The word Church with a capital ‘C’ means the community of Christians throughout the world.



Catholics consider themselves to be the physical form of Jesus on Earth (the Body of Christ). This means they must continue with his physical work, such as spreading the Word of God and caring for the sick. For Catholics, this belief shows that Jesus is still active in the world. His work didn't end with his death, but it continues in those that follow and believe in him.



Catholics believe that Jesus lives on through his followers and in the Church. This means that Church acts as Jesus' body in the world today. The Church teaches that each person within the Church has a different talent that they can use for the good of the Church. In the same way that each part of a body has a different function and is used for the good of the whole body. Therefore, people have different roles within the Church such as priests, bishops as well as the people who work for charities, teach in Catholic schools or simply support during the Mass by reading or giving out bread and wine.

Christians become part of the Catholic Church, and therefore part of the Body of Christ, through baptism. At the Eucharist (Holy Communion) Catholics believe that they receive the Body of Christ. By eating the sacred host at communion, Catholics believe that they share in the body of Christ. They are fed by Christ and are strengthened. Coming together to share the Eucharist reaffirms their unity.



“Outside the Church there is no salvation”

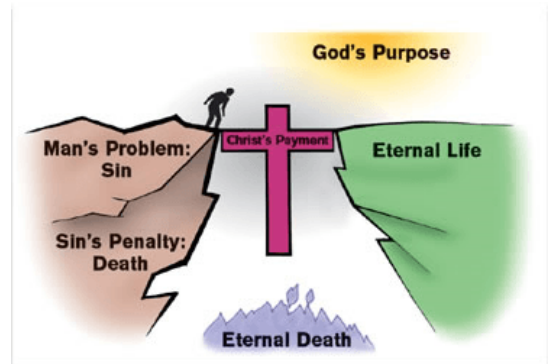
A very old, traditional saying of the early Church Fathers was: **“Outside the Church there is no salvation”** (CCC 845-846). This **meant** only those who were believers and members of the Catholic Church could be saved. There was no **salvation** for those outside of the Church.

Pope Pius IX in his **encyclical** letter (1863) said that “Well known is the Catholic teaching that no one can be saved outside the Catholic Church”. This refers to the belief that only those who are in **full**

communion with the Catholic Church and accept the teachings and **magisterium** of the Church can be saved.

However, Pope Pius goes on to state that even people who are unfamiliar to the faith can achieve eternal life, as long as they live moral lives and follow the natural law as set out by God. God will not **condemn** those who have not committed a deliberate sin.

This statement by Pope Pius was further explained by the **Second Vatican Council**. It was made clear that although salvation can only come through Christ Jesus and the Catholic Church (of which Jesus is the Head), people outside of the Church can also achieve salvation. This does not mean that the Church should stop all its work though. It means that the Church’s **mission** to educate others about Christ is more important. Pope Francis has said that God will “forgive” atheists as long as they behave morally and live according to their consciences.



Is Salvation only available to Catholic Christians?

Yes	No
Some traditional Catholic and Fundamentalist Christians may hold an exclusivist approach. This means Salvation is only possible for Christians.	Pope Francis has said that God will "forgive" atheists as long as they behave morally and live according to their consciences.
Jesus achieved Salvation. If you reject belief in Jesus and do not live a life consistent with his teachings then you cannot receive salvation.	Pope Pius goes on to state that even people who are unfamiliar to the faith can achieve eternal life, as long as they live moral lives and follow the natural law as set out by God.
Jesus taught in the Gospel that his disciples had to go out and make disciples of all nations. This seems to suggest that being part of the Church is necessary.	The Catholic theologian Karl Rahner says that some people may be ‘anonymous Christians’. They might have never heard the message of Jesus but they can still have salvation.
Jesus taught: “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” This is a strong argument in favour.	There are some liberal Christians (like John Hick) who argue that all religions are just different paths toward God meaning all faiths can find salvation.

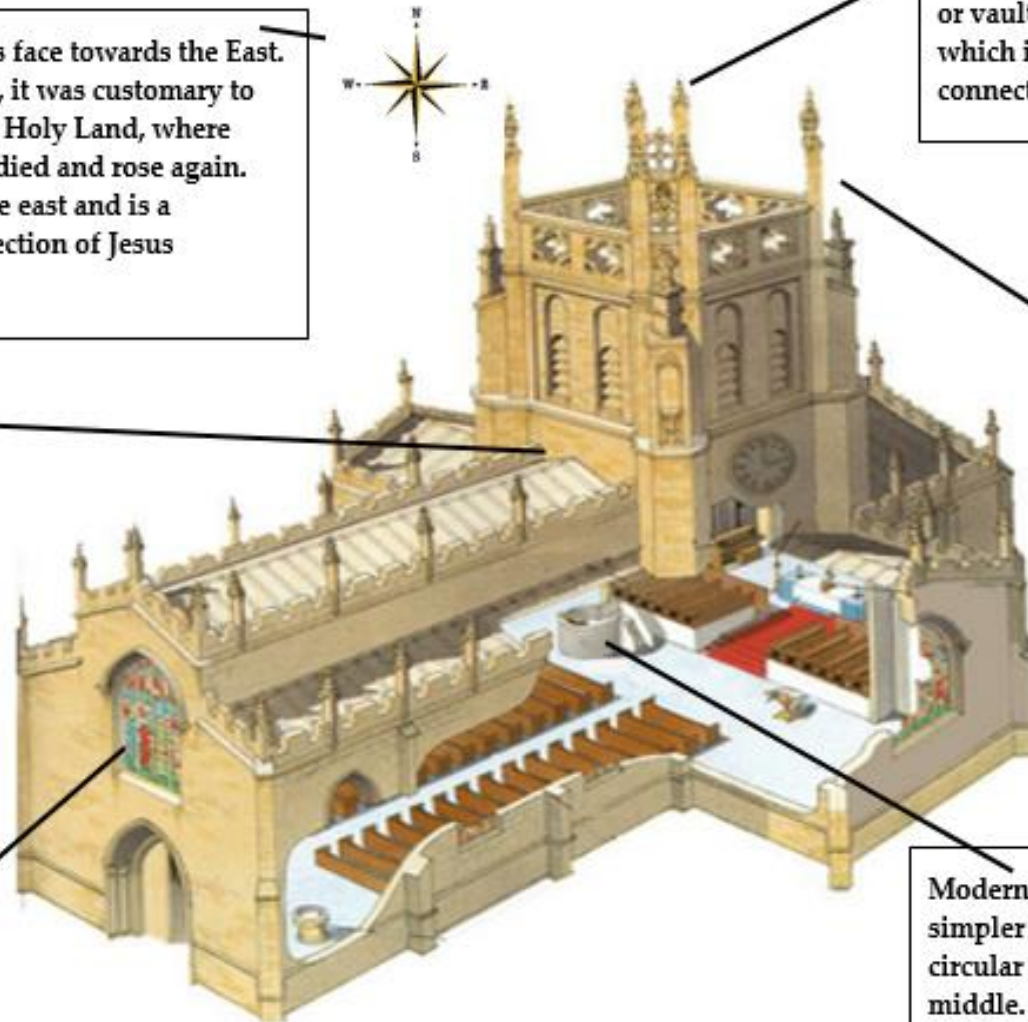
External Features of Church Buildings

A Catholic church is the place of worship where Catholics gather as a community to celebrate their faith.

Traditionally, churches face towards the East. For the first Christians, it was customary to pray facing toward the Holy Land, where Jesus was born, lived, died and rose again. Also the sun rises in the east and is a reminder of the resurrection of Jesus bringing new life.

It is also common for churches to be cruciform (cross shaped). This is to signify the importance of the death of Jesus that achieved salvation.

Very often stained glass is used in churches. They usually display stories from the Bible or lives of the saints.








Churches are often very tall with domes or vaulted ceilings. This creates a space which is pointing up showing a connection with God and heaven.

Towers and steeples represent prayer and worship rising up to heaven, a sign of what takes place inside the building.

Modern church buildings tend to be simpler in design. Some churches are circular in design with the altar in the middle. This signifies the oneness of the worshippers and that they are all sharing in the sacrificial meal at the altar. It can also stand for the eternity of God.

Internal Features of Church Buildings

Whatever the design, the whole church will be focused on the sanctuary. Sanctuary means holy place. This is where the altar, lectern and tabernacle are. The sanctuary is where the public worship is focused. These are features you'd always expect to find in a Catholic church.

Feature / Symbol	How does this feature/symbol link to salvation?
The Altar 	<p>This is a table structure usually made out of stone. The main part of the Mass, the Eucharist, takes place at the altar. The priest blesses the bread and wine here. The "Altar" reminds Christians of the sacrifice and death of Jesus on the cross. The altar is also a table, reminding Catholics of the meal Jesus shared with his disciples at the Last Supper. For Catholics, the Sacrament of the Eucharist or Mass is one of the most important sacraments.</p>
The Lectern 	<p>Near the altar is a stand called a 'lectern' or 'ambo'. It is from here that the priest, deacon or reader reads from. At the Liturgy of the Word scripture is read from here. Catholics believe that at mass they are nourished and fed by listening to the word of God. At services, they will read from a lectionary. A lectionary is a book containing a collection of scripture readings appointed to use on a given day.</p>
The Baptismal Font 	<p>This is a big stone bowl filled with water where baptism takes place. Baptism is the first sacrament by which a person becomes a Christian. It used to be by the main door to the church to show that people entered the Church through baptism. Now the font tends to be at the front so that all those present can easily see a baptism when it takes place. During baptism a child has their original sin washed away and welcomes them into the body of Christ.</p>
The Tabernacle 	<p>A tabernacle is a safe-like place in which the consecrated host (bread) are kept. The host is stored here so that it can be taken to the sick and those who are unable to come to church. It is also a focus for private prayer and devotion. Catholics will genuflect (go down on one knee), towards the tabernacle in honour of the presence of Jesus reserved in the Blessed Sacrament (host). The tabernacle is often behind the altar, but in some modern churches it is sometimes placed in a side chapel so that people can pray in private. A sanctuary lamp is found nearby, which reminds Catholics of the presence of God in the tabernacle.</p>
The Crucifix 	<p>In Catholic churches there is always a crucifix, a cross with an image of the crucified Christ on it. It is usually on or near the altar. It serves as a reminder of the suffering and death of Jesus. Catholics believe that the death of Jesus was the price he paid for their salvation. Catholics, like all Christians, believe that Jesus died for them to forgive their sins and give them eternal life.</p>

Other sacred objects

As people come into the church they pass a holy water container or stoup. They sign themselves with water, making the sign of the cross to remind themselves of the Trinity. Other important features of a Roman Catholic Church are Stations of the Cross. They are especially used in Lent to focus worship on the death of Jesus. There are also statues found around the church to help people pray.

The Importance of the Seven Sacraments for Salvation

The sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist (Holy Communion) are known as the sacraments of initiation. This means that they are the ceremonies through which people can become full members of the Catholic Church.



1. Baptism

For Catholics, baptism is the first step in a lifelong journey of commitment and discipleship. At the service of baptism, water is poured on a baby's head while the priest or deacon says, 'I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.' The baby is also anointed with oil of catechumens which provides strength to turn away from temptation and chrism which shows the child is part of the Church. The person being baptised becomes part of the family of God. Baptism takes away original sin and gives a new birth in the Holy Spirit. Its sign is the pouring of water. Catholic families are encouraged to baptise their children soon after birth, however sometimes people are baptised later, or even as adults.

2. Confirmation



As most Catholics are baptised as babies, confirmation is done when they are older. It is usually given by the bishop. Its signs are the laying-on of hands on a person's head and anointing with oil. Confirmation completes the sacrament of baptism. If baptism is the sacrament of re-birth to a new life, confirmation is the sacrament of maturity and coming of age. It gives the strength to follow Jesus and to become involved in the mission he left to the Church.

3. Eucharist

At the Last Supper, Jesus took bread and wine and asked his followers to re-enact the meal when they come together. Its signs are the bread and wine that Catholics receive at Mass – the body and blood of Christ. Catholics believe the Eucharist, or Holy Communion, is both a sacrifice and a meal. They believe in the real presence of Jesus, who died for humanity's sins. As they receive his body and blood, they are fed spiritually.



The next two sacraments are known as the sacraments of healing. These celebrate the healing power of Jesus as shown in the Gospels when Jesus forgave sins and healed the sick.

4. Penance (confession)



In this sacrament a person will speak directly to a priest and confess their sins. The priest gives words of absolution which means a person's sins have been forgiven. By expressing sorrow for their sins in the sacrament of penance or reconciliation, Catholics experience God's forgiveness and healing. Their relationship with God and their membership of the Church is made whole again.

5. Anointing of the sick

During this sacrament the individual is anointed with oil of catechumens (a symbol of strength) and receives the laying-on of hands from a priest. This unites a sick person's suffering with that of Jesus and brings forgiveness of sins. It brings strength in illness, comfort from suffering, and prepares those close to death to meet God.

The final two sacraments are known as the sacraments at the service. These help individuals to serve the community and bring about the salvation of others.

6. Matrimony

The couple give the sacrament to each other and their wedding rings and vows are the signs of this sacrament. In matrimony, or marriage, a baptised man and woman are united as a sign of the unity between Jesus and his Church. God is present through the couple's lifelong love and commitment to each other.

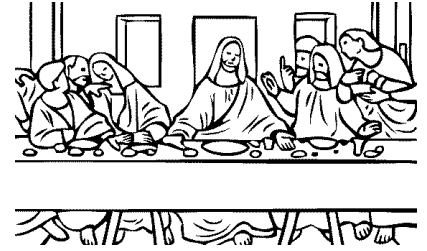


7. Holy orders

The signs of this sacrament are the laying on of hands and anointing with oil by a bishop. In holy orders, men are ordained as priests, deacons, or bishops. Priests serve as spiritual leaders of their communities. Ordained people are the presence of God for their community.

The importance of the Mass (Eucharist) for Catholics

The Mass or Eucharist is the service where Catholics gather to recall the Last Supper. It enacts the moment when Jesus took bread and wine and asked his disciples to remember him when they did the same. Jesus said **“This is my body, take eat and eat it. Do this in memory of me”** and **“This is my blood, the blood of the new covenant”**. Catholics believe the Eucharist was the new promise or agreement that God made with all people. Jesus’ sacrifice was the symbol of the new covenant and allowed all people an opportunity to receive salvation.



The word ‘Eucharist’ means **‘thanksgiving’** and for Catholics, it is the most regularly celebrated **sacrament**. A sacrament is a way in which a person can receive God’s grace (mercy). The Eucharist (Mass) is celebrated every day of the year in the Catholic Church except Good Friday and Easter Saturday. Catholics should attend Mass on Sunday and as often as they can as it is a way of showing thanks to Jesus as he brought salvation through his death and resurrection.



The Magisterium teaches that the Eucharist (Mass) is **‘the source and summit of the Christian life’**, because it unites Christians with God. Catholics believe they become closer to God because they receive Jesus in communion. By eating the bread and drinking the wine they become one with Jesus. The Mass re-enacts the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, so it is the **highest form of prayer** that a believer can make. By receiving the Eucharist in communion, Christ’s Body and Blood spiritually feeds the believer. It makes individual Catholics part of the **body of Jesus or the Church**

Catholics believe that Jesus is present in the Mass. They believe in **transubstantiation** which means the consecrated (blessed) bread and wine, become Jesus’ body and blood. Furthermore, Jesus is present in the readings, since Jesus is the **word of God** and the readings, especially the gospel outline his teachings. In addition Jesus is present in the believers gathered together and in the person of the **priest** (Catholics believe that Christ works through the ministry of the priesthood to transform the bread and wine into his body and blood).



Key Concept

Eucharist - Meaning “thanksgiving”. The sacrament in which Roman Catholics remember the Last Supper.

Catholic teaching on Evangelisation

What is evangelisation?

Evangelisation literally means spreading the 'Gospel'. The word Gospel means 'good news'. This means Catholics have been given the responsibility to share the Gospel and the teachings of Jesus with others. They have a duty to bring people the message of Jesus so they can be saved by his death and resurrection.



Jesus sent his apostles out into the world on a mission to **"make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"** (Matthew 28:19-20). All Christians are called to continue this work of announcing the gospel to all people. Christians are expected to spread the gospel message locally, nationally and globally.

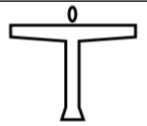
Key Concept

Evangelisation - Literally means spreading the "Good News" which can be translated as "Gospel" The sharing of the Gospel and life of Jesus with others.

How does the Church engage in evangelisation?

Locally:

- This basic message of God's love is passed on by the parish through the celebration of the Mass, sacraments, Bible study, charitable work, social events, parish retreats, outreach events.
- Also the parish can engage with other Christian churches and other faith communities.
- Individual Catholics might choose a career like teaching, medicine or caring which demonstrates Christ's love for the world.
- They might work as a catechist, sharing their faith with other people. A catechist is someone who works in the parish preparing people to receive the sacraments.
- Being married and raising children to follow Jesus is one of the ways Catholics live out the Gospel.



Nationally:

- On a national level, the Bishops' Conference of a country helps Catholics to know and share the Gospel.
- In 2015 a national evangelisation initiative called '*Proclaim 15: Building Missionary Parishes*', was introduced by the Church through Cardinal Vincent Nichols. It was designed to affirm the good work that is already being done by the Catholic community, and to provide resources to develop new expressions of Catholic missionary outreach.
- Individual Catholics might attend national events and conferences to share their faith.
- Working for Catholic newspapers and magazines. We have a Newspaper in our region called the Northern Cross which celebrates the different activities that schools and churches are involved in. There are also national Catholic newspapers such as the Catholic Herald and The Tablet.



Globally:

- The Church proclaims the gospel to the whole world through the global figure of the Pope who visits countries representing the Church. He attends World Youth Days. The Church also uses modern media like Twitter and YouTube.
- The Church lives out the Gospel in the work of international charities like CAFOD and CARITAS.
- Catholics can attend national and international conferences. Young Catholics are invited to attend 'World Youth Day' which happens every three years in different parts of the world. Recent conferences were held in Sydney, Brazil and Poland.
- Working as a Catholic Missionary. These are Catholic men and women who travel to areas of the world to spread the message of Christianity. They help to set up Catholic churches, schools and hospitals.



Evangelii Gaudium

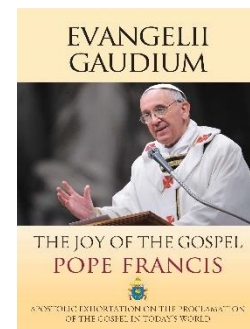
In 2013 Pope Francis wrote a letter to all Catholics on the theme of the Church's mission of evangelisation in the modern world. It is called **Evangelii Gaudium**, which in Latin means **'The joy of the Gospel'**.

Pope Francis says the way to share the gospel is to show love and care for the weak, vulnerable and poor.

He wants **"a Church which is poor and for the poor"**, and for the Church to have a special love and care for **"above all the poor and the sick, those who are usually despised and overlooked"**

The Pope says:

- Catholics must care for 'the homeless, the addicted, refugees, indigenous peoples, the elderly who are increasingly isolated and abandoned, and many others.'
- Parishes should be welcoming places, ready to greet new people and receive them into the community.
- Catholics should be outward looking; this means they should look for new ways to spread the gospel message such as new technology, the internet or offering more opportunities for young people.



Sources of Wisdom and Authority

"Evangelization is first and foremost about preaching the Gospel to those who do not know Jesus Christ ..." " this is the first task of the Church" **Evangelii Gaudium**

"The main reason for evangelisation is to share the love of God" **Evangelii Gaudium**

Evangelizing in Britain: Benefits and Challenges

The UK is a multi-faith society in which people of different religion, and no religion, live alongside each other. According to the 2011 census, the profile of religious belief in Britain has changed. Results of the 2011 census compared to the 2001 census, show an increase in diverse religious and non-religious beliefs and practices (including those of Christianity; Buddhism; Hinduism; Islam; Judaism; Sikhism; Humanism and Atheism), whilst also showing that over half of those who responded considered themselves Christian. Britain is now a place which has an increasingly diverse pattern of religious and non-religious beliefs and practices.

This diversity brings benefits and challenges. The Catholic Church teaches that people of other faiths should be respected and Catholics should be sensitive to those who have no beliefs yet seek to do good. Less people are familiar with the gospel story now also less people attend church regularly so it might be difficult to reach people

the BIG QUESTION

Should Catholics try to pass the Gospel message on to other people?

Catholics have been given the responsibility to share the Gospel and the teachings of Jesus with others. They have a duty to bring people the message of Jesus so they receive salvation (be saved by his death and resurrection.)



If Christians force their beliefs it can cause issues with interfaith marriages. This is when two members of different religions get married. This could cause conflict between families with different beliefs and values and lead to divorce.



All Christians are called to continue the work of announcing the gospel to all people. Christians are expected to spread the gospel message locally, nationally and globally. There are a number of ways in which they can pass this message on e.g. social media, working as a teacher or taking holy orders



Jesus sent his apostles out into the world on a mission to **"make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"** (Matthew 28:19-20).



Forcing the Christian message on to other people can lead to problems when raising children – within interfaith marriages both parents might want their children raised within their own faith. This could lead to confusion and arguments.



The Catholic Church teaches that people of other faiths should be respected and Catholics should be sensitive to those who have no beliefs yet seek to do good. This means that Christians should not force their beliefs but should let people have a free choice about whether to believe in God or not.



The UK is a multi-faith society in which people of different religion, and no religion, live alongside each other. No one has the right to force others to listen to their beliefs. This could lead to conflict amongst religions.



In *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis said that the main reason for evangelisation is to share the love of God. Many Christians believe passing their beliefs on to other people is loving because they can receive salvation (a relationship with God)



There can be issues where one group of religious believers try to convert another, to their faith. If people feel as if Christians are forcing their beliefs then it is more likely that people will reject what they have to say. In the UK we have freedom of religion and belief and it should not be forced.



Pope Francis taught Catholics that evangelisation was the first task of the Church. Christians have a duty to pass the message of Jesus on. He said: **"evangelization is first and foremost about preaching the Gospel to those who do not know Jesus Christ... this is the first task of the Church"**



