

Links to prior learning -
Bible stories, care for the planet



- Genesis 1: God creates the world in six days using speech. It shows God's power and order in creation. Humans are made last, and everything is 'good'.
- Genesis 2: God creates man from the soil and breathes life into him. Woman is made from man's rib. This story focuses on relationship, harmony, and God's closeness to humanity.
- The Big Bang theory and evolution explain how the world came to be.
- Catholics believe these can work alongside faith – science explains 'how', religion explains 'why'.
- The Church rejects creationism (literal interpretation of Genesis) and scientism (science explains everything).
- The Vatican Observatory and quotes from Popes show support for science.

Links to future learning -
Sacraments, Jesus' life, the Trinity, Laudato Si

- Catholics believe God created everything out of love, and that humans have a special role in His creation.
- The stories in Genesis teach important truths about God, humans, and the world, even if they are symbolic.
- Catholics use both science and faith to understand the universe. Catholics do not read Genesis literally but look for the deeper meaning (the 'literal sense').
- Genesis stories are symbolic and use literary forms to communicate religious truth.
- They help answer questions like 'Why are we here?' and 'What is our purpose?'
- They teach that humans are created for relationship with God, each other, and creation.

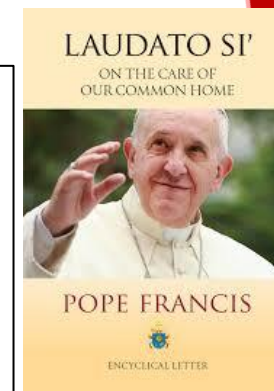


What do Catholics believe about God, creation, and our place in the world?

- The Church believes we should respond to 'the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor'.
- Stewardship: caring for the world because it is God's creation.

Prayer is a response to God's revelation and helps build a relationship with Him.

- We are called to care for the world – this is called stewardship.
- Catholic Social Teaching includes four main principles: dignity, solidarity, the common good, and subsidiarity. Catholic Social Teaching includes dignity, common good, subsidiarity, and solidarity.
- Pope Francis in Laudato Si' teaches that we must respond to 'the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor'.
- Sr. Dorothy Stang gave her life defending the Amazon and its people.
- CAFOD's LiveSimply award encourages action for justice and the environment.



Cross curricular links:

- 📖 Science – Big Bang & Evolution
- 📖 English – Interpreting texts
- 🎨 Art – Symbolism in religious art
- 🌍 Geography – Environment and climate change

KEY WORDS: • God

- Revelation • Prayer – • Creation • Stewardship – • Creationism – • Scientism – • Imago Dei – • Literal Sense – • Literary Form –

KEY SYMBOLS:

- 🌍 Creation
- 📖 The Bible
- ☁ Holy Spirit
- 🌱 Stewardship
- 🎨 Religious Art



Links to prior learning –
revelation/interpretation of scripture (Genesis)

Artistic impact:

Art presents scripture in a beautiful way, showing its importance and helping Catholics reflect on the message– eg: In the Lindisfarne gospels and book of Kells
Scripture is often placed on the walls in Catholic schools and homes
The Bible has influenced many common sayings – eg: By the skin of your teeth.



Scripture in Catholic life:

Catholics hear readings from both testaments in the Liturgy of the Word, during Mass.
The gospel has a special importance in mass
Catholics use scripture-based prayers to reflect on Jesus' life while saying the Rosary
Catholics believe scripture guides their lives and brings them closer to God



KEY WORDS

Revelation * Scripture
*Tradition *
Magisterium*Inspired*
Canon*Liturgy of the
word*Old
Testament*New
Testament*Dei Verbum

Magisterium:

The magisterium is the teaching authority of the Church, given to the Pope and bishops. This authority was first given to St. Peter (the first Pope) and the apostles, and passed down.
The Church has the authority to interpret scripture and tradition and teach Catholics how to follow the word of God.

How do Catholics use and understand key sources of authority?



The Bible

Bible references contain: **Book**, **Chapter**, and **Verse**, to help Catholics find passages quickly. EG: **John 3:16**
Bibles were originally written in Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic; we read translations
Catholics believe the Bible was inspired by the Holy Spirit
The Bible contains 73 books, written by different authors, in different times and in different literary styles. It is often called a library
The canon of scripture is the recognised list of books in the Bible
The Jewish Bible (TANAKH) and the Old Testament contains the same books. They are arranged and interpreted differently

Links to future learning –
Jesus' titles revealing his divinity/paschal mystery

How does the Bible reveal God's message?

The Bible is also known as sacred scripture and reveals God's plans for the salvation of humanity

This is seen in Old Testament prophecies that are fulfilled in the New Testament, including about Jesus.

Dei Verbum, a document written by the Church, teaches scripture is without error and Jesus is the word of God. The true author of the Bible is God who used it to communicate messages to humanity about salvation.

Sacred Tradition:

Tradition is the living and practical transmission of the gospel message. This started with the Apostles at Pentecost.
It contains teachings such as the sanctity of life, the mass and the sacraments.
Dei Verbum teaches tradition is the word of God, like Scripture.
Revelation is God revealing himself through scripture and tradition.

Cross curricular links:

English –
literary forms



History/Art –
Illuminated manuscripts



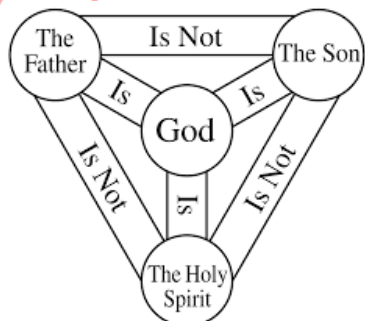
KEY
SYMBOLS

Religious art * The Bible
* The Church *Mass *
Christ



Links to prior learning –
Holy Spirit guides the
magisterium/Laudato Si

- The Catholic belief in the Trinity says that there is 1 God (Monotheism) in 3 separate persons, who are all equally God – The Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- This belief is reflected in Catholic prayer and at mass.
- A 4th Century Priest, Arius, argued that Jesus was created by the Father, and therefore less divine and powerful.
- This belief was condemned as Heresy at the council of Nicaea, in AD. 325
- The council produced the Nicene creed, a statement of faith and core beliefs, including about the Trinity, It is said at every mass during the liturgy of the word.



How did
Jesus bring
about the
Kingdom of
God?



- Catholics believe Jesus is an example of how to live. He reached out to the poor and the marginalised, treating them with dignity and compassion.
- His miracles show God's power over nature, and his healing miracles show God's compassion.
- Jesus has many titles, which each show a different aspect of his identity – e.g.: 'Lord' shows his divinity, 'Christ' meaning anointed one, and 'Son of God', showing his close relationship to the Father – truly God and truly man.

- Jesus taught in parables – stories with a spiritual message.
- For example, the parable of the Sower teaches Christians about God's kingdom, and the parable of the prodigal son teaches Christians about love and forgiveness.
- The parable of the sheep and the goats teaches Christians that God will judge them based on how they have treated others.
- Parables can be read literally or metaphorically.

Links to future learning –
Sacrament of
reconciliation Jesus'
resurrection/meaning of
suffering

Cross curricular
links: English –
parables. History –
Council of
Nicaea. Art
– Symbols for
the Trinity



KEY WORDS
Kingdom * parables
*Moral sense
*Miracle
*Marginalised *
Anointing of the
sick * Works of
Mercy *SVP

- The Church spreads the kingdom through the 7 sacraments, serving others, and missionary work
- For example, the sacrament of the anointing of the sick provides spiritual strength to those who are ill.
- The Church serves others through spiritual and corporal works of mercy – e.g.: providing the sacrament for reconciliation and feeding the hungry.
- Organizations like the SVP (Society of St Vincent de Paul) and people like Mother Elvira live out mercy and service today.
- Pilgrimages, particularly to Lourdes in France, show the Catholic belief in miracles and care for the sick.

- Jesus established the Kingdom of God on Earth, through his words and actions – e.g.: Helping the poor and oppressed..
- Catholics should continue to build this kingdom, by living the way God wants them to and treating each other with compassion and justice. Doing good spreads the kingdom.
- The Kingdom is open to everyone, especially the marginalised,

**KEY
SYMBOLS**

Miracles *
Parables *
Trinity *
Charity *
Sacraments

Links to prior learning Knowledge of Jesus' life, understanding of original sin and the fall, previous experience of lent/Easter



- Eucharist – The Eucharist, meaning 'Thanksgiving', is 'The source and summit of Christian life' (CCC 1324)
- Catholics believe it is the holiest part of mass, where the body and blood of Jesus is offered to the congregation.
- Catholics believe the events of the last supper and Jesus' sacrifice become really present for them in the mass.
- It united Catholics, brings them closer to God and provides protection from sin.
- Other Christians may believe that Christ is present spiritually in the bread and wine.



How do Christian beliefs deepen our understanding of suffering?

- Suffering – Everyone experiences physical and moral (emotional) suffering
- Catholics believe suffering entered the world through sin – actions against God's will (Genesis)
- Suffering leads to the 'problem of evil' – how can suffering exist if God is omnibenevolent, omnipotent, and omniscient?
- Many people would respond that suffering can help someone grow in character and faith

- Jesus and the meaning of suffering- He is known as the 'suffering servant' (Isaiah 53), as he willingly suffered to save humanity
- His passion (suffering before and during crucifixion) shows obedience to God and love for humanity.
- For Catholics, knowing Jesus (God) suffered, helps them find meaning in their own suffering and trust God.
- Catholics find hope in his resurrection that suffering can be overcome, as well as hope for eternal life.



- Responses to evil and suffering – the Church teaches that suffering can lead to good – strengthening faith and bringing people closer to God.
- The examples of saints inspire Catholics to respond to suffering with peace – for example, Margret and Barry Mizen, who forgave their son's killer.
- Artwork of the crucifixion (EG: Rothenstein's 'the Crucifixion') help Catholics to connect Jesus' suffering to suffering in the modern world.
- Reflecting on Jesus' passion helps Catholics to find strength, hope and comfort in their own suffering.

Links to future learning - Jesus' resurrection and Christian beliefs in life after death, Salvation and eschatology – GCSE

Cross curricular links:
PSHE – coping with suffering English – interpreting symbolic language in scripture
Art – depictions of suffering and crucifixion



KEY WORD

S

Suffering

*Passion*Lent

*Triduum*Sin

*Reconciliation

*Redemption

- Lent and the Triduum – Lent is a 40 day period of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in preparation for Easter. It marks Jesus' resisting temptation in the desert.
- Holy Thursday remembers the last supper, when Jesus gave the commandment to love one another.
- Good Friday commemorates Jesus' crucifixion. Catholics venerate the cross in solemn prayer.
- Easter Sunday celebrates the resurrection – Jesus conquering sin and death.
- The sacrament of reconciliation, in which Christians confess their sins and receive penance and absolution from a priest, helps Catholics prepare spiritually for Easter.

KEY

SYMBOLS

The Cross, The Eucharist, Religious art, The Bible, Prayer



Links to prior learning
Term 4 - Jesus' death and suffering. Baptism from year 7. Previous experience of Catholic rites



Who is the Holy Spirit?
The third person of the Trinity, described as 'The lord, the giver of life' in the Nicene creed.
Symbols are used for the holy Spirit, often based on Biblical accounts (e.g.: Fire, linked to Pentecost)
The Holy Spirit gives 7 gifts out of love – for example, wisdom
Luke's gospel and acts show the importance of the Holy Spirit in Jesus; life and in establishing the earliest Christian communities.
Pentecost (the birthday of the Church), is then the Holy Spirit came to the apostles, filling them with courage to spread the word and the ability to speak different languages.

Links to future learning
Theme of salvation in GCSE content. Christian responses to the problem of evil and moral decision making.

Both baptism and Catholic funerals express belief in resurrection and eternal life.

Catholic funerals include: includes: Vigil of Prayer (before the funeral), Funeral Liturgy (usually a Requiem Mass), and the Committal (burial or cremation).

Catholics believe baptism is necessary as it represents now life in Christ and removes original sin

Baptism of desire refers to those not formally baptised but who lived with love of God and others.



How do Catholics express belief in resurrection and eternal life?



How has the Holy Spirit impacted Jesus and the Church?

The Holy Spirit helped Jesus carry out his mission – for example, He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and he promised he would send God's spirit to the apostles after his ascension
The Holy Spirit has also guided the Church – for example, giving early Christian strength when facing persecution, and helped more people join the Church.

The Church is known as the people of God, the Body of Christ, and the temple of the Holy Spirit.
Christians can feel the Holy Spirit at work in their lives – for example, guiding them to find their vocation, and at confirmation when they receive the 7 gifts.

Cross curricular links:
📖 English – Themes of life, death, and rebirth in literature.
🎨 Art – Artistic representations of resurrection and heaven.
📖 History – Christian burial customs and historical funeral traditions.

KEY WORDS
Resurrection *

Judgement

*Heaven *Hell

*Purgatory *

Requiem *

Funeral rite *

Baptism

What do Catholics believe about life after death?

Catholics believe in heaven (union with God), hell (separation from God caused by our free-will), and purgatory (a mental place of purification)

Souls in purgatory are purified before entering heaven

Some Christian denominations reject purgatory, arguing it is not a Biblical belief.

Souls will be judged - particular judgement happens at the moment of death, and final judgment happens at the end of time
The dead will get glorified bodies during final judgment

Why is Jesus' resurrection a cornerstone of Christian belief?

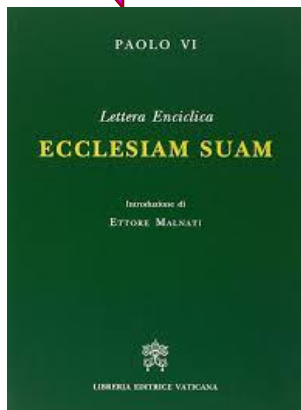
Women discover the tomb is empty on Easter morning ; Jesus later appears to his disciples.

The resurrection shows Jesus is God's son, and that love/life triumphs over sin/death

Catholics believe everyone will be resurrected during final judgement.
Other beliefs in life after death differ across cultures (for example, reincarnation), as do mourning rituals (e.g. Jazz funerals in New Orleans)

KEY SYMBOLS
Empty tomb * Holy water *
Cleansing fire * Cross

Links to prior learning - Understanding of Church community and prayer for earlier unit. Knowledge of different Christian traditions and saints. Experience of Church services and seasonal liturgies.



What is inter-faith dialogue?
Pope Paul VI's encyclical *Ecclesiam Suam* explained how the Church should dialogue with the world.

- He proposed four circles of dialogue: with all humanity, with other monotheistic religions, with other Christians, and within the Church itself.
- Dialogue helps build understanding, unity, and peace in the world.

Respect and curiosity about others is rooted in the value of loving thy neighbor. Learning about other faiths – for example, on school visits – helps young people to become peacemakers.



How have councils shaped the Church's history?

How is the Church structured?

- Catholicism contains 24 Churches – the Roman Catholic Church, and 23 Eastern Catholic Churches.
- These Churches are united in faith and all trace their roots back to an apostle, such as Peter. They differ in traditions and Liturgy.
- For example, the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church follows the Byzantine Rite and celebrates the divine Liturgy.
- The Church views this diversity as a gift, united in the Body of Christ

Why are councils important?

- After the great commission, councils became an important way of ensuring harmony in the Church.
- The first council was the council of Jerusalem, recorded in Acts. It was held to decide if gentiles (Non-Jews) should follow Jewish law to become followers of Christ.
- St Peter explains how both Jews and Gentiles are chosen by God and there is no difference between them.
- Councils in the past have led to schisms (divides) in the Church and different denominations being founded.
- For example, the Council of Trent in 1543 did not stop the reformation, which led to some Christians forming protestant groups.



Links to future learning - GCSE deeper studies of: Ecumenism, Inter-faith dialogue, the second Vatican Council and the role of the Church in society.-

Cross curricular links:
English – exploring different viewpoints and creative writing
Geography – understanding global religious communities
Art – iconography and religious symbolism in Eastern Catholic traditions.

KEY WORDS

Dialogue*Second Vatican Council*Eastern Catholic Church*Iconostasis*Patrimony*Encyclical*Lumen Gentium*Gaudium Et Spes

What is ecumenism?

- The ecumenical movement wants to unite all Christian Churches. Jesus called for one united Church, and the movement aims to follow in his footsteps and bring this about.
- To bring about unity Christians can: remember that they are all part of the Body of Christ, engage in dialogue and discussion, and pray/worship together.
- Focussing on their similarities helps Churches work together to bring about the common good.

What was the second Vatican Council?

- The second Vatican council (1962-1965) is the most recent ecumenical council. It aimed to renew the Church and improve dialogue with the modern world.
- Lumen Gentium teaches that all Catholics are called to be priests, prophets and kings.
- Gaudium et spes urges the Church to respond to modern challenges and promote justice and peace.
- The council encouraged greater cooperation between Christians and respect for other faiths.

KEY SYMBOLS
Dialogue * Religious iconography * Peace

