

Key Stage 3

Religious Education
Directory

Source to Summit

Year
7

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CREATION AND COVENANT

Introduction

Have you ever asked yourself what caused the universe, or why we are on this earth?

Questions about where the universe came from and the meaning of life have fascinated people for as long as humans have lived. Catholics, like many religious people, believe that God can help us to understand these questions because they believe that **God made the universe and everything in it.** Scientists believe that the Big Bang theory and the theory of evolution give evidence that can help to answer these questions. Sometimes people think that science and religion disagree but this isn't necessarily the case. **The Catholic Church believes that science and religion can help to give the fullest and best answer to these big questions by working together** – many scientists who have a religious faith believe the same.

In this chapter we are going to consider how creation is at the heart of God's relationship with humans. Catholics believe that God chose to create because God is loving, and that God created only goodness because God is all loving. **Catholics**

believe that God created humans to have a relationship with them. This story of God loving, creating and sustaining the world is vital to Catholics. It is awe inspiring, leading Catholics to worship God and create beautiful poetry, literature and art to express this incredible work of God.

The creation stories in the Bible give important teachings to Catholics about the value of human life and caring for the world. Who would imagine that stories that are thousands of years old can give us teachings that can guide us in the twenty-first century? The world is facing an environmental crisis. **In the creation stories, Catholics are told to care for the earth as stewards.** We can see injustice and inequality in the world. **In the creation stories, Catholics are told that humans are created in God's image and that human life is precious and to be cared for.** These important messages motivate and inspire Catholics to try to improve the world, so that the world we live in, and all the people in it, can be cared for in the way that God intended.



HOW DO WE KNOW ABOUT GOD?

Catholics believe in **God**, who is the **Trinity**: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Their faith in God shapes their lives and so Catholics believe that it is important to listen to the different ways in which God speaks to them so that they can become closer to God, and live in the way that God calls them to live.

What do Catholics mean by the word ‘revelation’?

Revelation means being shown information which helps humans to learn about and know something. For Catholics, revelation means the ways in which God is made known to people, such as through showing God’s qualities. This is most perfectly done through Jesus, who Catholics believe was God in human form.

Catholics believe that humans can come to know God in different ways.

- One way is by using reason (our ability to think) to find God in the world around us, or by thinking about what it means to be human. For example, seeing how well-designed the world seems to be might lead someone to believe in a God who has designed it. Or you might believe God is made known to people when they are guided to do good deeds by God.
- A second way is when humans come to know God through experiencing God. In these events people may feel God is speaking to them directly. This might happen through reading the Word of God in the Bible or through the life of the Church (known as tradition).



▼ For some people, looking at the astonishing beauty of the world is one way that God can be made known to humans

OBJECTIVE

In this lesson you will learn about **how God is revealed to humans.**

The Bible as a form of revelation

The holy book for Catholics and all Christians is the Bible. Christians believe that the Bible is the Word of God, meaning that it is how God speaks to them. This means that the people who wrote down God’s Word in the Bible were guided by the Holy Spirit to do this so that the Bible could be trusted.

Christians believe that they can grow closer to God through reading the Bible – the words of the Bible can help them to become the person that God has made them to be. Therefore, the Bible can help someone to have a better relationship with God.

Useful vocabulary

God: the one supreme being, who creates and sustains everything

Trinity: God as three in one – Father, Son and Holy Spirit

What is in the Bible?

The Bible is divided into two main parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament.

Old Testament

- This part of the Bible was written before Jesus’ life.
- It contains the history and faith of the Israelites.

New Testament

- This part of the Bible was written after Jesus’ life.
- It contains the history and faith of those who followed Jesus, who we now call Christians.

The meaning of the word ‘testament’ is **covenant**, which is an agreement or promise. The whole of the Bible is related to the covenants made between God and humans. The covenants reveal that God wants to connect with humans, to guide and help them, showing that God is good and faithful.

In the Old Testament, Catholics read about how God made covenants with people who placed their faith in God, such as Abraham and Moses. Later in the Old Testament, they read about how kings such as Solomon and prophets such as Deborah listened carefully to God and how they were guided by God.

The central figure in the New Testament is Jesus, the Son of God. The covenant in the New Testament builds on the Old Testament. In the New Testament, God is revealed in Jesus, meaning that the people who met Jesus, met God, helping people to know God’s revelation better.

How do Catholics hear God’s voice in the Bible?

Catholics are encouraged to study the Bible, so that they understand what it means in their lives. Catholics also use the Bible in prayer. When Catholics go to **Mass**, they hear readings from the Bible and the priest usually teaches about the readings in his sermon. This helps Catholics to hear the meaning of God’s Word, so that it can help them to follow God’s teachings more faithfully.

Understand

- 1 What does the word ‘revelation’ mean for Catholics?
- 2 Give one example of how humans can know God using reason (our ability to think).
- 3 Give one example of knowing God through experiencing God.
- 4 Why do Catholics call the Bible the ‘Word of God’?
- 5 What does the word ‘testament’ mean?
- 6 What do the covenants in the Bible reveal about God?



Discern

- 7 Why is revelation so important for Catholics?
- 8 Give one reason why someone might say that the Bible is the best way for Catholics know God and one reason why someone might disagree with them.



Respond

- 9 **Either:** Write about a teaching that you already know from the Bible that you think has helped you to know God better. **Or:** Write about how you think revelation from God can help a Catholic in their day-to-day life.



Useful vocabulary

revelation: the way in which God is made known to humans, which Catholics believe is most perfectly done through Jesus

Bible: the Christian holy book

covenant: an agreement or promise between two or more people; God made covenants with humans such as Abraham and Moses

Mass: the central act of worship for Catholics; one of the names for the Sacrament of the Eucharist

HOW SHOULD WE READ THE BIBLE?

Catholics believe that the Bible is the Word of God. They believe the Bible is inspired, meaning that the Holy Spirit has guided the authors to write down the truth from God. Catholics believe that the Bible teaches them God's truth, but that they need to interpret the Bible to find this truth. To interpret something means to study it, in order to find its meaning.

The Bible is one book, made up of many books

It's important to recognise that the Bible is a book made up of many books, like a library. Libraries are made up of a variety of books and styles of writing and so is the Bible. There are books that contain poetry, history, letters and words of wisdom, for example. This has an impact on how we read and interpret different teachings from the Bible.

If you think about it, you wouldn't read a poetry book and expect it to give facts about history. You would understand that you are reading someone's carefully chosen words describing something that might be very important to them, or expressing a deep feeling. You would not expect to find dates, locations and facts. This is the same as the Bible. When Catholics read it, they don't think that they are reading a science textbook or a map of the ancient world. They believe it is God's Word given to humans to write down.

The Bible is one book, with contributions from many people

Catholics believe that God guided the Bible's writers. There isn't one author, there were many authors behind the Bible. This is really obvious in some places, such as the **Gospels** of Matthew and Mark or the letters of St Paul, because the books are named after their authors. However, even the Gospels are much more complicated than being just one person's view on Jesus – they all draw on different sources of information.

There are also parts of the Bible where it is less obvious who is responsible for each book. The Bible began as a spoken record, kept alive by God's earliest followers, who collected and remembered God's Word by sharing it in their communities. This was the usual way of remembering important information at the time. Later, these spoken records were gathered and written down by different people. This explains why sometimes there are different accounts of the same thing – such as the two creation stories.

OBJECTIVE

In this lesson you will consider **how Catholics read the Bible.**

Useful vocabulary

Gospel: the term Gospel means 'Good News'; the Gospels are the books in the Bible that teach the Good News about Jesus

Link

You will read more about the creation stories (Genesis 1–2) on pages 14–17.

What does this mean for how Catholics read the Bible?

Most Catholics do not read the Bible literally – in other words they do not think that it is word-for-word true. They do believe, however, that it contains great truth, for example revealing God as the almighty creator and everlasting father. The Bible writers used words to do this. However, Catholics believe that God is completely unlike anything or anyone else, so human language can never fully describe God. The **Catechism of the Catholic Church** (CCC) teaches that 'our human words always fall short of the **mystery** of God'.

It can be helpful to consider what the **literary form**, or the style of writing of a particular Bible passage is (for example, history or poetry), and the historical context in which it was written.

Understanding the perspective of the Bible's writers can help the reader understand the meaning of the passage they are reading. You might have done the same in English lessons if you've studied the world that the author of a book lived in, so that you can understand their story better. Catholics believe it is important to understand the world that the Bible writers lived in, because it will have shaped how they wrote down the truth about God. By understanding the context and style of writing, Catholics believe that they can understand the **literal sense** of the Bible. This means they can understand what God inspired the writers to communicate.



Useful vocabulary

Catechism of the Catholic Church: a book summarising the official teachings of the Catholic Church

mystery: something that is hard for human minds to understand

literary form: the style of writing used, for example a letter or a poem

literal sense: the meaning of the text as the author intended it to be; this is different to reading a passage literally which means accepting it as word-for-word truth

Understand

- 1 What does it mean to 'interpret' something?
- 2 What happened to the spoken information that the earliest followers of God shared within their communities?
- 3 Why is the role of the human author important for understanding scripture?
- 4 What is the difference between reading the Bible literally and understanding the literal sense of the Bible?
- 5 What do Catholics mean when they say the Bible is 'inspired'?



Discern

- 6 The Catechism says 'our human words always fall short of the mystery of God'. Write down your opinion on this statement giving reasons to back up your point of view.



Respond

- 7 Has reading pages 12–13 changed how you feel about reading or interpreting the Bible? Explain why.



WHAT DOES GENESIS 1 TEACH ABOUT CREATION?

The first book of the Bible is Genesis. The name Genesis means ‘origin’, or where something comes from. The first two chapters in Genesis include two **creation** stories. Many Catholics explore these stories to find answers to big questions about the universe and life.

OBJECTIVE

In this lesson you will explore **the first Genesis creation story**.

The two creation stories

The two stories in Genesis 1 and 2 give a religious account of how all of creation came to be. Both stories were written by different groups of authors who were inspired by God to answer the big question: where did the world and everything in it, come from? Both stories show the belief that all life comes from God and that God is good, the creator of a good creation.

In Acts of the Apostles, St Paul says “In him we live and move and have our being”... “For we are indeed his offspring” (Acts 17:28). This is the heart of the creation stories – Catholics believe that all life comes from God, making every person God’s child. Both Genesis creation stories are attempts to talk about where the world and all life came from. The authors knew that their words would never be enough to describe the mystery of God but they wished to share that all life comes from God.

Genesis 1:1–2:4

In the first creation story God is presented as creating the universe and everything in it over six days and resting on the seventh. The stages of creation are shown as days. These days are symbolic. They are not 24 hour blocks of time. They show the belief that God created the universe in an organised way, over time.

Day 1

God creates light, separating it from darkness. Light is called ‘Day’, darkness is called ‘Night’.

Day 2

God makes an expanse to separate the waters from each other. God calls the expanse ‘Heaven’.

Day 3

God gathers the waters and lets dry land appear, calling it earth. God creates plants and trees.

Day 4

God makes the lights in the sky: sun, moon and stars.

Day 5

God makes living creatures in the waters and the skies.

Day 6

God creates animals that live on the land and then humans.

Day 7

God rests.

Useful vocabulary

creation: the act of bringing something into existence; or the universe and everything in it (which Catholics believe God created)

Look at the following example from the first day of creation.

“ ‘And God said, “Let there be light”, and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.’

Genesis 1:3–5

This creation story is written using verses and choruses, like a hymn or a poem for people to share in. At the end of each ‘day’, there is a set formula of words: ‘And there was evening, and there was morning, the [first/second/third, etc.] day.’ The story builds up over time so that eventually the world is prepared for humans. When God creates humans, creation is described as ‘very good’.

What does this creation story teach about the nature of God?

The opening words of the first creation story are ‘In the beginning...’ This phrase helps to convey some important beliefs:

- It suggests that God existed before time itself, as an **eternal** being. Creation takes place within space and time, but God is placed outside of creation, making creation occur through a series of instructions. God is shown to be **transcendent**, existing outside of space and time.
- It also suggests that before God began to create, there was nothing except for God. This means that God didn’t create from anything that already existed – God’s creation came from nothing. This is known as ‘**creatio ex nihilo**’.

Creatio ex nihilo also shows God to be **omnipotent** (all powerful), since no one else can create from nothing. In this story, when God creates, it is with spoken word rather than materials. At the start of each day, the story reads ‘And God said...’ and God goes on to say what will be created. This story can help Catholics to realise that God’s power is greater than any human power.

Most Catholics don’t believe that this story is a literal or factual account of creation. Instead, it helps them to understand what God is like, by showing them how God creates. It expresses to them the value and importance of the world and everything in it.

Useful vocabulary

eternal: without beginning or end

transcendent: existing outside of space and time

creatio ex nihilo: the Latin phrase for ‘creation out of nothing’

omnipotent: all powerful

Understand

- 1 In which book of the Bible are the creation stories and what does the name of this book mean?
- 2 How are the stages of creation shown in the first story in Genesis?
- 3 Identify two qualities of God seen in the first creation story.
- 4 What does the first creation story tell us about humans?
- 5 How does this creation story help Catholics to understand the mystery of who God is?

Discern

- 6 What evidence can you find in Genesis 1:1–2:4 that helps to explain that God’s creation is good?
- 7 Do you think that a belief in *creatio ex nihilo* is important? Explain your view.

Respond

- 8 This is a famous story that describes God right at the beginning of the Bible. It is our introduction to who God is. How would you say God is presented in this story?

OBJECTIVE

In this lesson you will explore **the second Genesis creation story**.

WHAT DOES GENESIS 2 TEACH ABOUT CREATION?

We have already read that in Genesis 1 and 2 there are two creation stories. Each is slightly different, but both give Catholics important teachings about God and creation. Catholics believe that God inspired different authors to write accounts of creation, which is why we have two different accounts in Genesis.

Genesis 2:5–25

The second creation story focuses more on the creation of humans. It has a very different style to the first story, because it was written by a different set of authors. Like the first story, it reminds Catholics that all life comes from God. God is shown to create a man first: ‘then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature’ (Genesis 2:7). God places the man in Eden and plants a garden which will provide food and beauty.

God recognises that man needs company and so creates animals:

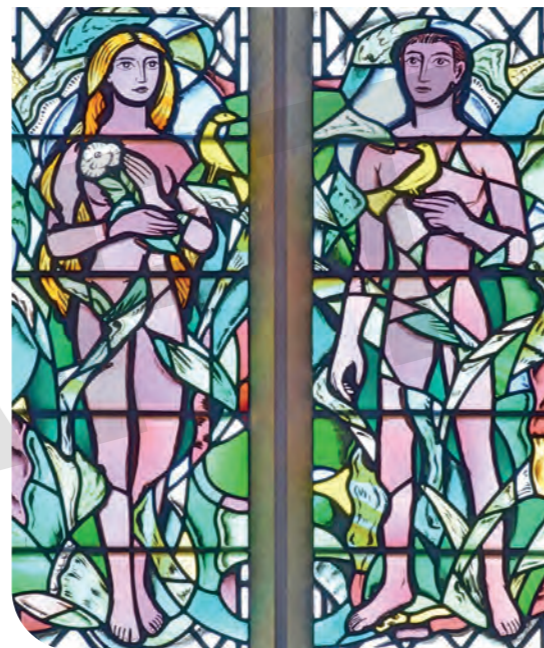
“ ‘Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.’

Genesis 2:19

God sees that none of the animals is the best helper for man, and so creates a woman from the man’s rib. The man sees that she is the right companion for him.

Some people wonder why woman was created from man’s rib and why God created her as a ‘helper’ (Genesis 2:20). Some have taken this to mean that men are more important than women. Others believe that it actually shows how connected all humans are. Woman came from man, who came from God – all life leads back to God and all people are linked to one another.

In this story, God’s creation of man is very ‘hands on’. God is given physical qualities, such as breathing life into man, to show how close God can be to humans. This is not meant to be interpreted literally. The authors want to show that God was closely involved in creation. This quality of God being close to humans and acting in the world is known as immanence.



God is shown as **immanent** through the creation of animals, and finally a woman, as companions for the man. God sees the man’s loneliness, knows that it isn’t good for him to feel alone and responds to this.

The creation accounts as symbolic stories

Both creation stories are written to help the reader to understand that God is the creator – this is the literal sense of each story. Both stories rely on symbolism to communicate the belief that God is the creator. This is because humans will never be fully able to find the words to express who God is and because the idea of creating something so enormous as the universe is beyond our understanding. For example, in the first account, written in the structure of a hymn or a poem, God’s words are used to create the world. We all know people who can give an order and it happens – such as your teacher telling you to work, and you do. But can you imagine giving an order to create the different parts of the universe? The authors of this story write in a way that readers will be amazed by God’s power. In the second account, which reads more like a story, God’s closeness to creation is shown when God breathes life into the man and gives man a companion. The authors of this story write in a way so that readers will be moved by God’s care and tenderness.

This second account is often seen as a story that shows how God lovingly and carefully made the world as a place for humans to live together. Some Catholics describe this story as symbolic because it paints a picture in our mind which helps us to understand a complicated idea. It doesn’t mean that the story is untrue in any way – in fact it teaches some important truths. In this story, God organises the universe, making it calm and full of life.

Useful vocabulary

immanent: operating in the universe; Catholics believe that God works within the universe to have a relationship with them and to sustain the universe

Understand



- 1 Give two differences between the creation stories.
- 2 What do the creation stories literally tell us?
- 3 What is the literal sense (main point) of the creation stories?
- 4 What are the different literary forms used in the creation stories?
- 5 Describe how the authors have helped to show the literal sense of the story to readers.
- 6 What do we mean when we say the creation accounts are ‘symbolic stories’?

Discern



- 7 Explain what the second creation story tells us about God’s relationship with humans.
- 8 ‘It is important to study both creation stories.’ Write a paragraph saying whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

Respond



- 9 What main messages about human beings does Genesis 2:5–25 give you? Use some examples to back up your answer.

WHAT ARE THE SCIENTIFIC THEORIES ABOUT CREATION?

OBJECTIVE
In this lesson you will learn about **the Big Bang theory and the theory of evolution**

The creation stories were first shared at a time long before modern scientific explanations of how the universe began. Since the Bible was written, scientists have used the evidence they find in the world to give other answers to the question of where all life came from.

Scientific theories about creation

There are two **scientific theories** that many people accept give us the best explanation of where the world came from and how life came to be as we know it today. These are the **Big Bang theory** and the **theory of evolution**.

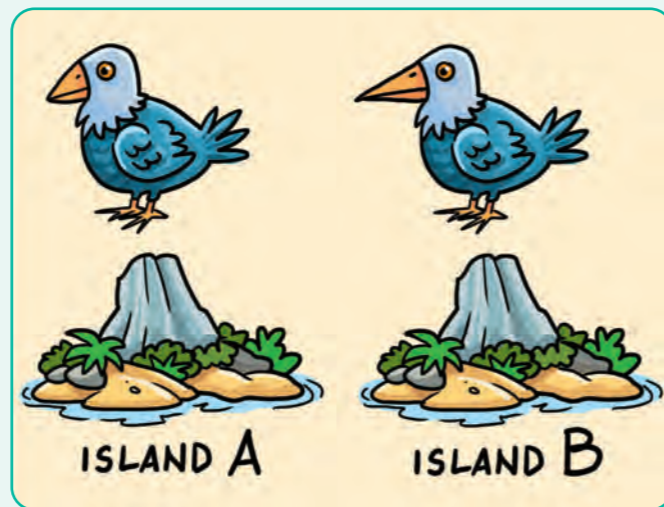
The Big Bang theory

This scientific theory gives an explanation of how the universe came to exist. Around 15 billion years ago the universe began with the expansion of a hot, dense point of energy. As the energy cooled, it went through a series of changes, before becoming atoms, which were necessary for the universe and all life to form. Using powerful telescopes, scientists have observed that the universe is still expanding. This provides evidence to support the theory that there was one point from which the universe first began.



The theory of evolution

Charles Darwin's scientific theory suggests that all living things change over many generations to suit their environment, and that this happens because of natural selection (sometimes called 'survival of the fittest'). In his book, *On the Origin of the Species by Means of Natural Selection* (written in 1859) Darwin observed that species evolved to keep features that helped them survive in a particular environment. For example, when he visited the Galapagos Islands, he noted that the finches on each island were slightly different – their beaks had changed over many generations to be more suited to the food found on each island.



Responses to these scientific theories

Some atheists (people who do not believe that God exists) would argue that scientific theories such as those about the Big Bang and evolution give the only answer that people need to questions about where the universe and everything in it came from. They would argue that there is plenty of evidence to support these theories and that is why they can be trusted. They might also argue that there is no need for people to read the Bible creation stories any more since science can answer life's big questions.

The belief that only science can answer all of the big questions about the universe and life is called **scientism**. Many people, religious and non-religious, believe that this is incorrect. They suggest that science can't always tell us the fullest answer.

Some Christians reject the Big Bang theory and the theory of evolution, believing that the Bible accounts of creation are literally true. This viewpoint is often called **creationism**. The Catholic Church rejects creationism because it sees no conflict between the scientific theories about the origins of the universe and the belief in God as creator of everything.



▲ Some Christians believe that the accounts of creation in the Bible are literally true; this viewpoint is often called creationism

Useful vocabulary

scientific theory: a commonly agreed idea, held by scientists and backed up by evidence

Big Bang theory: the scientific theory that the universe was formed through the expansion of a hot, dense point of energy

theory of evolution: the scientific theory that every living thing changes, over a long period of time, to suit its environment

scientism: the belief that science can provide all of the answers in life

creationism: the belief that the Bible accounts of creation are literally true

Understand

- 1 Write a short summary of the Big Bang theory.
- 2 Write a short summary of the theory of evolution.
- 3 What might atheists argue about Bible creation stories?
- 4 What is creationism?

Discern

- 5 Which do you think give the best explanation of how the universe and life came to be, the Genesis creation stories or the scientific theories about the Big Bang and evolution? Give at least one reason to back up your viewpoint.
- 6 Give one reason why someone might disagree with you.

Respond

- 7 Do you think it would make a difference if people only accepted scientific beliefs about the universe and life? Explain your view.

WHAT DO CATHOLICS BELIEVE ABOUT SCIENTIFIC THEORIES ABOUT CREATION?

Many people think that the evidence used in scientific theories about creation tells them everything they need to know about where the universe and everything in it came from. However, many Catholics believe that science can't answer all of life's big questions and so religious teaching (such as in the creation stories) has a really important role to play in answering them too.

Faith and reason

Catholics believe that **faith** (belief in God) needs to work with **reason** (the ability to use knowledge and intelligence). The scientists who presented the Big Bang theory and the theory of evolution used reason to find evidence to support these theories. This has helped many people to understand the universe and life better. Catholics believe that faith is a gift from God which helps them to understand the world more deeply – and to have the fullest answer to questions about where all life came from.

Catholic responses to creationism and scientism

Most Catholics are not creationists and do not read the creation stories in a literal, word-for-word way. Most Catholics believe that the creation stories show the power, wisdom and goodness of God and that the authors used symbolic language to explain God's qualities to humans.

Catholics also reject scientism because they feel that science can't answer all of the questions that we have about the universe and life. They might say that science can give us some of the answers but that religious teaching helps people to understand the universe and life even more.

Catholic responses to the Big Bang Theory and the theory of evolution

Many Catholics, encouraged by teachings from the Vatican over time, believe that the Big Bang theory and the theory of evolution are compatible with their faith in God the creator, that is, that they can believe in these theories and in God the creator at the same time.

In 1927, Father (Fr) Georges Lemaître suggested that the universe began from a small 'super atom' and expanded from this point onwards. Lemaître was a Belgian astronomer and cosmologist (a scientist who studies the universe), as well as

OBJECTIVE

In this lesson you will learn about **the Catholic Church's responses to the Big Bang theory and the theory of evolution.**

Useful vocabulary

faith: belief without total proof

reason: the ability to think in a clear and logical way

being a Catholic priest. He didn't read the Bible accounts of creation in a literal way and so didn't view the Bible as a scientific account of how the universe and all life was formed. The Bible, for Fr Lemaître, gave essential teaching about how to become closer to God and achieve salvation.

In 1996, Pope St John Paul II taught that it was important for Catholics *not* to think that the theory of evolution was at odds with the Bible, since the Bible creation stories reveal the purpose of humans and the theory of evolution helps people to understand how all life has developed.

In 2014, Pope Francis said that Catholics have to be careful not to read the Bible in a way that makes God seem like 'a magician with a magic wand'. He said that he thought the Big Bang and evolution needed God, since God is the creator of all things. God begins all of creation, and creation develops in a way that God guides.

What does this mean for Catholics today?

Catholics today are taught by the Pope that there is no conflict between science and religion about creation. This is because the Bible contains faith-based teaching that shows that God made and loves all of creation and gave it all a purpose. Genesis creation stories are not scientific theories. Pope St John Paul II explained that science can explain how human life has evolved but that the Bible reveals its purpose.

It can be argued that God has given humans intelligence and reason so that they can explore and understand the world. Scientists like Lemaître and Darwin used reason to help people understand the world, including how life has become what it is today. However, many Catholics believe that they get the fullest answer to the big questions about life when religion tells them *why* life exists, and science tells them *how*.



▲ Fr Georges Lemaître, scientist and Catholic priest

Understand



- 1 Define what Catholics mean by **a)** faith and **b)** reason?
- 2 Why do most Catholics reject creationism?
- 3 Why do Catholics reject scientism?
- 4 What do many Catholics believe about the theories of the Big Bang and evolution?
- 5 What did Pope St John Paul II say was the difference between the teachings of the Bible and science about how life has evolved?

Discern



- 6 'If you believe in the Big Bang theory and Darwin's theory of evolution, then the Genesis creation stories can't be true.' Do you agree with this statement? How might a Catholic respond to it?

Respond



- 7 What big questions do you think the Bible creation stories and the scientific theories about the Big Bang and evolution can answer? Do they help you to understand the world around you?

WHAT MAKES HUMANS DIFFERENT TO THE REST OF CREATION?

When Catholics reflect on God's creation and on human life, they often realise how amazing and beautiful this creation is. This increases their awe and love for God since God has shown power, wisdom and love in this creation.

OBJECTIVE

In this lesson you will learn about *imago Dei*, the idea that humans reflect God's nature.

Humans are created *imago Dei*

“

‘Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

So, God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.’

Genesis 1:26–27

Useful vocabulary

imago Dei: a Latin phrase meaning ‘in the image of God’, the idea that humans reflect God's nature



▲ The Creation of Adam by Michelangelo, from the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel; this painting shows God giving life to Adam; Adam is shown as a reflection of God, made in God's image

Imago Dei is a Latin phrase meaning ‘image of God’. Catholics believe that humans are made in God's image – this is not about how humans look but rather the way in which they are connected to God as God's children. The belief that humans are created *imago Dei* can help Catholics to understand God a little more since they themselves are a reflection of God. Humans will never have all of God's qualities, or God's perfection, but they can show God's love and make good choices.

Imago Dei means that all humans come from God

The belief that humans are created *imago Dei* is really important since it means that all humans are equal. Often in the world, people are divided into different groups – for example male and female, rich and poor – sometimes to make it seem that one group is better than the other. However, Catholics would say that because all humans are from God, all humans are equal.

Catholics also believe that all humans are precious to God, who always wants the best for them. Being in God's image means that humans are God's most special creation. This close connection between God and humans also means that humans can have a relationship with God. Catholics can feel close to God through prayer and worship.

Imago Dei means that Catholics have responsibilities to the world and to others

The belief in *imago Dei* is a reminder to Catholics that even the people they may not like or agree with are created in God's image. This is a challenging way to think but a very important part of being a Catholic in the world today, since the belief that God has created all people *imago Dei* means that all people need to be treated with dignity and respect.

Many Catholics today give their time and energy to making sure that the world treats all people equally and fairly. For example, CAFOD (the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development) helps communities in the poorest countries gain access to life-changing support, such as education and healthcare.

Being created *imago Dei* means that Catholics believe humans have a God-given sense of right and wrong. This helps Catholics to try to make good choices and to try to stand up to inequality and bring about positive change in the world.

Furthermore, being created *imago Dei* gives humans the responsibility to care for the world, which means taking care of the land, natural resources and all animal life.

Understand



- 1 Where can Catholics read that humans are created *imago Dei*?
- 2 What do Catholics mean by ‘creation *imago Dei*’?
- 3 How might a belief in creation *imago Dei* make a Catholic feel close to God?
- 4 Write down two ways in which a Catholic could show that they believe that all people are created *imago Dei*.

Discern



- 5 Explain how the belief that humans are created *imago Dei* emphasises that humans have dignity and worth.
- 6 ‘Humans are more important than any other part of creation.’ Do you agree with this? Write a paragraph to explain your answer.

Respond



- 7 Consider the world that we live in today. How might the belief that all humans are made *imago Dei* make a positive impact? Try to come up with at least five ideas.

WHAT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO OTHERS?

In the creation stories, God created humans to work together, but we know that this doesn't always happen in the world that we live in. The world is unfair and many people struggle. Many people believe we should help to improve the world we live in. Catholics believe that they have a duty to work to improve the world, so that the goodness that was given by God can be experienced by everyone and so that evil and suffering can be overcome.

Catholic Social Teaching

Catholic Social Teaching is the teaching from the Catholic Church which tries to reduce human suffering and increase cooperation and friendship between all people. The Bible reminds humans that they need to love and respect all people, because all people are created *imago Dei* and are part of one family. Jesus taught through his words and actions that we should always love others, no matter who they are. Catholic Social Teaching uses this teaching in the modern world. The world is always changing and this produces new problems and issues, but the message of God's love stays the same. The Church helps Catholics by showing them how to live in a way that shows God's love to others.

The four core principles of Catholic Social Teaching are: the dignity of the human person, the common good, subsidiarity, and solidarity.

The dignity of the human person

Genesis 1 taught that humans were created in God's image. This means that all people are precious to God, equal to one another, and worthy of respect. It also means that Catholics have a duty to make sure that all people are treated with dignity, no matter who they are. Catholics have a duty to challenge any injustice because they believe that treating others differently is not part of God's plan.

Example: Many Catholic parishes have a Saint Vincent de Paul (SVP) society, offering person-to-person care for people experiencing difficulty, such as money problems.

Placeholder

The common good

In the creation stories, God gives humans all that is needed to be happy and to develop their relationship with God. The common good means that all people should be able to experience the goodness in the world so they can flourish and find happiness in God. Catholics have a duty to make sure that no one is left behind and all people have what they need to develop.

Example: Many Catholics support Mary's Meals which gives children in developing countries free meals at school. This supports their education and helps to break the cycle of poverty. The picture on the right shows volunteers cooking porridge for schoolchildren.



OBJECTIVE

In this lesson you will think about **what Genesis 1 and 2 teaches Catholics about responsibility to others.**

Subsidiarity

The idea of subsidiarity is that higher institutions, such as a country's government, should not take away opportunities for people to be involved in making decisions and bringing about change where they live. It is important for people to have this power since they know best how to change the society that they live in.

Example: CAFOD works in partnership with local communities in developing countries to provide support that the community wants and needs. In Lima, the capital of Peru, CAFOD has worked with an organisation called Warmi Huasi, to help children and young people have a say in decisions that will affect them. In this photo, Micaela (on the left) is talking about the need for safe places for children to play in.



Solidarity

Catholics believe that God created humans as a community to work together. Solidarity means seeing that humans are all members of the same family and depend on one another. Jesus' teaching to 'love your neighbour' is a reminder that all people have a responsibility to each other.

An example: Pax Christi is a Catholic charity which promotes peace and an end to conflict in solidarity with people who suffer as a result of war. The picture on the right shows people at an event called 'No Faith in War', organised by Pax Christi in London in 2019. People gathered to pray and to block road access to trucks delivering weapons to an arms fair.



Catholics believe that Catholic Social Teaching helps them to carry out the duty that God has given humans to care for the world and everything in it. This duty is called **stewardship**. Catholics believe that they are acting as good stewards when they work together to protect people's dignity, making sure that all people have their voices heard, and have a fair share of God's creation.

Useful vocabulary

stewardship: the duty to care for something, in this case, the world and everything in it

Understand

- 1 What do Catholics believe they have a duty to do?
- 2 What did Jesus teach through his words and actions?
- 3 What do Catholics believe stays the same, even though the world is changing?
- 4 What are the four core principles of Catholic Social Teaching?
- 5 Explain how Catholic Social Teaching helps Catholics to be stewards of God's creation.



Discern

- 6 'Catholic Social Teaching could change the world.' Write a paragraph explaining your response to this idea.



Respond

- 7 What can you do to show care for the earth and all creatures living on it? Try to explain one idea.



Link

Read more about stewardship on page 26.



WHAT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO THE WORLD?

Catholics believe that both of the Genesis creation stories make it clear that humans have a duty to care for the earth. Many people believe we need to care for the world, and everyone and everything in it, not just for the present time but also for all future generations. In recent years, Pope Francis has stressed the importance of this in his encyclical *Laudato si'*.

Stewardship

Stewardship means looking after something. When Catholics talk about stewardship of creation, this means the duty that God has given to humans to care for the created world, and everything in it.

This responsibility is written about in both creation stories.

“ ‘And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”’
Genesis 1:28

Humans are given great power and responsibility. However, they should not misuse this and should instead show the same care for the world as God has done. God has made a good creation and has given humans the responsibility to act with goodness, in order that the world and everything in it can remain good.

In the second creation story, man is put into the garden ‘to work it and keep it’ (Genesis 2:15). This shows that God trusted humans to care for his creation. Furthermore, God gives Adam the responsibility of naming the creatures:

“ ‘Now out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.’
Genesis 2:19

God uses his power to create the animals and Adam uses his God-given creativity to name them. The story shows that humans are made to work with God and that the responsibility that God gives to humans will have lasting impact – the names that Adam gave were the names that the animals became known by.

OBJECTIVE

In this lesson you will learn about **the Christian duty to be a steward of creation.**



Laudato si'

In 2015, Pope Francis wrote a letter to the whole world called *Laudato si'*: *On care for our common home*. “*Laudato si'*” is a medieval Italian phrase meaning ‘Praise be to you’ – a reminder that Catholics thank and praise God for the beautiful creation of the earth. ‘Our common home’ is another name for the earth – we all live on the earth and share the earth’s resources, so all people need to care for it, not just for today but for future generations.

Pope Francis explains that the Genesis creation stories show that human life is centred on relationships ‘with God, with our neighbour and with the earth itself’ (*Laudato si'* 66). He says that humans have misunderstood God’s instructions and instead of caring for the earth, they have misused their authority and caused harm.

However, God continues to love and care for humans, giving them the chance to be forgiven for their **sins** and have a good relationship with God, others and the world again.

Responding to ‘the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor’

Pope Francis says that stewardship is responding to ‘the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor’ (*Laudato si'* 49). The Pope encourages all people to stop harming the world and to try to save it, for example, by using natural resources such as water more wisely and taking action to address the problem of climate change.

‘The cry of the earth and the cry of the poor’ is also about those living in poverty in the world who are often ignored and who suffer the most. He says that environmental damage harms the poor more than anyone else. In *Laudato si'*, Pope Francis describes humans as ‘brothers and sisters’, which links to the first teaching in Genesis 1: that humans are made in God’s image, all equal and connected, with the same father, God. Everyone has a responsibility to help the poor.



▲ Pope Francis

Useful vocabulary

sin: to go against God’s law

Understand



- 1 What do Catholics mean by ‘stewardship’?
- 2 What is the name of the letter that Pope Francis wrote to the world about stewardship?
- 3 What does it mean to call the earth ‘our common home’?
- 4 What does the idea of stewardship mean for how Catholics should act? In your answer make reference to **a)** the second creation story in Genesis **b)** Pope Francis’ letter *Laudato si'* **c)** the four core principles of Catholic Social Teaching (see pages 24–25).

Discern



- 5 Explain what power and responsibility humans have as stewards of creation.
- 6 Do you think it’s more important to care for the world or to care for other people? Or, are both important? Give at least two reasons for your opinion.

Respond



- 7 Catholics believe that the world is made by God and that humans have a responsibility for it. Do you agree with this belief, or with part of it? How do your beliefs influence how you treat the world and other people?

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF PRAYER?

Prayer is the way in which people communicate with God. Religious believers pray in different ways, but all pray so that they can become closer to God.

Prayer is a part of many different faiths

Religious people from many faiths communicate with God through prayer. Prayer is an important aspect of having a religious faith. Many religious believers see it as important to spend time with God to get to know God and feel God's presence in their lives. There are some differences in how people of different faiths pray – for example Muslims pray five times a day, at particular times, and many Hindus will have spaces set aside in their homes for prayer to a particular deity or god. However, all religious people share the same belief that prayer brings them closer to God in their lives.



▲ Many Hindus set up spaces in their homes to pray to a deity or god.

Prayer is a response to revelation

Often people compare prayer to a conversation. When we are in a conversation, we respond to someone else. Prayer is the response to God's revelation. When a person becomes aware of the existence of God and who God is, they often respond through prayer – they talk to God and share their lives with God.

The prayer might be to thank and praise God for the beautiful world that God created or to thank God for working in someone's life.

Prayer is a response to the call to covenant

The Bible shows that people such as Abraham and Moses entered covenants with God. These were promises or agreements that strengthened the relationship between humans and God. These covenants expressed how much God loved the human race and encouraged people to live in the way that God called them to. Catholics believe that when they pray, they are placing their trust in God, just as Abraham and Moses did in their covenants with God. These covenants didn't end

OBJECTIVE

In this lesson you will learn about **why Catholics pray.**

with Abraham and Moses – all people are called to be in a relationship with God and Catholics believe that this was made possible through Jesus' sacrifice when he was crucified.

What does the Catholic Church teach about prayer?

The Catholic Church defines prayer as 'the raising of our hearts and minds to God' (CCC 2559). This quotation means that prayer is an action of giving yourself completely to God. When many Catholics pray, they try to focus completely on God, with their heart and with their mind. This shows the Catholic belief that people should love God more than anything else and so when Catholics pray, they place God first and try to think only of God.

Catholics believe that God is beyond what humans can understand. However, they believe that prayer helps them to walk with God, so by continuing to communicate with God through prayer, they build up a stronger and closer relationship with God. Jesus encouraged this close relationship when he taught the disciples how to pray, telling them that God should be called 'Our Father'.

On page 27 we found out that the title of Pope Francis' letter, *Laudato si'*, means 'Praise be to you' – a reminder that Catholics are called to thank and praise God for the beautiful creation of the earth, as well as act as stewards of creation. Humans are unlike any other created beings because they are created *imago Dei*, meaning that they can pray and have a relationship with God since they are made by God and reflect God.



Understand

- 1 What is prayer a response to?
- 2 How is prayer like entering into a covenant with God?
- 3 How does the Catholic Church define prayer?
- 4 Why do people from many different religions pray?
- 5 Explain what the phrase *Laudato si'* means to Catholics?



Discern

- 6 Give two reasons why Catholics might say that prayer is an important part of their life.
- 7 Do you think prayer is the best way to show faith in God? Give a reason for your opinion.



Respond

- 8 What does prayer mean to you, in your life?



Useful vocabulary

prayer: the way in which humans communicate with God

Link

Go to pages 10–11 to read more about revelation and covenant.

1.11 ETHICAL OPTION

WHAT CAN WE DO TO PROTECT CREATION?

Many people, from all over the world, believe it is important to care for the environment for different reasons. This is particularly important for Catholics since it is part of their duty as stewards of creation and a key part of Catholic Social Teaching. One major goal in this effort to care for the world is **sustainable development**.

What is sustainable development?

In both Genesis creation stories, God gives responsibility to humans to care for the earth. This is not just a message for the earliest people who followed God – this is a message that Catholics believe is essential today.

To sustain something means to keep it going. When we talk about sustainability, we are talking about how to live in a way that prevents harm to the environment and prevents the earth's resources running out. If a new housing development is being planned, it's important to think about how to prevent damage to the eco-system, and the impact on local wildlife.

When decisions about sustainability are made, they fall into three categories:

- **Environmental** – how to care for the created world now and in the future
- **Economic** – how to make sure that people are able to afford to live
- **Social** – how to enjoy living with the people around you

Often, it is people who are in poverty who suffer the most as a result of environmental, economic or social problems. Pope Francis calls people to respond to 'the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor' (*Laudato si'* 49), and many Catholics feel it is a duty from God to care for the world and to consider the needs of those who are experiencing poverty first.

Some examples of sustainable work

In 2015, the United Nations (UN) developed 17 Sustainable Development Goals. These goals are a call to action to end suffering and poverty, and to care for the world and all people so that by 2030 the world is a fairer and safer place.

The first five of the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals are:

- 1 No poverty
- 2 Zero hunger
- 3 Good health and well-being
- 4 Quality education
- 5 Gender equality

OBJECTIVE

In this lesson you will learn about **how humans can help to care for the created world**.

Useful vocabulary

sustainable development: carefully managing the use of the earth's resources so that they are not destroyed or used up as a result of human activities

Link

Read more about Pope Francis' call to action in *Laudato si'* on page 27.

CAFOD (the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development) works on many projects that support sustainable development in cities and communities, which is number 11 on the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals list. Here is one case study from Bangladesh:

Eco-villages

In southern Bangladesh, CAFOD is working with the Bangladesh Association for Sustainable Development (BASD) to establish 24 'eco-villages' – where all villagers are supported to ensure their farming is sustainable.

The area is threatened by cyclones, rising sea levels and salty soil, making it challenging to grow food. BASD provide training in eco-friendly methods of farming, like making organic pesticides and fertilisers, growing crops in raised beds, and planting protective tree barriers. Those who have participated in the training go on to share their knowledge with their neighbours and children. As a result, the village roofs and gardens are covered with flourishing mangoes, coconuts and aubergines.

12-year-old Dristy describes her eco-village as a green and quiet place with clean air where lots of fruit and vegetables grow. She has taught her friends how to plant trees organically. Dristy says: 'I would like to tell people my age in other countries that they too should plant trees in their gardens, and they should use organic fertiliser instead of chemicals, which are bad for the soil and the environment. I think we can learn from each other.'



▲ Dristy wants to encourage others to grow crops in a sustainable way

Understand

- 1 What responsibility did God give to humans in both creation stories?
- 2 What does 'sustainability of creation' mean?
- 3 What are the three categories of sustainability?
- 4 Using the Genesis creation stories and *Laudato si'* explain why Catholics feel they should care for the environment and all humans on the earth.
- 5 What is the aim of the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals?

Discern

- 6 How does this case study relate to Pope Francis' call to respond to 'the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor' in his letter *Laudato si'*?
- 7 'Sustainability is something that everyone should focus on.' Give two reasons to support this statement.

Respond

- 8 What can you do to care for the earth and for other people? Try to identify at least three ideas.

1.12 ARTISTIC EXPRESSION OPTION

CAN ART HELP CATHOLICS UNDERSTAND CREATION?

Art is often used in Christianity to communicate beliefs and teachings because it can be a helpful way of expressing complicated ideas. Colours, images and symbols can help people to explore and understand beliefs and teachings and feel closer to God.

Genesis Frontispiece: Creation (Genesis 1:1–2:3)

The piece of art on this page is Donald Jackson's *Genesis Frontispiece: Creation (Genesis 1:1–2:3)*. It is from the St John's Bible, which is a completely handwritten and illustrated Bible. Donald Jackson is an English calligrapher (an artist who specialises in beautiful handwriting), who was asked in 1998 by the monks at St John's Abbey in Minnesota to lead in making the first handwritten and illustrated copy of the Bible for over five hundred years. The monks saw the project as a way to share the story of the Bible and inspire people in the modern world.

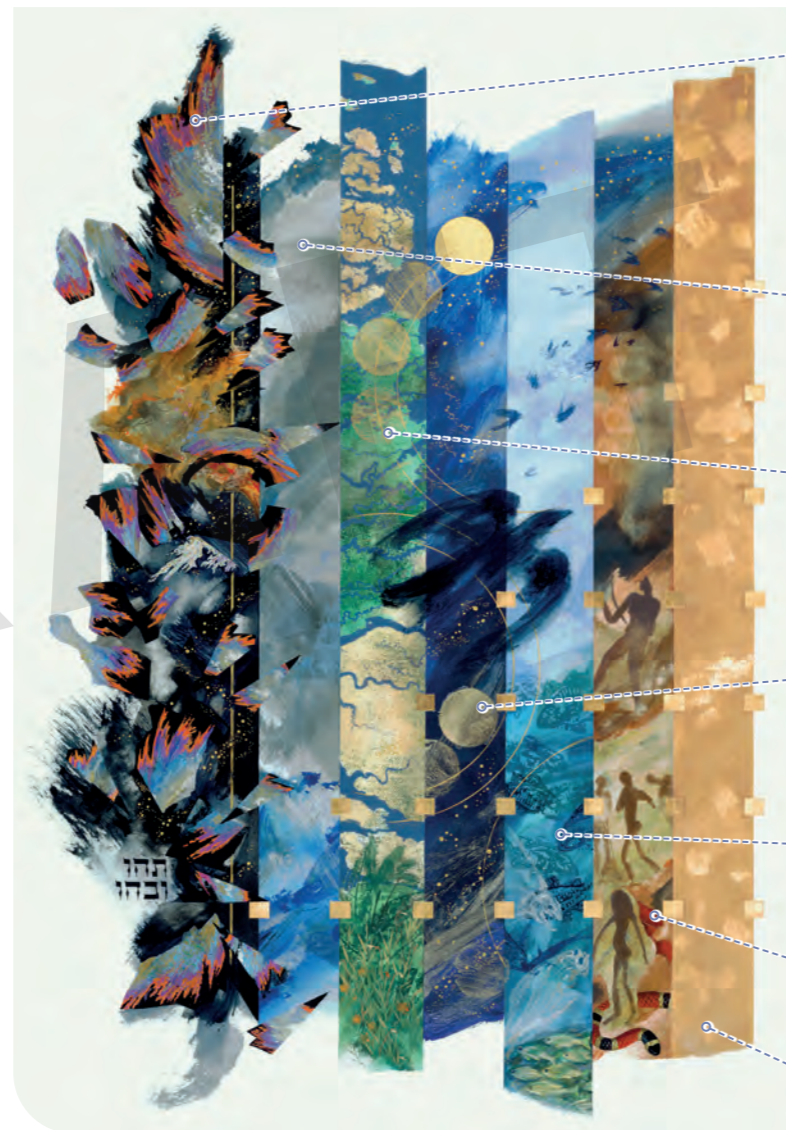
How does this artwork show the creation story?

A frontispiece is an illustration facing the front page of a book, meaning that this image will be the first illustration a person sees when they open the St John's Bible. There are a number of different elements to this piece of art.

Firstly, you will notice that there are seven vertical columns. Each of these reflect the days of creation in the first Genesis creation story. Over the top of the image is a raven. The raven symbolises prophecy – God's communication to the world. It is a reminder that Genesis shows creator God to be a God who speaks and is involved with creation,

OBJECTIVE

In this lesson you will learn about **Donald Jackson's Genesis Frontispiece**.



▲ Genesis Frontispiece: Creation (Genesis 1:1–2:3) by Donald Jackson

rather than being separate from the world. The blocks of gold show the movement of the seven days of creation, as they count down to the day of rest.

Link

Read more about the first Genesis creation story on pages 14–15.

Day 1: The fragments and shapes at the beginning are chaotic. The Hebrew words on the bottom left mean 'chaos'. Genesis 1:2 says: 'The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.' To the right of the first day there is a gold line which represents the moment God says 'Let there be light' (Genesis 1:3).

Day 2: The swirling blues and greys in this image show that on day two God separated the waters on the earth from the waters above the earth by putting the heavens or the sky between them.

Day 3: This panel shows satellite images from the Nile Delta. In Genesis 1:9 God commands that the land be separated from the seas.

Day 4: The solar system is shown – the Bible says that God created lights in the heavens to be signs for seasons and to give light to the earth.

Day 5: On day five, the Bible says that God created the creatures in the sky and in the waters. This panel shows birds in the lighter blue section above and fish, including images of fish fossils, in the aquamarine section below.

Day 6: Prehistoric rock paintings are used to show that on this day God created humans.

Day 7: On this day, the Bible teaches that God rested and so gold is used to show that God is resting and contemplating creation.

A comparison with *The Creation of Adam*

On page 22 you can see *The Creation of Adam* by Michaelangelo. This is a famous piece of art which focuses on God's creation of Adam. This artwork reflects Catholic beliefs that God created humans *imago Dei*, because Adam reflects God. God is shown to be above the earth and at a distance from Adam. This presents God as transcendent (outside of space and time). God is shown with a strong body, suggesting omnipotence, and is older, suggesting that God is eternal. This artwork is an interesting contrast to *Genesis Frontispiece: Creation (Genesis 1:1–2:3)* since it focuses much more closely on the creation of humans, much like the second Genesis creation story.

Understand

- 1 Why do Christians create religious art?
- 2 Why did the monks of St John's Abbey want to produce this new copy of the Bible?
- 3 What is the meaning of the raven in this piece of art?
- 4 Which account of creation does *Genesis Frontispiece: Creation* show?

Discern

- 5 Explain how Donald Jackson showed the Genesis creation story in *Genesis Frontispiece: Creation*.
- 6 Look at *The Creation of Adam* on page 22. What ideas about God and creation do you think the artist, Michaelangelo, was trying to show? Compare and contrast this picture with Donald Jackson's *Genesis Frontispiece*.
- 7 Which of these two artworks do you think best represent Catholic beliefs about creation? Explain your answer.

Respond

- 8 Has what you have learned from looking closely at these artworks made you think differently about the world around you?

1.13 LIVED RELIGION OPTION

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM SISTER DOROTHY STANG?

Catholics believe everyone has a responsibility to care for the environment. Some people put this responsibility at the centre of their lives, dedicating their life and work to protecting the earth. We have learned that in the Genesis creation stories, God gave the duty of stewardship to all people. Pope Francis asked Catholics to respond to the 'cry of the earth and the cry of the poor'. Sister (Sr) Dorothy Stang did this in her work to help protect the Amazon rainforest and support the people who depend on it.

OBJECTIVES
In this lesson you will learn about Sr Dorothy Stang's life and how she worked to help protect the Amazon rainforest.

Who was Sr Dorothy Stang?

Sr Dorothy Stang was born in America in 1931. She became a nun and worked as a schoolteacher for many years. In 1966 Sr Dorothy moved to Brazil. Part of her mission was to share the Gospel and help build Christian communities. Within these communities, Sr Dorothy helped to support settler farmers who had been given land in the area so they could make a living. She was passionate about protecting the rainforest, so she helped bring the farmers together to give them greater power in challenging deforestation (the cutting down of large areas of the rainforest). Sr Dorothy's faith in God motivated her to spend the rest of her life doing this work in Brazil. On 12 February 2005 Sr Dorothy was murdered. Her killers had been hired by two wealthy landowners who wanted to stop her campaigns to save the rainforest. Many people call Sr Dorothy a **martyr**, meaning that she died for her faith.



▲ Sr Dorothy Stang often wore a t-shirt with the words 'The death of the forest is the end of our lives' printed on it.

Protecting the rainforest

Sr Dorothy Stang made stewardship of the earth her life's work. She is best known for her work to help protect the Amazon rainforest. Rainforests are vital to the health of the whole world. Many people call rainforests 'the lungs of the earth' since they absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen, which can help to stabilize the climate. Rainforests also add water to the atmosphere, which falls as rain, feeding rivers and lakes, and watering crops. Rainforests are an important home to many species of animals and plants and are a source of food and medicines. The rainforest is also home to many Indigenous peoples (the first people to have lived there).

Useful vocabulary

martyr: someone who dies for their faith

However, the rainforests are continually under threat since they are large expanses of land which some people think would be better used for grazing animals and growing foods. Eighty per cent of the deforestation of the Amazon rainforest has been for grazing cattle to support the beef and leather industries. Another cause of deforestation is logging (cutting down trees to use or sell the wood). When trees are destroyed, the carbon dioxide they had been storing is released, which adds to the problem of climate change. Deforestation also leads to droughts in the local area. When the land is destroyed, many Indigenous peoples lose their homes and ways of life.

Sr Dorothy knew how much the world depends on rainforests and wanted to stop deforestation. Though she saw God's creation being destroyed she worked tirelessly to protect it.

Supporting sustainability

When we treat people with respect and care, we treat them with dignity. Throughout her whole life, Sr Dorothy showed the importance of human dignity. She worked with small communities of settler farmers who were under pressure from ranchers and loggers who wanted to take their land, threatening their homes and livelihoods. These farmers worked on small plots of land, using farming methods that didn't harm the rainforest. Sr Dorothy worked to support their way of life. She did this in many ways, for example through education. She set up 26 schools to educate the next generations of farmers, and she developed a fruit co-operative so that families could sell the produce they grew. Her goal was to strengthen the farming communities and to bring them greater power in the face of such pressure.

Sr Dorothy knew that her life was in danger – lots of people wanted to stop her work because they saw her as a threat to their businesses and wealth. However, she did not stop, even saying that she was prepared to suffer and die rather than see this unfair treatment of people continue. Following her murder, the Catholic Church recognised Sr Dorothy as a martyr and Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva put a large amount of land in the area that Sr Dorothy had worked under environmental protection.



▲ The Amazon rainforest occupies around 6 million square kilometres

Understand



- 1 Identify three things that Sr Dorothy did in Brazil.
- 2 Why was Sr Dorothy killed?
- 3 Why is the rainforest so important?
- 4 How did Sr Dorothy show care for the earth and care for other humans?
- 5 What did President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva do that showed the impact of Sr Dorothy's work?

Discern



- 6 How important do you think Catholic beliefs about stewardship and human dignity were in Sr Dorothy Stang's work?
- 7 'Everyone should follow Sr Dorothy's example.' Do you agree with this quotation? Write a paragraph to back up your opinion.

Respond



- 8 Do you find Sr Dorothy inspiring? Explain your response.

ASSESSMENT

Key vocabulary

Write a definition for these key terms.

God	revelation	literal sense	literary form
creation	creationism	scientism	prayer
stewardship			

Knowledge check

- Which of these phrases is the meaning of stewardship?
 - To care for and protect something.
 - To do what we like with something we've been given.
 - To care for and protect our own belongings.
- Copy out and complete the following: CAFOD stands for Catholic Agency F..... O..... D.....
- Copy out and correct this sentence: Pope Francis says we should respond to the cry of the animals and the cry of the rich.
- How many accounts of creation are there in the book of Genesis?
- What is the literal translation of 'imago Dei'?
- In 2015, Pope Francis wrote a letter about stewardship. What is it called?
- What is revelation?
- Describe Catholic beliefs about prayer.
- The creation stories in Genesis are sometimes called 'symbolic stories'. Describe what is meant by this.
- Explain the difference between a creationist and a scientific explanation of how the universe began.

TIP

Before you start, make sure you are clear what is meant by a 'creationist' and 'scientific' view. The question isn't asking which you think is correct – but rather can you name one key difference between them?

TIP

Try to define the word 'symbolic' and try to include at least one example of something from the creation stories that could be understood as symbolic.

Extended writing activity

This assessment is for you to show what you have learned in this chapter and to develop your extended writing skills. You don't need to include everything that you've covered in this chapter, but you will need to select relevant information carefully to make sure that you're answering the question.

What do the creation stories teach us about God and humans?

- To help break down this big question, you could think of it as two smaller questions. Start with a paragraph to answer the question 'What do the creation stories teach us about God?'

You could use 'Point-Evidence-Explain' to write at least one paragraph to answer this question.

Point – make the point for your paragraph

Evidence – give evidence to back up your point

Explain – what the evidence means and how it answers the question

Here's an example:

The Genesis creation stories teach that God is omnipotent, meaning all powerful. In Genesis 1, God creates by speaking – for example, saying 'Let there be light.' When God speaks about something to be created, it is created. No one else can create like that and so the creation stories show that God's power makes God unlike anyone or anything else.

Try to write at least one more paragraph about God. Below are some sentence starters and a list of ideas about what the point of your paragraph(s) could be.

Genesis 1/Genesis 2/the creation stories show that God is...

The evidence for this is...

This means that...

Words you could use:

- all loving
- transcendent (beyond space and time)
- immanent (experienced in the world)
- eternal (has always existed and always will)

- For the second part of the big question, write some paragraphs to answer the question 'What do the creation stories teach us about humans?' You can use the same 'Point, evidence, explain' approach for this. **Try to write two or more paragraphs on this.**

Words you could use:

- imago Dei (made in God's image)
- stewards of creation
- in relationship with others

TIP

- Remember that there are two creation stories. You don't have to write about them separately, but you should choose information from both to use in your answer.
- Really good answers will include specific information from the creation stories, specialist vocabulary and evidence that you understand this information yourself.

- In this first sentence, the **point** for the paragraph is given: God is omnipotent.
- In this second sentence, specific **evidence** from Genesis 1 has been given to back up the point made – God creates by spoken word.
- In these the last two sentences, there is an **explanation** of the point, which shows the student's personal understanding and helps to answer the question.

I'm incredibly proud and excited to introduce Oxford's *Source to Summit*, a brand new series that has been **carefully planned to ensure full compliance with the new Religious Education Directory (2022)**. With a strong narrative telling the story from creation to the Church of today, the branches unfold to set out a clear and coherent curriculum that is both accessible and engaging.

The writing team, all practising teachers, have used their expertise and experience to present this challenging new curriculum in a way that students will be able to understand and remember. It takes a fresh approach to Key Stage 3 Religious Education for Catholic schools, offering not only high-quality textbooks but also a range of **online Kerboodle resources**.

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Careful consideration has been given to assessment so that **students will be able to demonstrate their progress over time** in a structured way. A variety of tasks, as well as marking guidance, will support teachers to assess a range of skills, and empower students to test their own learning.

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Andy Lewis and team

Series Editor



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