

Sin and forgiveness Thread 1— Punishment and forgiveness

Link to prior
Life and death component 3
- Beliefs about heaven, hell and purgatory
Thomas Aquinas’ teaching about Natural Law (Component 1, Theme 1) support absolute or relative morality/capital punishment?

Key concepts/words: THE WHAT
Deterrence
Retribution
Rehabilitation
Crime
Sin
Forgiveness
Capital punishment
Absolutism
Relativism
Salvation

Key sources: THE WHY
Matthew 18:21-22 The parable of the unmerciful servant
John 8:1-11 The women caught in adultery
“... we pity the person, but hate the offence or transgression. In fact, the more we dislike the vice in question, the less do we want the offender to die without correcting his vices.”
St Augustine Letter 153 to Macedonius 3
“The primary purpose of the punishment which society inflicts is ‘to redress the disorder caused by the offence.’” Pope John Paul II Evangelium Vitae
“We would prefer to have them set free than to have the sufferings of our brothers avenged by shedding their blood.” St Augustine, Letter 134

Aims of punishment
Crime can be defined as an action that breaks the law. They can differ in country or time period. Sin is an action that goes against the will of God. Some sins are crimes like murder but others are not for example adultery.
When a person is found guilty or crime there are lots of different punishments that are decided by a judge based on the crime committed.
Christians support the idea that those who break the law should be punished so that justice is served and as a deterrent to others. However, after their punishment, criminals should have the opportunity to reform and re-join society. This follows the teachings of Jesus who forgave sinners.

Capital punishment
Capital punishment otherwise known as the death penalty is punishment that takes the life of the criminal.
Some people feel this is the most just punishment for a crime but others disagree as some people can be wrongfully killed for a crime they didn’t commit.
Arguments for and against

FOR: Jesus never taught the death penalty as wrong. Exodus 21:24 teaches “eye for an eye” St Paul teaches that Christians should uphold the law of the land they live in. Religious and non religious people might argue that some crimes are so dreadful the punishment is justified.	AGAINST: Jesus came to reform sinners The commandment says ‘do not kill’ Matthew 5:38 Jesus says revenge is wrong Christianity teaches that all life is sacred only God has the right to take life Religious and non religious people would agree that there is a risk we might kill someone innocent.
--	---

Pope John Paul II taught that CP should be avoided but is acceptable if it is to save lives and there is no doubt the murderer is guilty. In 2018 the Catechism of the Catholic Church was revised to state that the Church teaches that “the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person”.

Forgiveness (Bible teaching on forgiveness)
The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant (Matthew 18) - we must forgive as we are forgiven (70 x 7)
The Lord’s Prayer (Matthew 6)- ‘forgive us our trespasses (sins) as we forgive those who sin against us’
The Parable of the Prodigal Son (Lk 15)- God is the Father who forgives unconditionally; we must not be like the older son who cannot forgive
Jesus on the cross “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing” (Luke 23) is an example to us of how we too must forgive
The woman caught in adultery (John 8) teaches us that we must forgive others and avoid hypocrisy “let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!”
“You have heard the law that says the punishment must match the injury: ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth’. But I say, do not resist an evil person! If someone slaps you on the right cheek, offer the other cheek also” (Matthew 5).

Key symbols

Our Problem:
Sin Separates Us from God

Cross curricular links
PSHE
English –An inspector calls
Macbeth

Link to future
What is the connection between Christian teaching on the aims of punishment and Jesus’ teachings and actions?
What is the connection between Catholic teachings on Capital Punishment and the encyclical Evangelium Vitae?
Explain how a Catholic would view the different aims of punishing people. (8)

Link to prior
How do the key documents of
Vatican II relate to Church teachings on Abortion,
Euthanasia and Stewardship?
Link to Thread 1—Forgiveness and sacraments

Key concepts/words: THE WHAT

Salvation
Sacrifice
Grace
Free Will
Reconciliation
Magisterium
Redemption
Sacrament
Eucharist

Key sources: THE WHY

“Jesus is the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world” John 1:29

“Those who, through no fault of their own, do not know the Gospel of Christ or his Church, but who nevertheless seek God with a sincere heart, and, moved by grace, try in their actions to do his will as they know it through the dictates of their conscience - those too may achieve eternal salvation.” Catechism of the Catholic Church 337

In the CCC it says ‘outside the Church there is no salvation’. However, Jesus brings salvation to all and others can achieve salvation by God’s grace. The most certain route to salvation is to be baptised and a practising Catholic. Some people, however can be ‘anonymous Christians’ if they do not know Jesus but behave in a Christ-like way.

“For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.” (1 Corinthians: 11)

Sin and forgiveness Thread 2— Grace and free will

Salvation

The belief that through Jesus’ death and resurrection humanity has achieved the possibility with life forever with God. Salvation means being freed from sin and it’s consequences. Sin causes a gap between God and humanity, but because of God’s love for humans he made a way for that relationship to be repaired and he did that through Jesus’ death and resurrection.

How did Jesus’ death bring salvation?

Sacrifice = “Jesus is the lamb of God” His sacrifice replaces the animal sacrifices that were needed in the Old Testament. Because Jesus was divine his sacrifice restored the human relationship unlike the animal sacrifices. Jesus paid the price for Sin. Humans couldn't do this for themselves.

This salvation extends to anyone who believes in Him.

Grace and free will

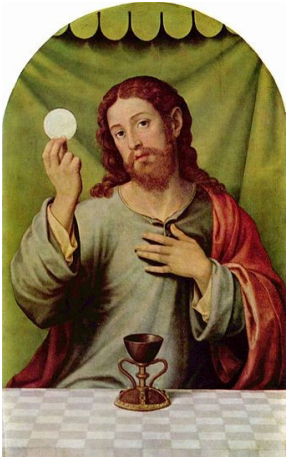
Grace = love and mercy shown by God because God wants them to have it not because they have done anything to deserve it.

A free generous undeserved gift.

Free will = the ability to make your own free choices. Christians believe that if they repent of their sins and are truly sorry this makes them children of God and gives them the desire to change and do good.

Grace comes through the sacraments—Catholics believe these help them to encounter God and how Jesus comes to the world today. Christians are called to a life of Holiness.

Key symbols



Cross curricular links

Ethics in Business—What is the link here?

Sacraments

Salvation comes to the world today through the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, reconciliation and the Eucharist.

As a result of receiving these sacraments Catholics should aim to live a Christian life. Salvation is important for Christians but they have free will to chose to accept what Jesus has done or not. Salvation explains why the sacraments of baptism, reconciliation, confirmation and the eucharist are the heart of a Catholic life.

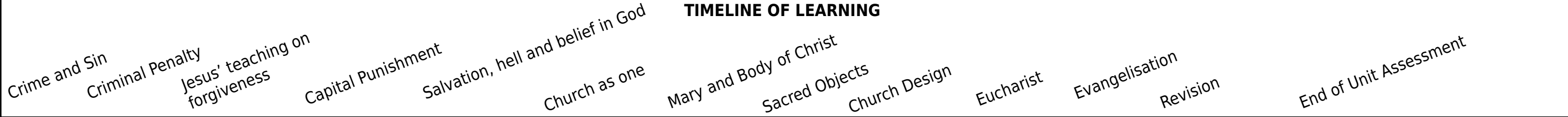
The Eucharist reminds Catholics of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross. Jesus told his followers to receive the Eucharist at the Last Supper when he said ‘Do this in memory of me’. It is the **‘source and summit of the Christian life’** and the most important Sacrament (CCC). The Eucharist unites every Catholic as they drink from the same cup. The Eucharist gives Catholics ‘strength for the journey’.

Link to future

What is the connection between the seven Sacraments and Catholic beliefs about salvation?

What is the connection between the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Catholic ideas about forgiving others?

What do Catholics mean by the ‘Magisterium’? (2)



Sin and forgiveness thread 3— Evangelisation

Link to prior
Link to thread 2—beliefs about the relationship between faith and salvation influence attitudes to mission and evangelisation?
Apostolic mission of the Church
Catholic Social teaching—Theme 1
Judaism—Mitzvah day

Key concepts/words: THE WHAT

Evangelisation: Literally means spreading the “Good News” (Gospel). The sharing of the Gospel and life of Jesus with others.

Evangelii Gaudium: The Joy of the Gospel by Pope Francis.

Key sources: THE WHY

“Go and make disciples of all nations...baptise them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.” (Mt 28: 19)
“The primary reason for evangelizing is the love of Jesus which we have received, the experience of salvation which urges us to ever greater love of him. What kind of love would not feel the need... to make him known? ...There is nothing more precious which we can give to others.” Pope Francis Evangelii Gaudium
“Mary responded, ‘I am the Lord’s servant. May everything you have said about me come true.’ And then the angel left her.” (Luke 1)
“There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.” (1 Cor 12)
“The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ...All of you together are Christ’s body, and each of you is a part of it.” (1 Cor 12)

Four marks of the church

The nature of the Church as one, holy, catholic and apostolic and Mary as a model of the Church. The meanings and significance of different understandings of the Church as the ‘Body of Christ’ and ‘the people of God’.
ONE – all believers are united by the Holy Spirit and the Trinity which are three divine persons in ONE. Catholics are united in their beliefs (Mass is the same worldwide). Jesus came to save and to unite all people.
HOLY – Jesus is the source of all holiness. Followers of Jesus are a visible sign of holiness in the world.
CATHOLIC – means universal. The Church’s message is for the whole world and Catholics have a duty to tell others (evangelise).
APOSTOLIC – the apostles were sent out with a special task to preach. The Church is still doing that.

Mary as model

Mary was chosen to be the mother of Jesus (she was the immaculate conception). She is an example of purity (she was a virgin), faith (she did not question the angel who told her she would have a child) and discipleship (she stayed at the foot of Jesus’ cross when the disciples had fled). She teaches us how to pray (she asked Jesus for a miracle at the wedding at Cana - John 2) and acts as a mediator between us and God.

Body of Christ

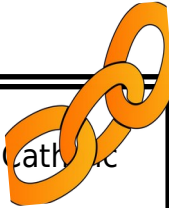
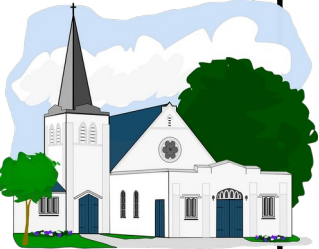
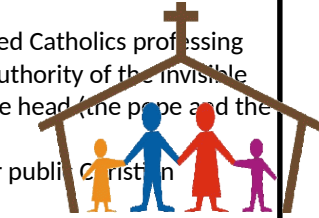
St. Paul describes the Church as the ‘Body of Christ’ showing us that Jesus’ work on earth continues through the Church and that all people in the Church have a role to play (like parts of the body). The Church is a community rather than a building. Christian people are now the body of Christ in the world, when a person is baptised they become part of this ‘body’ and a member of the ‘people of God’.

Mission

How can Catholics evangelise?
Locally - The Good News is passed on through the Church- Mass, Sacraments, Parish events, Brownies, Scouts etc. Diocesan newspapers spread the word as well as Catholic schools, Churches together and Alpha courses.
Nationally - Catholic publications; the Bishop’s conference helps Catholics to share the Gospel; Communities e.g. Sion; Flame- youth events.
Globally - World Youth Day; Vatican department for evangelisation; Charities e.g. CAFOD; Mission to raise funds to evangelise overseas.
Can someone be respectful of people with different faiths and beliefs and yet try to evangelise? Some argue that we should not evangelise because people have their own faith and it would be wrong to try to convert them. It is hard enough to focus on your own faith without trying to convert others. Catholics may face abuse or hostility in an ever increasing secular society. People may not have the time or confidence to evangelise. It is arrogant to suggest that your faith has all the answers. Your own faith could be weakened by focusing on the faith of others.

Key symbols

Church: A society of baptized Catholics professing the same faith under the authority of the invisible head (Christ) and the visible head (the pope and the bishops).
Church: A building used for public Christian worship



Cross curricular links

Issues of Justice and Peace Catholic social teaching.

Link to future
What is the link between the nature of the Church and the Catholic mission to evangelise?
Describe Catholic teaching on the nature of the Church. (5)
Explain how Catholics see Mary as a model of the Church. (8)

TIMELINE OF LEARNING

Crime and Sin
Criminal Penalty
Jesus’ teaching on forgiveness
Capital Punishment
Salvation, hell and belief in God
Church as one
Mary and Body of Christ
Sacred Objects
Church Design
Eucharist
Evangelisation
Revision
End of Unit Assessment