

Link to prior

Origin of the Universe Catholic Christian, Fundamentalist Christian, Orthodox Jewish and Non-Religious views about the origin of the universe.

Key concepts/words: THE WHAT

- Creation ex nihilo** The belief that God created the universe ‘from nothing’.
- Imago Dei** The belief that humans were created in the image of God.
- Omnipotent** The belief that God is all powerful.
- Stewardship** The belief that humans should protect and preserve the environment and hand more on to the next generation.
- Transcendent** The belief that God exists above and beyond space and time.
- Revelation** The way in which God makes himself known to the world e.g. the Bible.
- Evolution** The gradual change and development of species over time. Associated with Charles Darwin.
- Inspiration** The belief that the writers of the Bible were guided by the Holy Spirit to write what is good and true.

Key sources: THE WHY

- “Her dignity is that of her creation, seeing that she is the image of God” (St Catherine of Siena)
- “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you” (Jeremiah)
- “You formed my innermost being and knitted me together in my mother’s womb” (Psalm 139)
- “So God created mankind in his own image” (Genesis 1:27)
- “In an imperfect world the ‘right’ choice is sometimes the lesser of two evils.” (CofE 1988)

Life and death thread 1—Sanctity of life

Catholic teaching

The teaching of the Church is based on the belief that humans uniquely in all of creation are made in the image and likeness of God—Imago Dei and Similitudine Dei

Humans are also Stewards of creation and therefore must care for and preserve what God has created. Life is gifted by God alone and life is holy (sanctity of life)

Stewardship of creation includes preserving life. In catholic teaching life begins at the moment of conception therefore abortion is considered to be murder

Contrasting views

Liberal Christian beliefs about sanctity of life, Imago Dei and abortion : Church of England, they believe life is sacred but can see abortion in terms of the ‘lesser of two evils’,

Jewish beliefs about sanctity of life, Imago Dei and abortion : In the Jewish Scriptures Torah, God is the creator of life. The Tenakh also outlines Jewish beliefs that life is sacred and belongs to God (Jeremiah and the Psalms). 10 Commandments

Humanist beliefs about sanctity of life, Imago Dei and abortion: Humanists such as Peter Singer reject any belief in the sanctity of life. Human life does have value but it does not belong to God and humans were not created in the image of God. Humans and animals have equal rights

Vatican

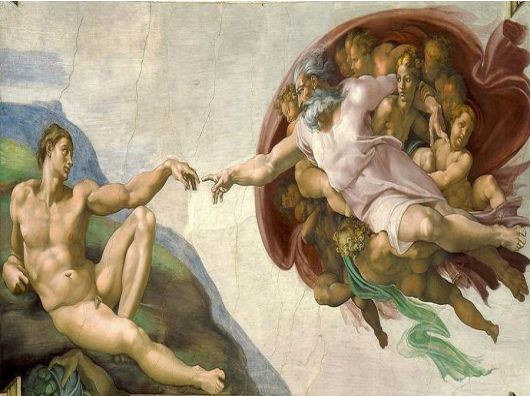
“Society as a whole must respect, defend and promote the dignity of every human person, at every moment and in every condition of that person’s life.” **Evangelium Vitae**

“The Church should never depart from the truth inherited from the Fathers. But at the same time she must ever look to the present, to the new conditions and the new forms of life introduced into the modern world.” **Pope John XXIII**

Evangelium Vitae (The Gospel of Life), a key encyclical of Pope John Paul II in 1995, is, in his words, a “pressing appeal addressed to each and every person, in the name of God: respect, protect, love and serve life, every human life!”

This involves care for the innocent, weak and vulnerable, love for enemies, care for creation and the environment.

Key symbols



Cross curricular links

Science and Origins of the Universe

Evolution

Right to die?

Catholic teaching on **the meaning of death**, the importance of **dying well** and **palliative care** with reference to Catholic teaching on **assisted suicide** and **euthanasia**

Quality of life The extent to which life is meaningful and pleasurable

Palliative Care that focuses on relieving pain and suffering

Hospice A place where those with terminal illness can go for end of life care to maintain their dignity

Voluntary Euthanasia Where a person makes a conscious decision to die and asks for help to do so

Involuntary Euthanasia Where a person is unable to give their consent to Euthanasia and another person takes the decision on their behalf

“Euthanasia is a grave violation of the law of God, since it is the deliberate and morally unacceptable killing of a human person.” Evangelium Vitae 65

“We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed...where, O death, is your victory?” 1 Corinthians 15

Link to future

Torah (Jewish written law).

The Tenakh .

‘pikuach nefesh’

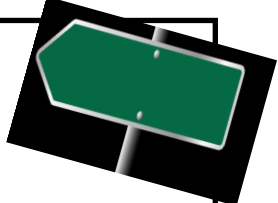
TIMELINE OF LEARNING

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Sanctity of Life, life is gifted to humans by God and our duty as Stewards of Creation means we must preserve life

Issues covered

Abortion and Euthanasia



Key concepts/words: THE WHAT

Death—The end of physical life. When the physical body ceases completely to function

Hell—The total lack of God for all eternity. The end of physical life

Eternal Life—The term used to refer to life in heaven after death

Soul—The eternal part of a human being, given at conception and which lives on after death

Heaven - An eternal existence in God’s presence in the next life

Resurrection—The raising of the physical body to life again after death

Key sources: THE WHY

“If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith... for as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive... if there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body.” 1 Corinthians 15 “

The fire will test the quality of each person’s work.” 1 Corinthians 3: 13

Parables of judgement. Matthew 18:21-35 (The Sheep & goats) Luke 16:19-31 (Rich Man and Lazarus)



Life and death thread 2—Is there life after death?

Catholic beliefs

The Resurrection is proof for Catholics that there is life after death.

The Creed, Bible and Catechism also convince them that there is eternal life and a belief in eternal life gives life meaning and purpose.

Catholics believe that the soul goes to heaven (if they die with no unforgiven sins), purgatory (if they die with unforgiven small sins and/ or do not know God), hell (if they die with unforgiven big sins and/or refuse to believe in God).

In the future Jesus will return (Parousia) and judge everyone. Souls will be reunited with their new spiritual bodies (resurrection of the body).

Other Christian teaching about life after death Some Christians believe that the body stays in the grave until judgement day when all are raised

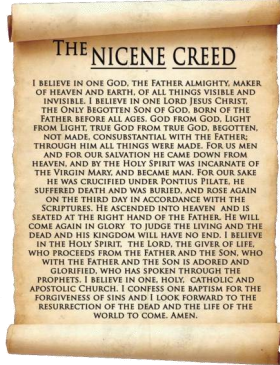
Other beliefs about life after death

Some non- religious people believe in life after death due to their belief in ghosts, psychics, near death experiences, reincarnation accounts

Jewish beliefs about life after death The afterlife is often called olam ha ba (the world to come)



Christian artefacts



Key symbols



Cross curricular links

Link to future

How the Catholic Church expresses these beliefs

In the celebration of Rites and in artefacts and other art forms



Eschatology

The Eschaton refers to the time after the Judgment Day and is often described as a Banquet in the presence of God. For Aquinas, it is The Beatific Vision

Death marks the end of our physical life. And, according to Catholic belief this leads the deceased person to the moment of personal judgment. In the Anglican Church this judgment happens all together on the Day of Judgment (see image of Cookham Churchyard)

Because the soul is eternal (it will live on after death this judgment will be applied for eternity:-

Hell The total lack of God for all eternity.

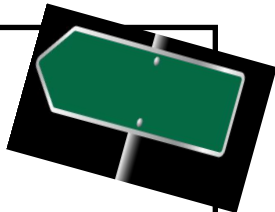
Heaven An eternal existence in God’s presence in the next life

If we require further purification from our sins after death we are kept in a state of Purgatory. This is not to give time for God to decide whether the soul goes to Heaven or Hell, it is further preparation for Heaven



TIMELINE OF LEARNING

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Life and death thread 3—Expression of Catholic beliefs



Key concepts/words: THE WHAT

Jesus’ Passion The events of the last period of Jesus’ life ending with his crucifixion

Sarcophagi Stone coffins that have carved images on them

Holy Week The week leading up to Easter from Palm Sunday to Easter Saturday

Alpha & Omega The first and last letters of the Greek alphabet

Pall A cloth that covers a coffin. The word comes from the Latin pallium (cloak)

Rite A religious ceremony

Key sources: THE WHY

Easter Vigil Prayer

The priest takes the paschal candle and says:

1. Christ yesterday and today (he cuts a vertical line)
2. the Beginning and the End (he cuts a horizontal line)
3. the Alpha (he cuts the letter Alpha above the vertical line)
4. and the Omega (he cuts the letter Omega below the vertical line).
5. All time belongs to him (he cuts the first number of the current year)
6. and all the ages (he cuts the second number of the current year).
7. To him be glory and power (he cuts the third number of the current year)
8. through every age and for ever. Amen (he cuts the fourth number of the year) Words taken from the Easter Vigil Liturgy

“In baptism (name) received the sign of the cross. May he/she now share in Christ’s victory over death.”

“In the waters of baptism (name) died with Christ and rose with him to new life. May he/she now share with him eternal glory.”

Prayer

Why do Catholics pray?

Prayer is ‘**the raising of the mind and heart to God**’ (Catechism).

Reasons for prayer include **Adoration, Thanksgiving, Repentance, Intercession** (asking God to help others), Petitions (asking God to help you).

What are **formulaic prayers**? Prayers that are well known or have a set formula (e.g. Hail Mary, Lord’s prayer, Rosary -make sure you know these prayers). Some prefer these because they have more authority and allow a Christian to focus without having to think what to say.

What are **extempore prayers**? Prayers that are spontaneous, when Christians use their own words to speak to God. Some prefer these because they are more personal.

Funeral rites

How does the Catholic funeral rite express Catholic beliefs about eternal life?

Coffin covered with pall Reminder of baptism/ all are equal so all are worthy of salvation

Cross & bible on the coffin Christians who live by the example of Jesus will have eternal life

Coffin sprinkled with **holy water** Reminder of baptism

Paschal Candle is Lit Catholics believe the dead will resurrect as Jesus did

Readings about eternal life Comfort the grieving and bring hope

Incense is used Honours the person whose body is a temple of the Holy Spirit. Symbol of prayers rising to heaven

Prayers for the dead Catholics pray for the dead to be welcomed into heaven (and spend less time in purgatory).

‘Eternal rest, grant unto him/ her O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon him/ her. May he/she rest in peace. Amen.’

Key symbols



Cross curricular links

Music

Faure’s requiem

How does music express Catholic beliefs about eternal life (e.g. Faure's Requiem)?

Music **brings comfort and peace/calm**. Fauré’s requiem has been described as a ‘lullaby of death’.

The focus is not on sadness but on the **hope of eternal life**.

Fauré’s music for **In Paradisum** (part of the requiem) is gentle to show that life’s trials have ended and the choir sings in a higher pitch, sounding like the angels in heaven.

“It has been said that my Requiem does not express the fear of death and someone has called it a lullaby of death. But it is thus that I see death: as a happy deliverance, an aspiration towards happiness above, rather than as a painful experience.” Gabriel Fauré

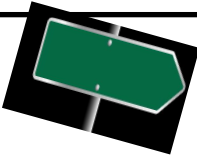
Fauré Gabriel Fauré 1845 -1924 was a French composer Requiem A Mass for the dead (Latin for rest)



Link to future

What is the link between Catholic Baptism, Funerals and Easter?

Compare and contrast Catholic and Jewish funerals.



TIMELINE OF LEARNING