

Year 7 and 8 explored Creation, Covenant, and Prophecy. Students now build on this by applying these ideas to moral questions about life, vocation, and justice.

L11 – Lifelong Promises Debate

The Church teaches lifelong marriage is strengthened by God's grace. Arguments for it say it gives stability, reflects God's eternal love, and helps couples grow together. Challenges include human weakness, personal struggles, and society's fear of commitment. Debate showed both the difficulties and the sacred value of promises.

L9 – The Nature & Purpose of Marriage: Marriage is a sacrament and a vocation, a covenant between a man and a woman before God. Genesis teaches "one flesh" and Jesus said marriage should not be broken (Mark 10). The Church sums up marriage with HELPS: Heterosexual, Exclusive, Lifegiving, Permanent, Sacrament. Marriage reflects Christ's faithful love for the Church.

L10 – The Nuptial Mass

At a Catholic wedding, couples marry within a Nuptial Mass. Key parts include the Liturgy of the Word, the Consent, the Vows, blessing and exchange of rings, the Nuptial Blessing, and the Eucharist. These rituals show marriage as a covenant with God and the couple's lifelong commitment.

L6 – Human Life & Conception: Life begins at fertilisation with unique DNA. By 22 days the heart beats; by 8 weeks organs form; at 24 weeks a baby can survive outside the womb. UK law allows abortion up to 24 weeks, but the Church teaches life is sacred from conception (Jeremiah 1:5, CCC 2270). Abortion contradicts human dignity because life belongs to God.

L7 – Life Charity: Life is a Catholic charity that supports mothers and families. It provides safe houses for homeless pregnant women, a helpline for crisis support, community help with essentials, and free pregnancy tests. Its mission is to protect and support life from conception, showing that every person has dignity and deserves compassion.

L1Genesis : Genesis gives two creation accounts. Genesis 1 shows God as powerful and creating through words, making humans in His image to care for creation. Genesis 2 shows God as close and personal, forming Adam and Eve and teaching the importance of marriage and companionship. Together, they show dignity, equality, and responsibility.

This work prepares students for GCSE topics such as the sanctity of life, relationships, vocation, and Catholic Social Teaching, deepening their skills in analysis and debate.

Year 9 Term 1: Creation & Covenant

L2 Imago Dei : Being imago Dei means every person reflects God's nature. We are relational (made for community), rational (able to think and question), and free (able to choose good or evil). This gives all humans dignity and worth. St Paul taught that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, so we must respect ourselves and others.

L3 – Gender Equality & Feminism

Genesis teaches men and women are both made in God's image and share dignity. The Church teaches equality (CCC 2334) and says men and women complement each other. Feminism has fought for rights in waves, from voting to workplace equality and inclusion today. Catholic leaders like John Paul II and Pope Francis have supported women's dignity and leadership.

L4-5 – Imago Dei : Imago Dei means "Image of God." All humans are valuable, different from the rest of creation, and their dignity comes from God. Jesus is the perfect image of God, showing us love and truth. Saints are examples of people living out this image by serving others with kindness and courage. y: Valladolid Debate, human rights.
Art: Chauvet Cave artwork expressing human dignity.
English: debates and persuasive writing.
PSHE: RSE on relationships and dignity of life.
St Paul taught the Corinthians that "your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit." True freedom is self-control and choosing good, not simply doing what you want.

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L10-11: – Marian Pilgrimage

Pilgrimage is a spiritual journey to a holy place. At **Lourdes**, Mary appeared to Bernadette and called herself the Immaculate Conception. At **Fátima**, Mary called for prayer and repentance. At **Walsingham**, Mary's devotion has deep roots in English Christianity. Pilgrimage helps Catholics grow in faith, prayer, and hope, and reminds them that Mary leads people to Jesus.

L8-9 – Marian Feasts & titles

Marian feast days celebrate key moments in Mary's life and God's plan of salvation. The **Annunciation** celebrates Mary's "yes" to God. The **Immaculate Conception** honours her sinless beginning. The **Assumption** celebrates Mary being taken into heaven. **Mary, Mother of God** protects belief in Jesus' divinity. These feasts show that "all generations shall call her blessed" and are celebrated worldwide.

L7 – St Teresa of Calcutta: Woman of the Magnificat

St Teresa of Calcutta dedicated her life to serving "the poorest of the poor." Inspired by Jesus' words in Matthew 25, she cared for the sick, dying, and forgotten. Her work reflected the Magnificat's message of lifting up the lowly and showing mercy. Through the Missionaries of Charity, she lived out faith through action, showing how love and service transform the world.

L6 – Faith and Politics (PEEL Writing)

Students debated whether religion should stay out of politics. Some argue politics should remain neutral in a diverse society. Others believe religious values promote justice, dignity, and compassion. The Magnificat shows how faith speaks about social justice and caring for the vulnerable. Religious beliefs can influence political decisions on issues like poverty, human dignity, and protecting life.

L5 – Holy Justice and the Magnificat

The Magnificat is a song of justice and liberation. It shows God's **reversal of fortunes**, where the proud are humbled and the lowly are raised up. Students explored how this message gives hope to people who are oppressed, marginalised, or treated unfairly. The Magnificat challenges systems of power, wealth, and injustice and teaches that God sides with the poor and vulnerable.

L1 – Mary: Dogmas and Beliefs

Catholics believe Mary has a special role in God's plan of salvation. The Church teaches four dogmas: the **Immaculate Conception** (Mary was conceived without original sin), **Mother of God (Theotokos)** (Jesus is fully God and fully human), **Perpetual Virginity** (Mary remained a virgin before, during and after Jesus' birth), and the **Assumption** (Mary was taken body and soul into heaven). These beliefs protect what Christians believe about Jesus and show Mary as a model of faith and obedience

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Year 9 Term 2: Prophecy & Promise

L2 – The New Adam and the New Eve

Salvation history shows God's plan unfolding through the Bible. Adam and Eve brought sin into the world through disobedience, but God promised a saviour (Genesis 3:15 – the **Protoevangelium**). Mary is the **New Eve** because she obeyed God, saying "yes" at the Annunciation. Jesus is the **New Adam** because his obedience on the cross restores humanity. Earlier events like Noah's Ark and manna in the desert prefigure Baptism and the Eucharist.

L3 – Hannah and Mary

Hannah was unable to have children and prayed faithfully to God. After God answered her prayer with a son, Samuel, she dedicated him to God and praised Him in a song of thanksgiving (1 Samuel 2). Hannah's song celebrates God lifting up the poor and bringing down the proud. This prepares the way for Mary, whose faith and trust continue God's plan of salvation.

L4 – The Magnificat

The **Magnificat** (Luke 1:46–55) is Mary's song of praise after visiting Elizabeth. Mary praises God for choosing the humble, lifting up the lowly, feeding the hungry, and challenging the proud and powerful. The Magnificat echoes Hannah's song and shows continuity between the Old and New Testaments. It reveals God as just, merciful, and faithful to His promises.

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Lesson 11: Poverty and Wealth Poverty means lacking basic needs and opportunities. Jesus warned that love of **wealth** can block faith and taught about **treasures in heaven**. Catholics believe wealth is not wrong, but **greed** and **waste** harm dignity. In *Laudato Si'*, **Pope Francis** teaches that the **poor** and the **earth** suffer most from over-consumption.

Lesson 12: Aid to the Church in Need (ACN)

ACN is a Catholic charity that supports **persecuted Christians**. **Persecution** means suffering because of faith. ACN gives **practical** and **spiritual support**, helping Christians in places such as **Nigeria** and the **Holy Land**, and lives out Jesus' teaching through **solidarity**, **mercy**, and care for **human dignity**.

L8 – Holy Orders is a sacrament that ordains men as **deacons**, **priests**, or **bishops**. Those ordained serve the Church through leadership, preaching, and the sacraments. **Bishops** continue **apostolic succession**, linking today's Church to Jesus' disciples.

L9 – Ordination of Women: The Catholic Church teaches that only **men** can be ordained as priests, based on Jesus choosing male apostles and Church **tradition**. Some Christians disagree, raising debates about **authority**, **tradition**, and **gender equality**, while the Church affirms the **equal dignity** of men and women.

L7 – The Dominican Order, founded by **St Dominic**, focuses on **preaching** and **teaching** the Gospel. Dominicans believe study, prayer, and action belong together. They work for **social justice**, defend **human dignity**, and serve the poor and vulnerable. Dominicans also use **art**, **education**, and **missionary work** to spread Jesus' message. Their life shows discipleship through truth and service.

L6 – Consecrated Religious Life is a vocation where people dedicate their lives fully to God. Religious men and women take vows of **poverty**, **chastity**, and **obedience**. They live in **community**, pray together, and serve others through teaching, healthcare, or charity. This way of life shows total commitment to Jesus and trust in God rather than wealth or power.

L5 – Vocation: Called by God to live a life of purpose and service. Everyone has a vocation, not just priests or religious. Vocations include **marriage**, **religious life**, **priesthood**, and service in the **laity**. Discovering vocation involves **prayer**, **reflection**, and using personal **gifts** to serve others. Following a vocation is a response to Jesus' call to discipleship.

Lesson 1: Discipleship in Mark's Gospel means following **Jesus** with trust, sacrifice and loyalty. Jesus calls ordinary people, such as **Peter** and **Andrew** (Mark 1:16–18), who leave everything immediately to follow him. Mark shows that disciples are not perfect – they experience **failure**, **fear** and **weakness**, especially during **persecution**. However, Jesus teaches that true leadership is **servanthood**, not power. Disciples must be prepared to **deny themselves**, **take up their cross**, and remain faithful even when it is difficult (Mark 8:34). Mark presents discipleship as challenging but meaningful, especially for early Christians in **Rome**.

This work prepares students for GCSE topics such as the sanctity of life, relationships, vocation, and Catholic Social Teaching, deepening their skills for analysis and debate.

Year 9 Term 3: Galilee to Jerusalem

Lesson 2: Vocation – God's Call: A **vocation** is a **calling from God** to live a life of faith and service. The word comes from the Latin *vocare*, meaning "to call". Catholics believe everyone has a vocation, not just priests or religious. Vocations include **marriage**, **religious life**, **priesthood**, and service as part of the **laity**. **St John Henry Newman** taught that each person has a unique purpose and is a "**link in a chain**" within God's plan. Discovering vocation involves **prayer**, **reflection**, **Scripture**, and using personal **gifts** to serve others. Living out one's vocation helps Christians respond to **Jesus' call** in the world today.

L3 – Faithful Women Disciples: In the Gospels, several **women disciples** show strong faith and courage. Women such as **Mary Magdalene**, **Mary the mother of James**, **Salome**, and the **woman who anointed Jesus** remained loyal when many male disciples fled. They supported Jesus' ministry, stayed with him at the **crucifixion**, and were the first witnesses of the **resurrection**. This shows that discipleship is about **faithfulness**, not status or gender.

L4 – Discipleship in Art: Christian **art** has been used to show what discipleship looks like. Artists use **symbols**, **gesture**, and **composition** to communicate faith, sacrifice, and commitment to Jesus. Paintings of the calling of the disciples or the crucifixion show obedience, suffering, and hope. Art helps believers reflect on Jesus' journey from **Galilee to Jerusalem** and what it means to follow him.

Year 7 and 8 explored Creation, Covenant, and Prophecy, Desert to Garden. Students now build on this by applying these ideas to Church teaching about the role the Old and New Covenants

L2 Herod's Temple: The Temple was the centre of sacrifice and worship. Covenants were sealed with blood (Exodus 24:8). The Holy of Holies symbolised God's presence and prepared for Christ's perfect sacrifice.

This work prepares students for GCSE topics

L1 Exodus Recap: The Fall damaged humanity's relationship with God. Passover (Exodus 12) showed that the blood of the lamb saved Israel from death, foreshadowing Jesus as the true Lamb of God whose sacrifice brings redemption.

L13 Pax Christi: Pax Christi promotes peace and reconciliation, living out Christ's redemptive mission in the modern world.

L12 Debate – Justice & Peace: Peace requires justice (Gaudium et Spes 78). Redemption restores right relationships in society.

L11 P4C – Forgiveness: God's mercy is limitless, but repentance is needed. Forgiveness restores relationship though consequences remain.

L10 Designing Reconciliation: Symbols can show mercy and restored unity. Redemption reflects God's healing love.

Year 9 Term 4: Desert to Garden

L9 Reconciliation in Art: Religious art expresses healing and restoration. Symbols communicate forgiveness and unity through Christ.

L8 Forgiveness & Reconciliation: Redemption restores broken relationships. Forgiveness reflects Christ's sacrifice and is central to Christian life.

L7 Effects of Redemption: Redemption includes atonement, salvation, reparation and sanctification. Christ's death removes division (Galatians 3:28) and restores relationship with God.

L3 High Priest: The High Priest was mediator between God and Israel. On Yom Kippur he entered the Holy of Holies to offer sacrifice. Hebrews 9 teaches this system was temporary and pointed to Christ.

L4 Old & New Covenants: A covenant is a sacred promise. The Old Covenant required repeated animal sacrifice. The New Covenant, sealed in Jesus' blood (Luke 22:20), fulfils and completes the Old.

L5 Everlasting Covenant: Jesus entered the heavenly sanctuary once for all (Hebrews 9:12), securing eternal redemption. At Mass, this sacrifice is made present. The Old Covenant is fulfilled in Christ.

L6 Christ as High Priest: Jesus is the eternal High Priest who offers Himself. He is the true Temple (John 2:19). The torn curtain (Matthew 27:51) shows restored access to God.

**T4: Desert to
Garden last term**

L1 Corinth: St Paul founded a diverse Church meeting in homes, but it faced division, poor behaviour, and moral challenges influenced by Roman culture and required guidance through his letters.

L2 Communion: The Communion of Saints teaches the Church is one family across Earth, Purgatory, and Heaven, united in Christ through the Holy Spirit and connected through prayer.

**Dialogue &
Encounter next term**

T5: Y9 Ends of the Earth

L10 Guardian Angels: Catholics believe each person has a guardian angel who guides, protects, and supports them, showing God's personal care and presence.

L9 Angels: Angels are spiritual beings created by God; archangels like Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael serve as protectors, messengers, and helpers in God's plan.

L3 Holiness: The Universal Call to Holiness teaches all Christians are called to be saints by living lives of love, service, faith, and following Jesus in everyday actions.

L4 Structure: The Church is structured with the Pope, bishops, priests, and laity, each having roles in leadership, teaching, and living out faith in the world.

L5 Imperfect: The Church is holy because it comes from God, but imperfect due to human sin, meaning it always needs forgiveness, reform, and guidance.

L8 Body: The Church is the Body of Christ, where all members have different roles but are united, especially through the Eucharist strengthening connection with Christ.

L7 L6 Heaven: The Church Triumphant consists of saints fully united with God, experiencing eternal life and praying for believers on Earth through Purgatory: The Church Suffering includes souls being purified before Heaven; Catholics pray for them, showing unity, love, and belief in life after death.

Y9 Term 6 Knowledge Organiser

L1 What is Dialogue? Dialogue means talking and listening respectfully. Catholics use interreligious and intercultural dialogue to build mutual understanding in multi-faith Britain. Meeting God in Friend and Stranger describes four forms: dialogue of life, dialogue of action, religious experience and theological exchange.	→	L6 Encountering Judaism Students encounter Judaism as a living religious worldview. They study covenant, identity, belief, worship, sources of authority and daily life. This builds respectful understanding and avoids stereotypes.
L2 The Common Good The common good means helping everyone flourish. Catholics link it to human dignity, justice and responsibility. Its three parts are respect for the person, social wellbeing and development, and peace and security. Dialogue of action helps people work together for society.	→	L7 Jewish Life in Britain Today Judaism is diverse. Jewish beliefs shape worship, festivals, family life, community and moral choices. Interreligious dialogue helps transform communities by creating respect, understanding and friendship.
L3 CSAN: Who is my neighbour? CSAN means Caritas Social Action Network. It is a network of Catholic charities helping homeless people, refugees, families in poverty, elderly people and foodbanks. It follows Jesus' teaching in the Good Samaritan and Matthew 25:40.	→	L8 Art, Music and Belief Religious beliefs influence art, music and creative expression. Students analyse symbols, images and cultural expressions to explore how beliefs shape worldview and identity.
L4 St Vincent de Paul Society St Vincent de Paul was a French Catholic priest who helped poor, sick and abandoned people. The SVP was founded in 1833 by Frederic Ozanam. It supports vulnerable people through food, clothing, furniture, bills, befriending, Vinnie Camps and transport to Mass.	→	L9 Debate and Assessment Students evaluate the claim: 'You only believe what you believe because of the way you were brought up.' They use PETER structure, key vocabulary and evidence from the unit to form a balanced judgement.
L5 CAFOD: Peace and Security CAFOD stands for Catholic Agency for Overseas Development. CAFOD works internationally for the common good through food, water, medical care, farming support, schools, refugee support and emergency aid. It helps communities affected by conflict, drought, poverty and displacement.	→	End of Unit Outcome Students should be able to explain Catholic teaching on dialogue, understand the common good, engage respectfully with Judaism, analyse how beliefs shape identity, evaluate arguments about worldview and reflect on dialogue in their own lives.