

## Links to prior learning

*Ecclesiam Suam* was an encyclical (Pope's letter to Catholics) written by Pope St Paul VI to help guide the work of the Second Vatican Council. In it, he said the Church and the world should meet, understand, and love one another. He encouraged Catholics to deepen their faith, renew the Church, and speak with people of other religions. He described dialogue using circles: the biggest circle is with all people, then with other religions that believe in one God, then with other Christians, and finally within the Catholic Church.

## Links to future learning

The Second Vatican Council was a major Church meeting held from 1962 to 1965, called by Pope St John XXIII. It aimed to help the Church respond to the modern world and to build better relationships with both Christians and non-Christians. The council had four main goals: to understand the Church more deeply, to make needed changes, to improve dialogue with the world, and to promote peace and justice. Important documents came from the council. *Lumen Gentium* taught that all Catholics share the roles of priest, prophet, and king. *Gaudium et Spes* said the Church should speak up for the poor and work for a better world.

### Key Words

**Ecclesiam Suam:** Latin for 'His Church'; the name of Pope St Paul VI's first letter about how the Church should speak to the modern world.

**Dialogue:** Respectful conversations that build understanding between different people or groups.

**Proclamation:** Sharing the message of Jesus and salvation with others.

**Second Vatican Council:** A worldwide meeting of bishops (1962–1965) that helped modernise the Church.

**Eastern Catholic Churches:** 23 Catholic Churches with different traditions and worship styles but united with the Pope.

**Patrimony:** The traditions, art, music, and worship style that belong to a Church.

**Liturgical rites:** The way a Church carries out worship and ceremonies.

**Liturgical traditions:** The gestures and actions used in worship that reflect a Church's heritage

What are the different branches of the Catholic Church?

The Catholic Church is made up of 24 Churches. The biggest is the Roman Catholic Church, with c.1.3 billion members. The other 23 are called Eastern Catholic Churches and have c.18 million members. Each Church began with one of the apostles (e.g. Peter, Andrew), and follows one of six main worship traditions, called rites. Even though they have different ways of worshipping, all 24 Churches share the same Catholic faith. The Church teaches that these different traditions should be respected and that all should work together as one family, the Body of Christ

The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church is the largest Eastern Catholic Church, with c.4 million members worldwide and c.13,500 in the UK. It was formally set up in Britain in 1957. Although it has its own style of worship, it shares the same faith as other Catholic Churches. The Church follows the **Byzantine rite**, which began in Constantinople. Most of the **Divine Liturgy** is sung without instruments. A key feature of worship is the **iconostasis** – a wall of icons that separates the altar from the rest of the church. The icons tell the story of salvation like a "visual Gospel". The priest opens and closes the iconostasis doors during the service and leads processions to help bring God's presence to the people.