

Beliefs and Values



KEY VOCABULARY

Atonement: reconciliation between God and humanity
Catechism: official teaching of the Roman Catholic Church
Compassion: a feeling of pity which makes one want to help the sufferer
Credo: statements of Christian beliefs
Faith: firm belief without logical proof
Incarnation: the belief that God took human form in Jesus
Monotheism: belief in one God
Repentance: the act of being sorry for wrongdoing and deciding not to do it again
Salvation: the act of delivering from sin, or saving from evil
Trinity: the belief that God is three in one
Unity: God's way of being one
Virgin Birth: the belief that Jesus was not conceived through sex

The Holy Spirit: The importance

- The Holy Spirit guides the Church in the election of the *Pope* so we know he is approved by God.
- The Holy Spirit inspires **missionaries** to spread the Gospel message, enabling the Church to grow.
- The Holy Spirit brings people closer to Christ through the **sacraments**. For example, baptism and reconciliation purify people from sin enabling them to have a close relationship with God.
- The Holy Spirit brings **gifts** which gives Christians the power to live the lives Jesus wants them to live.

The Trinity:



What is it?

There is only ONE God who reveals himself to the world in THREE person. God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit

The importance

- The Holy Spirit helps Christians to understand the different ways that God shows his presence in the world today.
- Belief in the Trinity is part of the Apostolic tradition.
- It is taught in the Bible – for example at the baptism of Jesus.
- The Catechism states 'The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life.'

God the Father



The meaning

- The father-child relationship should be the same as a Christian's relationship with God.
- God creates human life like a father does, he then loves and cares for his creations.
- God will provide for his children
- Because God is the Father, Christians can turn to God as they would to a human father when in need.

The importance

- The Bible show very clearly that Jesus referred to God as his Father. Jesus told his disciples to call God, Father. The teachings of the Bible and of Jesus are of supreme importance as they are the basis of the **faith**.
- It allows Christians to have a personal relationship with God.
- Because of his fatherly care he sent Jesus into the world to save humanity from their sins.
- It is a basic Christian belief. Children are taught the Our Father from an early age

Beliefs about God?



God the Creator

The meaning

- God created the universe and all the things in it. Therefore this life is not an accident. Life has a meaning and purpose given to it by God.
- God created the universe out of nothing; therefore he is all powerful and is the cause of all life.
- As God has created the universe, and God is good, the universe itself must be good.
- God created humans beings in his image, which means humans are his special creation.

The Importance

- God's omnipotence. The Creeds and the Catechism teach that God is the Father Almighty – only an all-powerful God could create the universe.
- The universe is not an accident. It was created by God who is good for a good purpose. We can find this purpose in the faith and teachings of the Church.
- Life is sacred because God is the creator of it. Those things which God creates must be like, holy so we need to treat creation carefully and with respect. God as Creator has given humans the responsibility of caring for and safeguarding his creation.
- God's love for humans. God created the world for humans and give them their purpose in living.

Jesus Son of God:



Incarnation

Jesus was **not** a man who became God.
Jesus was **not** part man and part God.
Jesus was **not** God disguised as a man.
When God became man in the incarnation he did not leave heaven unoccupied.
Jesus was fully man and fully God.
God **reveals** himself to man through his incarnation.

The meaning

- Jesus was both **man** and **God**.
- He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and was **God on Earth**.
- His **example** and **teaching** show Christians how God wants them to live.

The importance

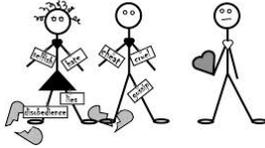
- It explains the **special relationship** between God and Jesus.
- His life shows what **God is like**.
- His life and death **bring salvation and eternal life**.

Christian Beliefs

Sin and Salvation

What is it?

Sin is an action that breaks God's law. Salvation means being saved from sin and giving Christians eternal life with God.



The importance

- It saves them from Hell and leads them to eternal life with God
- It was the purpose of Jesus life, death and resurrection.
- It gives Christians a reason to lead a Holy life.
- It explain why the Catholic Church has the sacraments of baptism, reconciliation, confirmation and the Eucharist.

Time to think: Are any sins unforgivable?

Loving Others

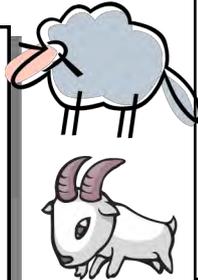
The Parable of the Good Samaritan

The meaning

- Christians need to show love to **EVERYONE**, even your enemy! (*Not easy!*)
- God wants us to love everyone regardless of **race**.
- God wants us to love our neighbour so that no-one suffers or even dies!

The Importance

- It teaches that your neighbour is **anyone** who is in trouble, regardless of their **race** or **religion**.
- It teaches that loving your neighbour is what **God** wants.
- It tells us that loving your neighbour is not easy, yet Christians still have to **try** to do it.



Loving God:

Jesus said the two greatest commandments are to love God and to love your neighbour as yourself.

The meaning

Human values should take second place to God's values. Christians can show their love by:

- Going to mass weekly and praying every day.
- Take the other sacraments.
- Following the teaching of the Bible.

The importance

- If you love God, you will follow His will and so gain eternal life.
- Jesus said that loving God was the most important commandment. Christians should follow Jesus' teaching.
- God showed his love for the world by sacrificing his Son. In response to this Christians should love God.
- The Catechism teaches love of God. Catholics have to follow the teaching of the Catechism.
- If you love God you put others before yourself and so follow the second great commandment.

Loving Others

The Parable of the Sheep and Goats

The meaning

- Christians need to show love for everyone, especially those **in need**.
- God wants us to love others so that no-one **suffers**.
- By showing **love for others** you show **love for God**.
- God will **judge** people according to how they have treated others.
- **Jesus himself** appeals to us in the needy.

The importance

- By **loving others** you show **love for God** and this is the most important commandment.
- Loving others means caring for the thirsty, hungry, naked, strangers, the sick or those in prison.
- Those who help others will be **rewarded** with eternal life and those who do not will be **punished**.

God's Love expressed in a religious community

Carmelite Nuns

- Are mainly a contemplative religious community who spend their lives in prayer and study.
- Founded around 1215

Love for God is expressed by:

- Take three vows: poverty, chastity and obedience. Giving up their money, sex life and freedom to show their complete love of God.
- Spending 12 hours every day in prayer, worship and contemplation.
- Living a life away from the world concentrating on God alone. Praying for the whole world as God requested in Jesus teachings.

God's Love expressed in a religious community

Missionaries of Charity.

- Is one of the newest monastic orders.
- Founded by Mother Teresa in 1950
- It is an Apostolic order

Love for God is expressed by:

- Take the vow of poverty, chastity and obedience plus the vow to 'wholehearted and free service to the poor.'
- Run centres for the abandoned and dying.
- Run centres for leprosy.
- Run hostels in big cities providing shelter for the homeless. Try to get them back into society.
- Run orphanages.
- Work 10 to 12 hours a day. Along side praying and celebrating mass daily.

Church showing Love

Love of God

- Celebrating mass together.
- Preparing people for the sacraments
- Through the Liturgy of the Word

Love of Others

- Giving people a sense of belonging.
- Supporting the local Catholic schools.
- Providing social facilities e.g. youth clubs and mother and toddler groups.
- Providing help for the needy through organisations like the SVP and CAFOD



Religious Groups

Community and Tradition

KEY VOCABULARY

- Anglican Churches:** Churches that are in communion with the Church of England
- Apostolic:** the belief that the Church can only be understood in the light of the Apostles
- Bishops:** priests specially chosen by the Pope who are responsible for all the churches in a diocese
- Catholic:** universal or worldwide
- Celibacy:** living without engaging in any sexual activity
- Holy:** of, or relating to, God, sacred
- Laity:** all the people of the Church who are not chosen to be bishops, priests or deacons
- Magisterium:** the Pope and the bishops interpreting the Bible and tradition for Roman Catholics today
- Nonconformist Churches:** Protestant Christians separated from the Church of England
- Ordination:** making someone a priest, bishop or deacon by the sacrament of holy orders
- Orthodox Churches:** national Churches which are in union with the Patriarch of Constantinople (e.g. the Russian Orthodox Church)
- Papacy:** the office of the Pope

Body of Christ

The Church is described as the **BODY OF CHRIST** in both the OT and NT. This means that:

1) All Christians continue the work of Christ on earth. They are his physical body

2) Christians become part of the Church and so part of the Body of Christ through baptism



3) All Christians receive the Body of Christ during the Mass at the Eucharist. This joins all Catholics with the other Christians around the world receiving the sacrament.

The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we are all baptised by one Spirit into one body—whether Jew or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.
1 Corinthians 12:12-13

Why the Church as the Body of Christ is important for Catholics

- This is how the Church is described in the NT by St Paul.
- It explains why the mass is so important. By sharing communion, Catholics share in the Body of Christ through transubstantiation and are part of the Body of Christ.
- Christians can continue the physical helping and teaching work of Jesus because they are the Body of Christ on earth.
- 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 the body has a different talent that is used for the good of the body. Yet the Church remains at unity because all are working together as the body of Christ.

The Church

What does 'the Church as the means to faith' mean?

It is through the Church that people come to believe in Christianity.

1. The Church has kept the true faith of Christianity through the Apostolic Succession.
2. The Pope and bishops can interpret the faith of the bible and Apostolic Tradition for Today's world.
3. In the bible reading and homily in Sunday Mass, Catholics learn more about their faith and can deepen their faith.
4. The sacraments of the Church proclaim the faith of the Church AND give spiritual strength to believe and to live out the faith in daily life.

Why the Church as the means to faith is important for Catholics

1. The faith of the Church brings salvation as belief in Christ leads to life in heaven.
2. People are guided into faith and the Church, through its worship and teaching this is provided.
3. The local parish is a place where people can learn about faith and the Church.
4. People are provided with the support and strength to believe. The Church provides this through the sacraments, the help of the priest and the community of people

What does 'the Church as the means to salvation' mean?

1. The sacrament of baptism washes away original sin.
2. The sacrament of reconciliation allows a person to receive absolution and forgiveness of sins.
3. The penitential rite during Mass gives people the chance to confess their sins and receive absolution from God.
4. The sacrament of confirmation allows Catholics to affirm the vows that were taken on their behalf at baptism. They receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit to help them on their way to salvation.

Why the Church as the means to salvation is important for Catholics

1. Without salvation a person's sins will prevent them from having a close relationship with God.
2. Salvation is the only way that Christians can have eternal life with God.
3. The Church gives a clear route to salvation. (The sacraments and teaching of the Church)
4. Life is a journey to salvation and the Church gives Catholics the opportunities to get back on the right path.



Communion of Saints

All members of the Church are holy and all are joined together.

This means:

- There is no division between the Church on earth and the Church in heaven.
- Christians on earth can offer prayers through the official saints.
- Christians on earth can pray for the souls in purgatory.

The importance:

- It is the teaching of the Creed and Catechism.
- It gives Catholics direct contact with the official saints
- It means that all Christians are equally important.
- It brings Christians together as a community to share in the gifts of the Holy Spirit.



The Bible:

- They believe it is the word of God; it is God's guidance and has absolute authority in decision making.
- It contains God's teachings on behaviour, in the **Decalogue (10 commandments)** which gives Christians very clear moral guidance.
- It contains the teachings of Jesus on how to live, e.g. the Sermon on the Mount is Jesus explaining the Ten Commandments.
- The Bible records events of Jesus' life. Christians read how Jesus would act in certain situations and follow his example (the best example to follow is Jesus!).



The Magisterium

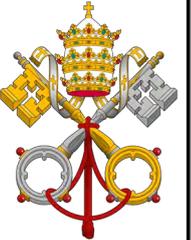
The Pope and the college of Bishops interpret the Bible and tradition for RCs today

Role:

- Interpret the Bible and traditions for the C21st
- To tell Catholics how to respond to the medical developments e.g. genetic engineering.
- To define the beliefs of the CC in the Catechism
- To make sure all Catholics are fully informed about the beliefs and teachings of the CC.

The importance:

- If the Magisterium states something to be true then it is true.
- It gives Catholics answers to issues that did not exist in the time of the Apostles. e.g. Same sex marriage
- If Catholics follow the teaching they will have eternal life in heaven
- It provides clear guidelines for Catholics on what to believe and how to behave as Catholics in today's world.



Authority: Protestant Church:

- The Bible can be understood by anyone if they have faith and it is the only authority.
- Everyone has equal value, therefore only decisions agreed by all the members of the Church can have authority.
- Any Church guidance is not a command.
- The Church has the authority to decide on the Church organisation, but salvation comes through the bible alone.

The importance:

- Explains why there are so many different Protestant Churches.
- Shows why they do not accept the authority of the Pope.
- Explains why there are different attitudes to the sacraments among Protestant Christians.
- Explains why there is no agreed Church authority.

The meaning:

- The Church believes that Jesus gave the apostles his message and authority to begin the Church.
- The Church teaches the Gospels and the oral messages of the apostles.
- The apostles established the first Church as they were inspired by Jesus.
- The Church teachings were handed down by Jesus as should be followed if you wish to live as Jesus intended

The importance:

- It gives the Church the authority of Jesus to teach the faith.
- It gives Catholics confidence in the true faith taught by the church.
- It guarantees the teaching Catholic follow is correct.
- Not everything Jesus said or did is written in the gospels. The unwritten message of Jesus was preserved by the apostles and has been passed on to the present day through the apostolic tradition.

Apostolic Tradition

The meaning:

- Catholics believe that the tradition from the apostles has been handed down in the Church through the Pope and the bishops.
- Jesus appointed St Peter to be the founder of the Church and gave him the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven.
- Apostolic Succession continues by the sacrament of Holy Orders.
- The same teaching that the Apostles gave their congregation is given to congregations today, so the teaching of the Church is unchanged since the Apostles.

Apostolic Succession

The importance:

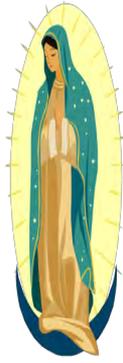
- The authority of St Peter has been passed down by Apostolic Succession to the current Pope.
- It proves that when the Pope and The College of Bishops give the teaching of the CHURCH IN THE Magisterium, they speak as successors of the Apostles chosen by Jesus.
- It makes sure the faith of the Church today is the same faith as that of the Apostles.
- It is one way which Jesus keeps his promise to stay with his Church.



The Virgin Mary

Role:

- To act as an intercessor. Prayers are said to Mary to ask her for help because of her special relationship with God.
- She is a role model who shows Christians how to live a good Christian life.
- She shows how to live a pure life. She was conceived without sin (the immaculate conception)
- Mary shows how to love Jesus.



The importance:

- She has an immaculate conception. This means that Jesus was totally sinless because his mother was without original sin and his father was God.
- If Mary had not obeyed God, Jesus would not have been born. No Christianity or salvation.
- As the mother of God Mary must be the most important human being.
- In heaven she is able to pray for the souls of Christians on Earth, so she can make the prayers of Catholics more effective and give them more change of God's help.

Celibacy and the Clergy

FOR

- It was the tradition handed down by St Paul.
- Jesus was celibate priests should follow his example.
- It allows priest to be completely devoted to God and have time for their parishioners.
- Unmarried priests are free to deal with the needs of their parish without being distracted by a family.

AGAINST

- St Peter was married.
- Married priests are better at recognizing and dealing with married people.
- Married priests were allowed in the early Church until celibacy became the norm.
- Non Catholic Churches do not have a shortage of priests.



The Pope

To lead the world wide Church, and make sure it is cared for.

To organise the Magisterium and make sure it is kept up to date

To give guidance to Catholics about current issues

He is responsible for the beliefs and teachings of the Catholic Church

To appoint and ordain new cardinals and bishops, and make sure their teaching is correct



He is the successor of St Peter who passes on the true teachings of the Church



Bishops

To look after the needs of all the priests and laity in their diocese

To be responsible for all the priests and make sure they are carrying out their roles properly

To act as a link between the parishes and the Vatican, allowing the Pope to be in contact with the whole Church

The Cardinals who elect the Pope, are chosen from the Bishops.

To be responsible for appointing, ordaining and disciplining the priests and deacons in their diocese.

Bishops are responsible with the Pope, for the beliefs and teaching of the Church

The Priest in the Local Parish

To lead daily Mass and special occasion liturgies

Fulfil the role of Jesus in the Mass and transubstantiate the bread and wine

To teach the people of the parish about the faith

Make people feel cared for and the church runs smoothly

To administer the sacraments and ensure that people are prepared fully for the sacrament

Give the people of the parish the sacraments which give them salvation and life in heaven



Give advice on matters of faith and personal problems in order to help people.

To look after the people within the parish, providing advice and counselling

Help people with the important stages of their life—baptism, confirmation, marriage, funerals

Worship and Celebration

KEY VOCABULARY

Absolution through the action of the priest, God grants pardon and peace

Chrism the oil used in baptism, confirmation and ordination

Commemoration the belief that the Eucharist is simply a remembrance of the Last Supper

Contrition sorrow for the sin committed and deciding not to sin again

Holy Week the week before Easter Sunday

Liturgy of the Eucharist the re-enactment of the Last Supper during which the bread and wine are transubstantiated

Liturgy of the word the Bible readings in the second part of the Mass

Penance an action to show your contrition

Penitential rite the confession and absolution at the beginning of Mass

Rite of communion receiving the body and blood of Jesus

Sacrament an outward sign through which invisible grace is given to a person by Jesus

Transubstantiation the belief that the bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus



Baptism

Sacraments are celebrations. They mark stages in life and are outward signs and symbols which show that an inward gift from God has been given.

The meaning

- Baptism is the washing away of the old life and entering a new one, free from sin.
- Through Baptism a person becomes part of the Christian Church. Catholics are usually baptised as babies and their parents make promises on their behalf. That they will bring the child up according to the teachings of the Church. (God parents make the same vows)
- It is the first sacrament of initiation.
- Original sin is washed away at baptism. This means the sacrament is a sign of God's forgiveness and love.
- Baptism is a powerful sign that the child is chosen by Christ to be a believer. This is symbolised by the anointing with Chrism and the candle which is lit and given to the God parents.

The importance

- A person can not receive the other 6 sacraments if they have not been baptised.
- Baptism makes a person a full member of the Church and is given the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- A person becomes closer to God and can receive salvation (sins are washed away)
- Magisterium says baptism is necessary for salvation.



Confirmation

The meaning

- Confirmation is the final sacrament of initiation and means that the person has fully joined the RC Church.
- The sacrament gives grace which is needed in order to live a Christian life.
- Confirmation is a sacrament which marks the growth of a Christian into a mature member of the Church. By retaking the baptismal vows for themselves, Catholics bear witness to their faith. It is a public declaration of it.

The importance

- Only those who are full members of the Church can take on lay ministries (Confirmation allows this)
- Confirmation spiritually identifies a believer in Christ.
- Part of Confirmation is the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit inspires a person to have faith and be a witness to their faith.
- It is a public declaration of the baptismal promises made for a person as a child. It represents an individual's personal choice to declare their belief.

Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is also known as the sacrament of Confession

The meaning

- Allows someone to ask God for his forgiveness and with God's help not to commit sin again.
- The penitent is given advice on how to overcome temptation.
- Receiving this sacrament will make someone feel better and have an increased self-worth.
- A Roman Catholic should receive the sacrament at least once a year.

The importance

- Gives a person the opportunity to strengthen their relationship with God. By receiving God's forgiveness they become closer to God.
- A person receives a spiritual strength to battle evil and temptation.
- When Jesus appeared after his resurrection he spoke about the importance of forgiveness.
- Only a person who has received forgiveness a Catholic can receive the Eucharist.

Exam Tip

ALL of the sacraments are important because:

They help Christians to receive salvation.

They strengthen a Christian's relationship with God.



Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

The meaning

- Is a strengthening sacrament and is given to those in danger of death from sickness or old age.
- Helps a person to deal with their illness.
- It can be received as many times as necessary.
- The sacrament can help a person to prepare for death.
- It joins the person with the rest of the Christian community. The community will pray for the sick person.
- The sacrament copies the healing actions of Jesus. It reminds people the Church can still heal like Jesus today.



The importance

- It is a supportive sacrament. It gives spiritual strength and healing.
- It is reassuring, showing the love of the community for the sick person.
- It allows the persons sins to be forgiven.
- The final anointing in the sacrament reflects both the anointing they received in baptism and the anointing of Christ before his death. It is a reminder of their life with Jesus.

The Eucharist

The word Eucharist means thanksgiving. Different Christian denominations celebrate the Eucharist in different ways.

Orthodox Church

- Bread and wine become Jesus body and blood.
- Priest consecrates the bread
- Gives the people spiritual nourishment.
- Follows the actions of Jesus at the last Supper and remembers his crucifixion

This is the same as the Catholic belief.

Nonconformist Protestants

- Called Holy Communion
- Only believe in two sacraments—baptism and Holy Communion.
- The bread and wine are just symbols of Jesus they DO NOT turn into his body and blood.

Church of England

- Views are split within the Church of England. Some hold the same beliefs as Catholics others the beliefs of the Nonconformist Protestants.

Salvation Army and Quakers

- Have NO Eucharist and NO sacraments.
- They believe Jesus is the only priest and there is not need for rituals.
- Worship should be direct contact with God without symbols like bread and wine.

Exam Tip

Many of the Skill D questions will be similar 'Baptism (could be any sacrament named here) is the most important sacrament' Discuss

To answer this question

1. 3 reasons why the named sacrament is important.
2. Choose another 3 sacraments and give one reason why each of these are important instead.

The Mass

The meaning

- The Mass is an re-enactment of The Last Supper and a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus.
- It is celebrated every day expect for Good Friday and Holy Saturday morning.
- There are four parts to the mass.:
 1. The **Penitential Rite**: makes Catholics aware that they are sinners and need the forgiveness of God on a regular basis.
 2. The **liturgy of the word**: bible readings followed by a homily from the priest. Relating the readings to modern day life. The congregation will then recite the creed and join in with the prayers of intercession.
 3. The **liturgy of the Eucharist**: the priest re-enacts events of the last supper and changes the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ. **Transubstantiation**.
 4. The final part of the mass Catholics give thanks for what they have received and are given a blessing to help them with the week ahead.

Catholics are expect to attend mass every Sunday and on Holy days of obligation.

The importance

- The bread and wine are turned into the body and blood of Christ. Jesus is really present during the mass.
- The Eucharist is a sacrament.
- It is a celebration of the resurrection. Catholic pray that they can receive eternal life.
- During the mass the congregation join together to show their love for God. By doing this they strengthen their faith and copy the community of the apostles.
- It is important that Catholic attend Mass since it was commanded by Jesus at the Last Supper. **'Do this in memory of me.'**



Christmas

The meaning

- Christmas celebrates the incarnation of Jesus. God becoming human.
- Before the incarnation it was only possible to have a partial relationship with God.
- Christmas tells Christians God cared so much about the world he sent his only son to show humans what God is like and to teach them how to live.
- It is a time each year to start a fresh. To examine their lives to see if they are living in a holy way.
- It is a time of hope and peace, when Catholics pray for the coming of the kingdom

The importance

- Without the birth of Jesus there would be no Christianity.
- Catholics recognise that he was born not only to teach and work miracles but also to suffer and die to save humans from sin.
- It allows Catholics to feel united and celebrate as a worldwide community.
- It is time to celebrate families, reflecting that Jesus was born into a human family.
- Need to remember the humanity and strength of Mary and Joseph and try to be like them.





Lent

Lent is the time that Christians spend in preparation for the celebration of Easter.

The meaning

- Remember the time Jesus spent in the desert preparing for his ministry.
- Catholics receive a cross on their foreheads on Ash Wednesday. This cross remind them of the Lenten practices or prayer, fasting and almsgiving (charity).
- Catholics should receive the sacrament of reconciliation during Lent.
- There is often a CAFOD Family Fast Day.
- Catholics try to give something up to make them into better people and show their devotion to God..
- Stations of the Cross are used to help people reflect on The Passion.

The importance

- It is a time for Catholics to concentrate on improving their Christian life.
- It is a time to reflect on the teachings of Jesus and what they mean for today.
- It is a time for thinking more about what it means to be a Christian. Catholics celebrate in their community to try to increase faith.
- Christians focus on the latter part of Jesus life and see the temptations and difficulties he faced. This can help them work out what they need to be to receive salvation.

Holy Week

Holy week is the week in the Catholic liturgical calendar before Easter. It starts on Palm Sunday, includes Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and ends on Holy Saturday.



The meaning

- Catholic remember the last week of Jesus life.
- Special liturgies e.g. The Stations of the Cross build up to the event of Easter.
- The congregation re-enact the Last Supper, the arrest, trial and crucifixion of Jesus.
- Holy Week is a time of reflection and prayer. Catholics remember that Jesus suffered and was tortured until he died.

The importance

- Catholics renew and deepen their faith in Jesus by remembering the events of Holy Week.
- Remembering the suffering of Jesus should give Catholics strength when they face suffering.
- It reminds them of the salvation Jesus brought. The death of Christ on the cross forgave the sins of the world and enabled people to have a full relationship with God***



The readings from the Bible are said from here. The priest also preaches his sermon from here.

Lectern



Stations of the cross



Easter

The meaning

- It celebrates the resurrection of Jesus.
- If Jesus rose from the dead it proves he is both human and divine.
- It is through Jesus resurrection Christians receive forgiveness.
- It is the basis of ALL Christian faith.

The importance

- The resurrection is the ultimate proof that Jesus is God.
- It proves that there is eternal life. Those who live a good Christian life will be rewarded with the Kingdom of God.
- The renewal of baptismal vows at Easter is important because it makes Catholics re-commit themselves to the Christian life.
- It proves that Jesus is still alive and working in his Church today.



Features of a Catholic church



Baptismal font

This is where people are baptised.

Tabernacle



This is where the body of Christ is kept. It's behind the altar.

Statues are placed all around the church against the walls. They are usually of Mary, Jesus, Joseph and saints.



Statues

Altar

This is where the bread and wine are blessed. The altar is the focus point of Catholic churches.



This is a series of 14 images depicting Jesus' suffering. They are placed around the church.

Living the Christian Life

KEY VOCABULARY

- Active life** the life lived by religious orders who work in society as well as praying
- Charity** voluntary giving to those in need
- Contemplative life** the life of prayer and meditation lived by some religious orders
- Displaying religion** making a show of your religion eg by praying in the street
- The Evangelical Counsels** the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience
- Holy Orders** the status of a priest, bishop or deacon
- Hypocrite** a person who acts in a way that contradicts what they say
- The Law of Moses** the laws God gave to Moses in the Old Testament
- The Monastic Life** living as a monk or nun in a religious community
- Religious Community** a religious order who live together as a group eg the Benedictines
- The Sermon on the Mount** Jesus' description of Christian living

Exam Tip

You must revise ALL of the key words. If you don't understand the words being used in the exam questions you will NOT be able to answer them!



Vocation

The meaning

- The word means calling.
- Christians believe they have a calling from God to follow Jesus, to be his disciples and to live their lives on earth in a Christian way.
- Vocation can be a called to the priesthood or religious life. However it can also be shown in marriage, single and family life, or in daily life and work.
- Christians can show their vocation by being loving fair and honest.



The importance

- All Christians are called and chosen for a special purpose or role just as the Apostles were.
- Christians must do what God calls them to do in the same way that Jesus did his fathers will. This will help them to achieve salvation.
- By following their vocation Christians are bringing more people to God by their example.
- Vocation is important because it links present day Christians with the Early Church.

Vocation in Daily Life

How?

- Choice of career by choosing a caring profession, doctor, nurse teacher etc.
- Marriage is a vocation as the couple chooses to have God's blessing on their relationship.
- The family unit. Showing love and care for each other.
- Simply by the way Christians treat other people.
- Being fair in daily life.

Why?

- It is serving God.
- Jesus' greatest commandment was 'To love your neighbour as yourself.'
- They are carrying on the role of the Apostles.
- The called to be a Christian is not just about going to church on a Sunday. It must involve everything a Christian does.

Vocation: Holy Orders

The status of a priest, bishop or deacon

How?

- By doing this Christians are following the work of the apostles when they gave everything up to follow Jesus.
- They promise to serve others like Jesus did.

Why?

- They have a special calling from God to serve him as an ordained minister.
- Priests often say it is a call they could not ignore.
- It is the way to share the mission of the Church.



Social and Community Cohesion

Communities working together towards a common vision and shared sense of belonging for all groups in society.

How?

- Having friendships with people of different faiths/ races.
- Support community cohesion policies in work place, schools etc.
- Oppose any forms of prejudice and discrimination.
- The Catholic Education Service encourages schools to work towards community cohesion. E.g. Catholic schools teach students about other world faiths.
- Churches Together in Britain represent all Christian Churches. Learning from each others experiences.
- Working for racial justice through the Churches' Racial Justice Network

Why?

- The Good Samaritan 'Love Your Neighbour as Yourself'
- St Peter had a vision from God, he was told to treat all races the same and accept anyone who worships.
- St Paul 'We are all equal in the eyes of Christ'
- All Churches have issued statements encouraging Christians to work for social and community cohesion.

Exam Tip

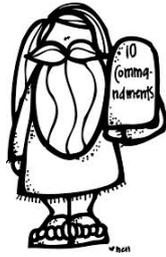
You will have to choose between two questions on ALL four sections of the exam paper. Cross out the question you are NOT answering to avoid making a mistake



Sermon on the Mount

The Laws of Moses

Jesus' main teachings on how to live a Christian life are contained in the Sermon on the Mount. Here Jesus explained the Laws of Moses and the commandments to his followers. Jesus explained how these laws should be interpreted as the teachers of the law had got it wrong.



How Christians uses the teachings as a guide for living

- If you are angry or thinking violent thoughts you must ask God for forgiveness
- Having lustful thoughts are just as bad as adultery.
- Christians should not use any form of swearing.
- Many Christians use Jesus' teaching about revenge to mean they should be pacifists.

Why Christians uses the teachings as a guide for living

- This is the teaching of Jesus which is from God and therefore must be followed. It is given in more detail than the 10 commandments, making it easier to understand what Jesus requires.
- The Sermon on the Mount explains that thoughts and feelings that people have are just as important as their actions.



Sermon on the Mount

The Golden Rule

'So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you.'

How Christians uses the teachings as a guide for living

- Jesus taught if people judge someone, they must expect to be judged in the same way.
- Christians think about the final judgement they will face in front of God.
- Christians use this teaching to help get their priorities right. Trying to improve themselves not pick fault with others.
- Christians use the teaching to help them to decide on major issues e.g. who to vote for. They look for a candidate who's policies relate to Christian teaching.

Why Christians uses the teachings as a guide for living

- This is the teaching of Jesus which is from God and therefore must be followed.
- If Jesus gives a rule to use in deciding what to do in every situation (The Golden Rule) it must be a rule worth using as a guide for living.
- The Golden Rule provides a simple rule for living. Following this will lead to eternal life.

Sermon on the Mount

Displaying Religion a Guide for Living

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus talked about religious practices e.g. almsgiving, prayer and fasting. If these are done publically to deliberately attract praise the person will not receive a reward from God.

How Christians uses the teachings as a guide for living

- Jesus taught prayer should take place in private. This means Christians should worship not for others to think they are holy but to improve their relationship with God.
- Use short prayers like the Our Father.
- Christians should not show off how much they go to church.

Why Christians uses the teachings as a guide for living

- This is the teaching of Jesus which is from God and therefore must be followed.
- The Sermon on the Mount explains how Christians can show love for God when they worship, rather than love of public praise.
- It is a good guide how to pray and unites Christian denominations e.g. Our Father.



Sermon on the Mount

Money a Guide for Living

In the Sermon on the Mount teaches about the use of money. When Jesus gave this part of the Sermon on the Mount it was aimed at the people who though having money was a reward from God and being poor was a punishment.

How Christians uses the teachings as a guide for living

- It is more important to gain spiritually then financially. A strong relationship with God will gain more rewards eternally.
- Earthly possessions will be no use to us when we die.
- Christians should use wealth to help others.
- Christians should not make money their God.
- Christians should trust that God will provide for them.

Why Christians uses the teachings as a guide for living

- This is the teaching of Jesus which is from God and therefore must be followed.
- The teachings show that possessions and money do not last forever. God however is eternal and can give us eternal life.
- The teachings remind Christians how easily they can be distracted by wealth and forget about God.
- The Sermon on the Mount states that wealth should not be hoarded. Christians should use money to love God and their neighbour is the way to eternal life.

Relieving Suffering and Poverty in the UK

The SVP

Small groups of the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) known as conferences are found in many parishes, schools universities and hospitals. Each conference meets regularly and decides what needs to be done in their parish:



- Regular visits to the housebound and depressed.
- Support for families who are in times of difficulty.
- Diocesan children's camps for children from poor or broken homes. This can increase self confidence and esteem.
- Organising furniture stores for unwanted furniture which can be used when housing the homeless.
- Organising housing associations to provide affordable housing for the homeless and overcrowded poor families.
- Providing drop in centres for lonely people to meet others and have an opportunity to socialise.

Why Catholic organisations help to relieve suffering and poverty in the UK

- The New Testament states riches must be used for the help of others, especially the poor.
- All humans are equal in the eyes of God and all good things on the earth have been given to ALL humans.
- The Parable of the Sheep and Goats gives clear instructions to care for others. Especially the those who are suffering in society.
- The Sermon on the Mount taught that possessions are to be shared.
- Jesus did all he could to help others. Christians should follow his example.
- Helping to relieve suffering is obeying the greatest commandment.



How to structure exam questions

A Question 2 marks

Key word

Write the full definition of the correct word

B Question 4 marks

You need to think do I agree or disagree?

I think that

Because

A second reason for my point of view is

.....

Because

(You need to give developed reasons)

C Question 8 marks

Explain Catholic Church Teaching

Give 4 points and explain them. Examples will help you to do this.

Reason 1 BECAUSE ...

Reason 2 BECAUSE ...

Reason 3 BECAUSE ...

Reason 4 BECAUSE ...

D Question 6 marks

You have a statement and need to give both points of view

3 reasons why someone would agree with the statement

3 reasons why someone would disagree with the statement

You must mention Catholic Christianity