

EDUQAS
Sin and
forgiveness
Revision Guide



Key word	Definition	Can you reduce the definition of this key word? Or change this key word to an image?
Absolutism	The belief that there are certain actions that are always right or always wrong. The belief that moral laws exist eternally and are not just human inventions.	
Eucharist	Meaning "thanksgiving". The name Catholics use to describe the rite where the bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus and is received by the people. Also the name for the real presence of Jesus in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.	
Evangelisation	Literally means spreading the "good news" which we translate as Gospel. The sharing of the Gospel and life of Jesus with others.	
Forgiveness	The act of pardoning someone for the offences they have caused you. Overlooking a person's faults. Punishment	
punishment	The consequences of a wrong decision and a penalty imposed by a person in authority on the person who has committed wrongdoing.	
Relativism	The belief that there is no moral law and that rules that govern what is right and wrong are human inventions and change from place to place and from age to age.	
Salvation	The belief that through Jesus' death and resurrection humanity has achieved the possibility of life forever with God.	
Sin	Acting against the will or laws of God	

What is a crime?

- Crime can be defined as an action which breaks the law. Laws give guidance and tell people how to behave laws are set by individual laws of a country so they can be different in different parts of the world. Laws are there to protect the weak and to allow people to live safely without fear.

Sin - Is an action which goes against the will of God. Some sins are crimes for example murder some sins like adultery are not against the law.

Making moral decision

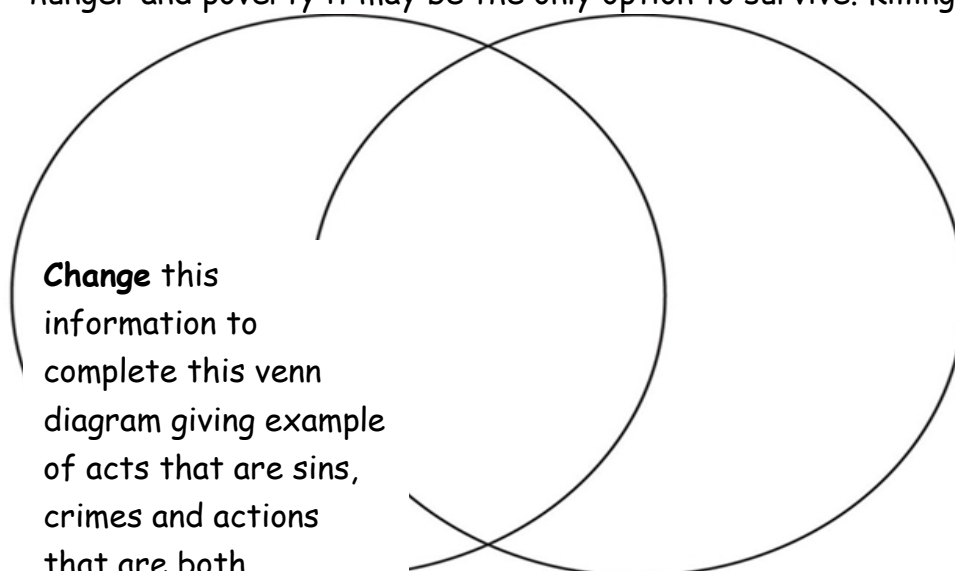
- Crime and sin are linked because they are about what is right and wrong or good and bad behaviour. This set of principles we use for deciding what is right and wrong is called morality. Making these decisions can be complex, but put very simply there are 2 forms of morality:



Absolute morality - This rule never changes. For example, if a person believes stealing is wrong then they will always have this view regardless of the situation or circumstance. So even if a person was starving and homeless, it would never be acceptable to steal some bread. Another example would be do not kill, this would then apply to war, euthanasia and self-defence.

Relative Morality - This is the idea that a moral principle can be adapted and adjusted in certain situations. So stealing is wrong but in a case of extreme hunger and poverty it may be the only option to survive. Killing is usually always

wrong but in some situations it may be the only option.



Aims of punishment

- When a criminal is found guilty of a crime they are punished and there are a variety of options available so that the punishment fits the crime such as fines, community service or prison. A judge will consider several purposes when sentencing a person for the crime they have committed.

Deterrence

Benefits This means to discourage or to put someone off committing a crime. A severe punishment may also put someone off doing that action again. It also makes an example of the criminal and might even deter someone else from doing the same thing.

This is often one of the main arguments for the death penalty.

Problems Punishments may sometimes be harsher than what the criminal deserves to deter others. Deterrence does not always work; in American states that use the death penalty their murder rates are no lower than states that do not use it.

Rehabilitation/reform

Benefits Punishment should help the offender to see what they have done wrong and to change their behaviour so they do not repeat the offence. It is the idea that prisoners can change and have the skills to return to society, this can be done with education and counselling. Reform and rehabilitation is the theory of punishment which is the most compatible with Christian teachings on forgiveness.

Problems It can be really expensive to reform criminals and many criminals simply do not want to change. It must be a long term commitment to want to help the criminal even after they have been released from prison. Some believe it is a soft way to treat criminals and offers no punishment at all.

Retribution

Benefits This is the idea that punishment should make criminals pay for what they have done wrong. To put it simply taking revenge. It makes the victim of a crime feel a sense of justice that the offender gets what they deserve. Reflects the old testament ideas of "Eye for an eye"

Problems Sometimes victims feel that criminals do not get severe enough punishments for their crimes. It does not reflect Jesus' teaching that we should turn the other cheek and not seek revenge. For Christians punishment should be connected to justice and not revenge.

Use this space to explain which theory of punishment you think is best. Why do you think we punish criminals?

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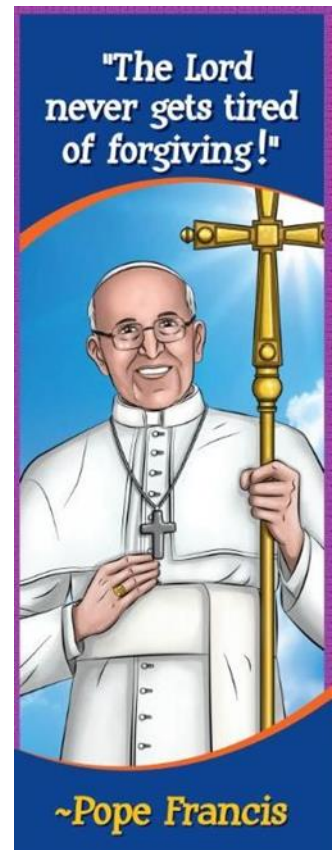
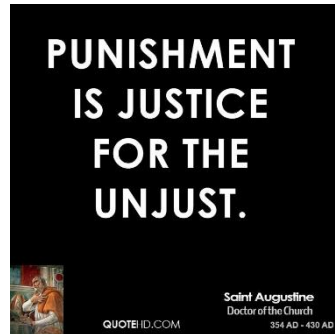
Forgiveness

- Forgiveness is at the heart of the Gospel message. Jesus' example and teaching shows Christians that they should treat others with love, compassion, mercy and forgiveness.

<u>Key Christian teaching</u>	<u>Meaning for Christians today</u>
Jesus forgave the woman in adultery "go and sin no more"	Forgiveness is always available for those who repent and change their ways.
Mt 18: 21-22 Peter asks Jesus how many times must he forgive. Jesus answered "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times"	Jesus made it clear that there should never be a limit to forgiveness.
The Lord's prayer. "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us"	Christians are not open to God's mercy if they are not forgiving towards others.
The parable of the lost son is one of Jesus' most famous stories about forgiveness	God the father will always forgive and welcome those who repent and turn away from sin.

Forgiveness versus punishment

- Some people might think because Christians believe in forgiveness, they don't believe in punishment. However, as well as teaching about forgiveness Jesus also spoke about Justice.
- Jesus spoke about God's punishment in the next life for those who did wrong. If people have behaved justly they will be rewarded in heaven.
- Only God can judge and he will forgive those who are truly sorry and want to change.
- Many Christians believe that punishment and forgiveness can go together. Punishment is a great part of a person reforming and moving towards the right path.



- Christians also need to create a fairer society where people do not need to turn to crime.

Change this information to a mind map to explain Christian teachings on forgiveness

Catholic teaching on capital punishment

- Capital punishment or the death penalty is a punishment that takes the life of a criminal. Some think it is a good form of punishment as it may deter others from committing the same crime. Some believe it is unacceptable to take a life as it does not always deter others and some people may be innocent.
- The catholic view has developed over the years; traditionally the Church has allowed capital punishment but not always encouraged its use.
- St Augustine wrote two famous letters he emphasised the need to seek other punishments if at all possible. *"There is no space to reform character except in this life."* For Augustine rehabilitation should be a preferred option.
- *"...we would prefer to have them set free than to have the sufferings of our brothers avenged by shedding their blood"* Augustine.



The Catechism states:

"Assuming that the guilty party's identity and responsibility have been fully determined, the traditional teaching of the Church does not exclude recourse to the death penalty" CCC2267

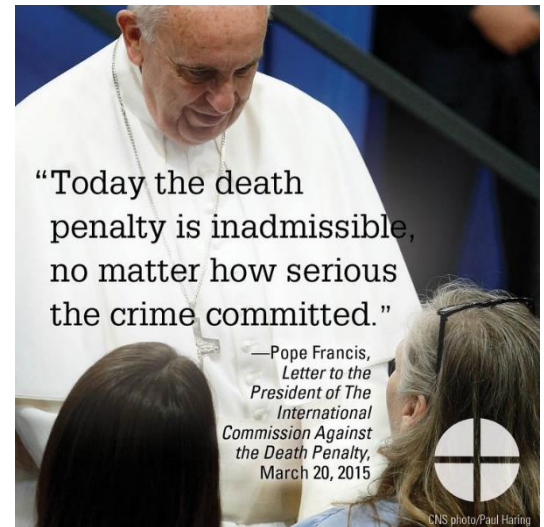
- What does Thomas Aquinas believe about the death penalty?

*Now every individual person is related to the entire society as a part to the whole. Therefore if a man be dangerous and infectious to the community, on account of some sin, it is praiseworthy and healthful that he be killed in order to safeguard the common good, since "a little leaven corrupteth the whole lump" (1 Cor. 5:6). **St Thomas Aquinas.***

- Pope John Paul II in his Evangelium Vitae 56 suggested that capital punishment should be avoided unless it is the only way to defend society from the offender

- In recent years Pope Francis has stated he is against the death penalty as people may be innocent and it is no longer justifiable.

"If bloodless means are sufficient to defend human lives against an aggressor and to protect public order and the safety of persons, public authority must limit itself to such means, because they better correspond to the concrete conditions of the common good and are more in conformity to the dignity of the human person"
Catechism of the Catholic Church

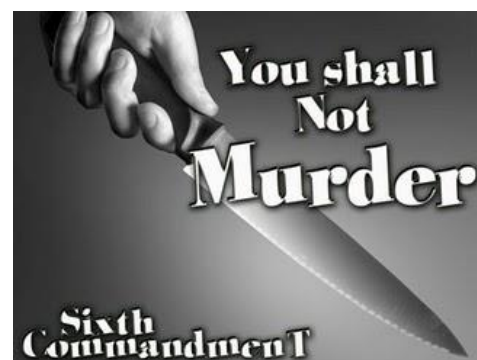


Arguments for capital punishment

- Some Christians believe the death penalty is acceptable because:
- Jesus never taught the death penalty was wrong
- *"He who sheds a person's blood shall have his blood shed, for in the image of God humans were made"* Genesis 9:6
- *"life for life, eye for eye"* Exodus
- St Paul teaches that Christians should accept and obey the laws of the government; this may include the death penalty.
- Some would argue that the death penalty upholds the commandment "thou shalt not kill" by showing the seriousness of murder as a crime.
- The Catholic Church has not cancelled its statements that capital punishment can be used by the state.
- Some crimes can be seen as so dreadful that the most extreme form of punishment is justified.

Arguments against capital punishment

- Many Christians believe that capital punishment is not acceptable, they believe this because:
- Jesus came to save and reform sinners, but you cannot reform somebody who is dead
- Jesus said revenge was wrong *"You have heard that it was said 'eye for an eye, and tooth for a tooth.' But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also"* Matthew 5: 38



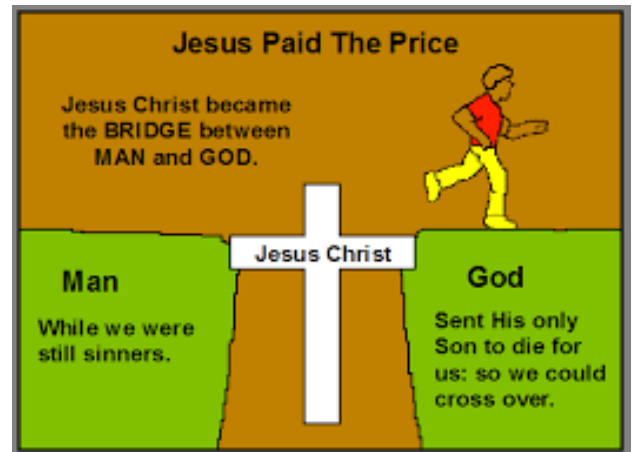
- Christianity teaches that all life is sacred and that humans are made in God's image. If abortion and euthanasia are wrong then so is capital punishment. Only God has the right to take life.
- There will always be a risk that the person may be innocent
- The overall message of Christianity is of love and forgiveness, so capital punishment goes against this
- Christians would agree with humanists that we should value the lives of all, human rights are important, and that governments should defend all their people. Killing as a punishment is wrong.

Reduce all of this information to complete this table to show your understanding of capital punishment. Highlight sources of Authority

Arguments to support the use of capital punishment	Arguments against the use of capital punishment

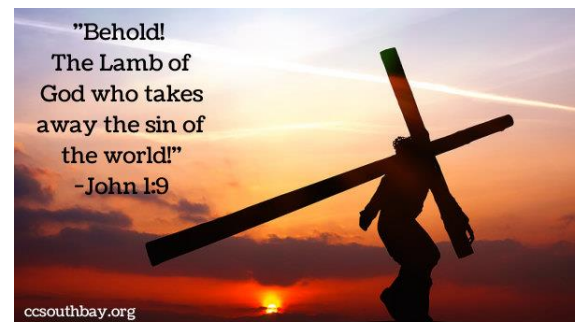
Redemption

- In Christianity salvation means being freed from sin and its consequences. Human sin has damaged our perfect relationship with God, however God loves us so much he provided a way for our to be paid for so that our relationship with God could be repaired. Christians believe the way God did this was to become human, as Jesus and to then die on the cross.



How did Jesus' death bring about salvation?

- Christians use a range of ways to ways to describe how Jesus' death and resurrection reconciled God and humans the most common is the idea of sacrifice.
- Traditionally people sacrificed an animal usually a lamb as an offering to God, to try and atone for their sins. However they had to make frequent sacrifices as they continued to sin.
- In Johns Gospel John the Baptist describes Jesus as the Lamb of God taking away the sins of the world. This means that just as people had sacrificed a lamb, Jesus death was a sacrifice to make up for our sin.
- Jesus was divine and without sin his sacrifice restored the human relationship with God for all time.
- So by sacrificing his life Jesus paid the price for human sin. Christians believe Jesus extends this salvation to all those who believe in him. Jesus is the saviour of the world.



What can we do to achieve salvation?

- Christianity teaches that Christians can only achieve salvation by repenting their sins, asking God for forgiveness and accepting Jesus as the Son of God and saviour of humankind.

The importance of Grace, free will and salvation for Catholics

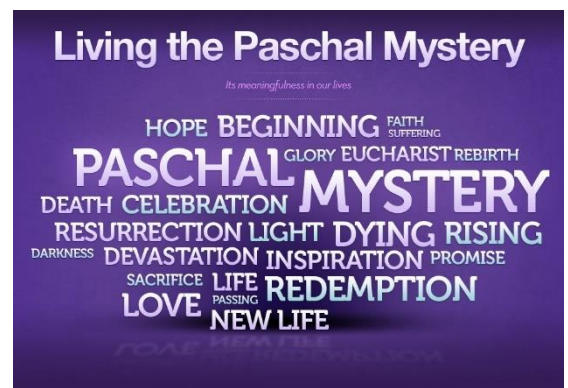
- Grace is the undeserving gift of love and mercy from God. If Catholics repent their sins, they are truly sorry for them, then this will make them Children of God, giving them the desire to change and do good. This grace comes about through the sacraments of the Church.
- Through Jesus' death all Christians have the possibility of eternal life with God, but it is up to humans how they respond to this. God created humans with free will, they can choose to accept or reject what Jesus has done for them. God wants everyone to have a relationship with him, but it cannot be forced.
- Salvation is important for Catholics as it explains why the sacraments of Baptism, reconciliation, confirmation, healing and Eucharist are at the heart of Catholic life.





Salvation - the belief that through Jesus' death and resurrection humanity has been saved and achieved the possibility of life forever with God.

Reduce this information and write a paragraph which **links** Jesus, repentance and salvation

The Paschal mystery

- The paschal mystery is one of the central concepts of the Christian faith. It relates to the last few days of Jesus' life, his death and the events following his death. Through these events is how Jesus offers salvation to all.



	<u>Significance for Catholics today</u>
The last supper - final meal Jesus had with his disciples. 	Today the symbols of bread and wine are an important part of Mass for Catholics, this is known as the Eucharist
Good Friday, Jesus' arrest, trial and crucifixion. 	Catholics commemorate Jesus' death on good Friday and treat it as a day of mourning for his death. Catholics believe Jesus' death ultimately had good consequences for humankind. Jesus' suffering and death were part of God's plan, which we can only understand in context with his resurrection after death.
The resurrection - the Gospels all record Jesus' death on the cross and how he rose three days later. 	Jesus' power to overcome death proved he had a powerful divine nature. Catholics believe the resurrection demonstrates that Jesus is the saviour; he has the power to help anyone who believes in him to overcome death. By forgiving sins, Jesus can grant them the gift of eternal life with God.
The ascension and promise of the holy spirit - Jesus ascended into heaven 40 days after his resurrection 	This marks the end of Jesus' time on earth; his mission was successful and he had done all he had to achieve. Catholics also believe the ascension opened the way for an outpouring of the holy spirit to energise and encourage Christians everywhere.

Reduce this information to describe the Paschal mystery for Christians today

Hell and a loving God

- Some people might think surely a loving God would want to save everybody, why does he condemn anyone to hell? God does not send anyone to hell; humans have free will and make that choice themselves. God's love is universal and unconditional but he cannot force it upon people, we choose to accept it
- Hell is not a punishment but a consequence of going against God. The concept of free will means that God can only offer salvation, it is up to the individual to accept that offer.

C. S. Lewis on Hell

"There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, 'Thy will be done,' and those to whom God says, in the end, 'Thy will be done.' All that are in Hell chose it."
- C. S. Lewis



Mary as a model of the Church

- Mary is a model of the Church; this means that during her life she modelled what it means to be Catholic.

Charity

Mary is also a model of Charity. She gave her whole life to God and showed kindness and compassion.

Discipleship

Catholics believe Mary was the greatest example of discipleship. She spent her whole life dedicated to Jesus. When Mary was told she would be the Mother of Christ she accepted willingly and joyfully. This makes her a role model and a guide to the way Christians should serve God.

Faith

Mary had total faith in God and her son. She never once questioned God and his choices for her. At the end she did not desert her son as she followed him right up to the foot of the cross.

Why Mary is special to Catholics today

Catholics hold Mary in great honour. She was chosen to be the human mother of Jesus Christ; she is often referred to as Mary Mother of God. Without Mary there would be no Jesus, no incarnation and therefore no salvation. All Catholic Churches have a statue of Mary showing her great importance. Mary was present at Jesus' first miracle and at the foot of his cross. The title Our Lady refers to the great importance of Mary. As Mary has such a special relationship with God, Catholics believe she acts as a mediator between them and God. Catholics pray to Mary but they believe she will pray to God on their behalf. The Hail Mary is a significant prayer for Catholics.



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Connect model of the Church, incarnation and mediator to explain why Mary is important for Catholics.

The Church as the people of God

- The **Church** is the people of God gathered together. The word church with a small c refers to the building where Catholics will go to pray. When a C is used this means everyone who is a member of the Church, all believers together.

The nature of the Church

- At the councils of Nicea and Constantinople in the 4th century Church leaders agreed on a single statement of faith called the Nicene creed. This identifies 4 marks of the Church.

The Church is one

Catholics are united in their beliefs, one pope, seven sacraments and other keys teachings. The Church is one because Jesus come to reconcile and unite all humankind through his death on the cross. The Holy spirit lives in the souls of all Catholics and unites them into one group of believers

The Church is Holy

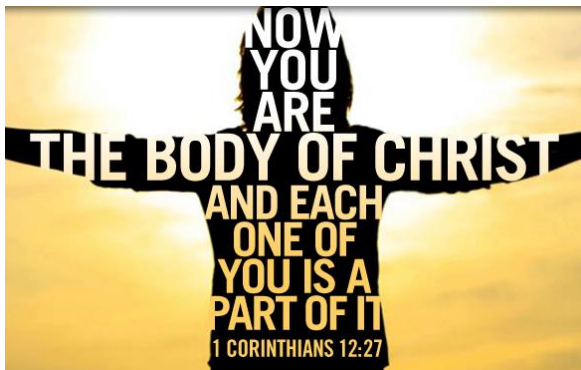
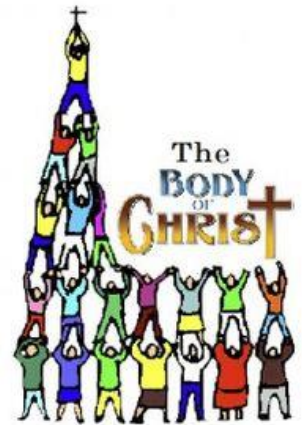
Catholics believe the Jesus is the source of all holiness, Jesus makes the Church holy through its teaching, prayer, worship and good works. Holy doesn't mean that there are no sinners in the church it recognises that we are not perfect but we are

	taught to repent and seek God's forgiveness
<p><u>The Church is Catholic</u></p> <p>Catholic means universal. The Church is Catholic in that Christ is universally present in the Church and also because he has given people the Church the task of evangelising, telling the whole world the message of Jesus.</p> <p>The church is Catholic because Jesus gives the Church everything they need for people being saved.</p>	<p><u>The Church is Apostolic</u></p> <p>Catholics believe that Jesus Christ founded the Church and gave his authority to his apostles. He entrusted a special authority to St Peter the leader of the apostles, who became the 1st pope. The faith that Catholics have has been handed down from the 1st apostles, through the pope and bishops right up to the present day.</p>

Describe the 4 marks of the Church (5)

The body of Christ

- The Church is described as the body of Christ in both the Catechism and the New Testament.
- Through the incarnation God became flesh, whilst on earth Jesus' physical body showed God's love in the things he said and did.
- The teaching that the Church is the body of Christ means that Catholics believe his work did not end when he ascended into heaven. They believe that Jesus lives on through his followers and in the Church. In this way the Church functions as the "body of Christ" The Church offers a way on continuing what Christ started. Each individual has a role which is as important as another's.
- Catholics believe they are now the physical body of Jesus as he is no longer physically present in the world.



- When someone is baptised, Catholics believe that they are united with other Catholics and with Christ and they become part of his 'body'

Outside the Church there is no salvation

Change this information to a diagram or image of Church as the body of Christ



There is but one Church in which men find salvation, just as outside the ark of Noah it was not possible for anyone to be saved.

(Thomas Aquinas)

izquotes.com

- This phrase has many meanings. Early Christian thinkers such as Aquinas and Augustine believed that the only way to be saved and achieve salvation was through following Christ and the Church.

- The Church teaches that everyone is saved through Jesus' death and

resurrection - whether they know it or not. The Church also teaches that those who do not know the Gospel but have lived good lives can be saved because it is not their fault the Gospel is unknown to them

“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 salvation” *Catechism*

- The Catholic Church still believes that the most certain route to salvation is to be a baptised and practicing member of the Catholic Church, but it does believe that good people outside of the Church can also be saved.

The Role of the Catholic church

"Everybody can be saved"

Bullet point three different viewpoints you might use to respond to this statement

- A Catholic church is a place of worship where Catholics gather as a community to celebrate their faith. The local church is central to how a Catholic lives out their faith.

Inside a catholic church

- The interior of Roman Catholic churches can vary from very ornate to very plain, however there will always common features in all Catholic Churches.

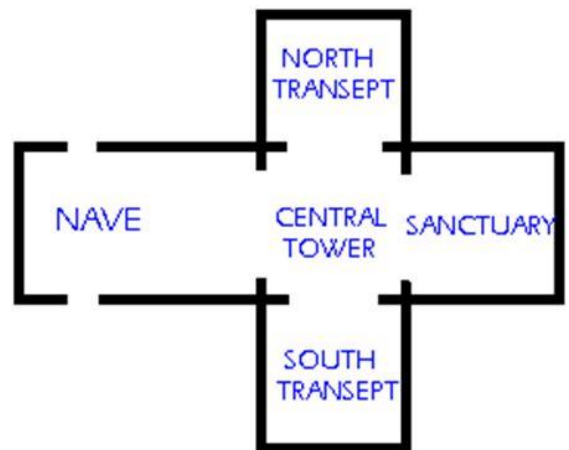
- The main are of focus will always be the sanctuary. Sanctuary means holy place and this area of the church is where the altar, tabernacle and lectern are.
- **The altar** – The main part of the mass the liturgy of the Eucharist takes place here. Mass is the most important sacrament for Catholics, during the liturgy of the Eucharist the priest blesses and consecrates the bread and wine at the altar. The altar reminds Catholics of the sacrifice and death of Jesus on the cross and that Jesus offers salvation and redemption from sin. The altar also reminds Catholics of the last supper.
- **The Baptismal font** – This is where baptisms are performed. Fonts are placed near the front so everyone can see the ceremony. Like the altar the font is linked to salvation because it is a sign of cleansing original sin and promising to live a life that is faithful to Jesus and his teachings, such a life leads to salvation.
- **The lecturn** – Near the altar is the lecturn this is used for the liturgy of the word. Catholics believe at mass they are spiritually nourished and fed by listening to the words of God.
- **The tabernacle** – This is a safe like box where the consecrated hosts are kept. The tabernacle is a focus for private prayer, Catholics will genuflect in honour of the presence of Jesus in the blessed form of the bread and wine. A sanctuary lamp is found nearby, this lit and reminds Catholics of the presence of God in the tabernacle.
- **The crucifix** – always placed above the altar. It serves as a reminder of the suffering and death of Jesus for our salvation.
- **The confessional** – this is a small room where the sacrament of reconciliation takes place. The priest will absolve people of their sins once they have admitted blame and confessed their sins. This sacrament will



repair a relationship with God. A space in every church dedicated to this sacrament shows how important this sacrament is.

- **Other features** – Statues will be in every Catholic church reminding people of Saints and significant figures. Statues are also used focus during worship. Stations of the cross remind people of Jesus' journey to his crucifixion. The holy water stoup is used when Catholics enter and leave mass to remind them of their baptism. Candles are there to symbolise prayer

Change this information to a sketch of the inside key features? Which features link to salvation?



The architecture and orientation of a church

- It is common for churches to be cruciform in shape; this means they are in the shape of a cross to signify the importance of the crucifixion.
- Churches are often tall with domes or high ceilings to show a connection with God and heaven.

- Some Churches have towers or steeples; this helps the church stand out from other buildings as something special. Towers and steeples also represent prayer and worship rising up to heaven.

- Modern church buildings are now a lot simpler than traditional church buildings. Since Vatican II some churches are very different. Liverpool Catholic Cathedral is circular in design, this signifies the oneness of the worshippers and that they are all sharing in the sacrificial meal at the altar. The Circle shape can also reflect the eternity of God.



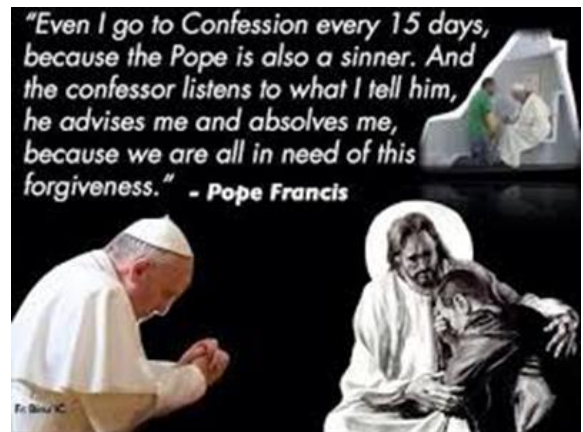
- Traditionally churches face towards the east towards the Holy lands where Jesus was born, lived, died and rose again. Also the sun rises in the east reminding Christians of the resurrection of Jesus bringing new life.
- Stained glass windows display stories from the Bible of lives of Saints.
- Many churches often have a grotto or statue outside dedicated to Mary showing how important she is in her role as the Mother of the Church

Write a short paragraph to **connect** salvation and architecture of a Catholic Church

What is a sacrament?

- According to the Catholic Church, a sacrament is 'an outward sign of inward grace, ordained by God, by which grace is given to the soul'

- Catholics believe whilst Jesus was on earth everything he did was a visible act of God's love. Catholics believe that he left the Church to be his body, and the way to be closer to him is through the sacraments.
- Through the sacraments, Catholics experiences God's nourishing, forgiving, healing, strengthening power in a special way. This helps them to build their relationship with God.



The importance of sacraments for Catholics

- God's Grace is the gift of God's love and mercy. Catholics believe God's grace is at work in the sacraments.
- Catholics believe that God gives grace to people through ordinary things like bread and wine in the Eucharist and water in baptism. This is what is meant by 'outward signs 'of 'inward grace'
- For Catholics the sacraments are a meeting point with God, each one builds up to an individual's relationship with God in a different way.
- There are 7 sacraments of the Church each one originated in the life, work and teachings of Jesus.
- Baptism, confirmation and Eucharist are known as the **sacraments of initiation**, these lay the foundation of Catholic life
- Penance (reconciliation) and anointing of the sick are known as the **sacraments of healing**, these celebrate the healing power of Jesus
- Matrimony and holy orders are known as the **sacraments at the service of communion**, these help individuals to serve the community and bring about the salvation of others.

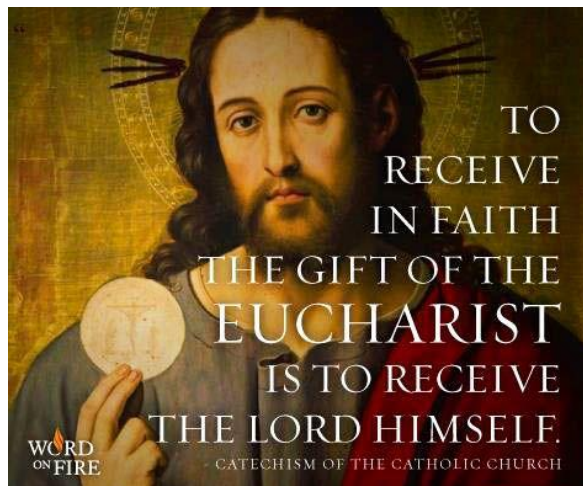
	<u>What happens during this sacrament?</u>	<u>Signs and symbols of this sacrament</u>
Baptism	This is the point in Which Catholics enter the Church. Water is poured on the baby's	Water is symbolic of the washing away of original sin. The person

	head while the priest says "I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy spirit" The persons being baptised becomes part of the family of God	being baptised receives God's grace this is also shown through the pouring of the water. The chrism is a symbol of strength.
Confirmation	This completes the sacrament of Baptism. The person confirms the promises made on their behalf during baptism.	The laying on of hands is a sign of the gift of the holy spirit during this sacrament. The Chrism is also a symbol of strength to join the mission of the Church
Eucharist	Catholics remember the last supper and they take the bread and wine as Jesus said do this in memory of me. The bread and wine are consecrated and become the body and blood of Christ.	The bread and wine are symbolic of Jesus' sacrifice for us and our sins. Catholics are spiritually nourished by receiving the Eucharist
Penance/ reconciliation	By confessing and expressing sorrow for their sins Catholics experience God's forgiveness and healing through absolution by the priest. The relationship with God is now repaired. Catholics can have this sacrament as often as they please.	The person admitting fault and confessing their sins the priest then says <i>"I absolve you from your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."</i>
Anointing of the sick	This unites a sick persons suffering with that of Jesus and brings forgiveness of sins before death	Viaticum - food for the Journey, holy communion for what may be the last time. The anointing with oil (symbol of strength)
Matrimony	A baptised man and woman are united with Christ and each other.	Wedding rings and eternal symbol of love and commitment to each other
Holy orders	Men are ordained as priests, bishops or deacons. Priests serve as spiritual leaders of the Catholic community	The laying on of hands - symbolic of the gift of the holy spirit and the anointing with oil (symbol of strength)

Explain why the sacraments are so important to Catholics (8)

The importance of the Eucharist for Catholics

- For Catholics the most regularly celebrated sacrament is the Eucharist. Catholics gather together to remember the last supper, when Jesus took the bread and wine and asked his disciples to remember him when they did the same.



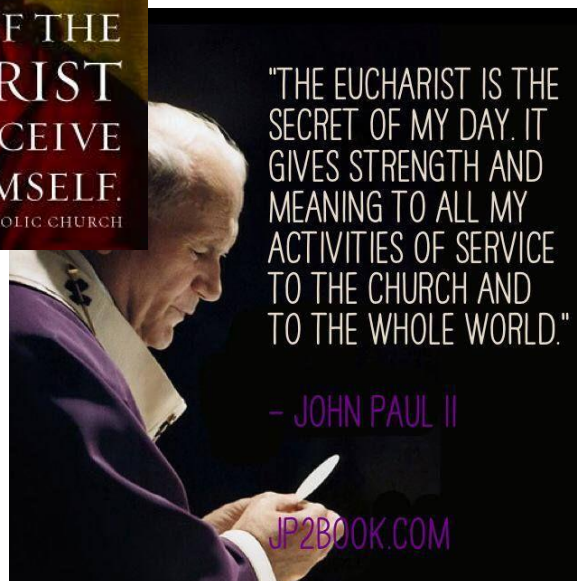
- The Eucharist is said to be "the source and summit of the Christian life" because being unified with God is the most important thing to Catholics. It is at the heart of spiritual life and they become closer to God

because they receive the body and blood of Christ in communion.

- Mass re-enacts sacrifice of Jesus on so it is the highest prayer that a can make Eucharist allows Catholics to unite

the
the cross,
form of
believer

- The individual



and be part of the body of Christ.

- Catholics believe that Christ is present in the mass because Christ works through the priest to transform the bread and wine into his body and blood this is known as transubstantiation, the consecrated bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ. Christ's body and blood spiritually sustain the believer.

Reduce this information to a mind map to show why the Eucharist is important to Catholics



Evangelisation

- Jesus gave his apostles a mission to go and spread the word of God. This is still the mission of the Catholic Church today. Going out to preach the Gospel is known as evangelisation.
- Without the work of the apostles we would not have the Church we have today.
- In the last 500 years the Catholic Church has become truly worldwide. Missionaries have gone from Europe and started Churches in Africa, South America and Asia.
- In recent years the focus of evangelisation has changed, there are few places that don't know about Jesus, so the Church now needs to focus on new ways to bring the Gospel to people who seem to have lost their way. Many parts of the world are becoming much more secular which means an increasing number of people without a religious faith.

**Go therefore
and make
disciples
of all the
nations**



Evangelii Gaudii

- *Evangelii Gaudium* - which is Latin for the Joy of the gospel. This is an **apostolic exhortation** which is a papal document that, as the name suggests, exhorts (encourages) people to implement a particular aspect of the Church's life and teaching. Its purpose is not to teach new doctrine, but to suggest how Church teachings and practices can be applied today.
- Pope Francis says that the heart of the Catholic message is love for one another, which must motivate people to share the Gospel, help the poor and work for social justice. *"for if we have received the love which restores meaning to our lives, how can we fail to share that love with others?"*

"We need a Church which is for the poor, the Church needs a special love and care for the poor and the sick but also those who are despised and overlooked"

"...evangelization is first and foremost about **preaching the Gospel to those who do not know Jesus Christ** or who have always rejected him. Many of them are quietly seeking God, led by a yearning to see his face...**All of them** have a right to receive the Gospel. Christians have the **duty to proclaim the Gospel without excluding anyone**"

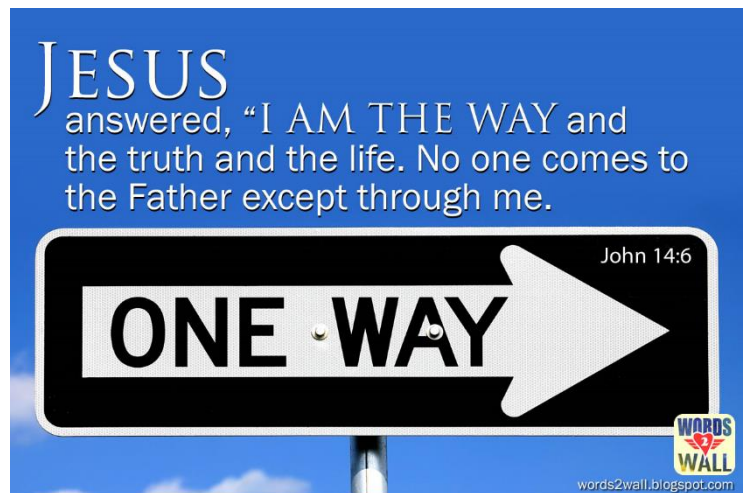
(evangelii gaudium)

YoungAndCatholic.net


- Pope Francis also says that the parish is important in spreading the message of the Church; parishes should be welcoming places, ready to greet new people and receive them into the community. Schools are essential as this is where young people learn the Gospel.
- Pope Francis wants us to look for new ways to spread the Gospel.

Why does the Church engage in evangelisation?

- Catholics believe that through Jesus' death and resurrection we can all achieve salvation, however to be saved you must have faith in Jesus and believe in his atoning death and resurrection. The Catholic church believes it has a duty and obligation to spread this faith as Jesus told his disciples to do, so as many people as possible can be saved.

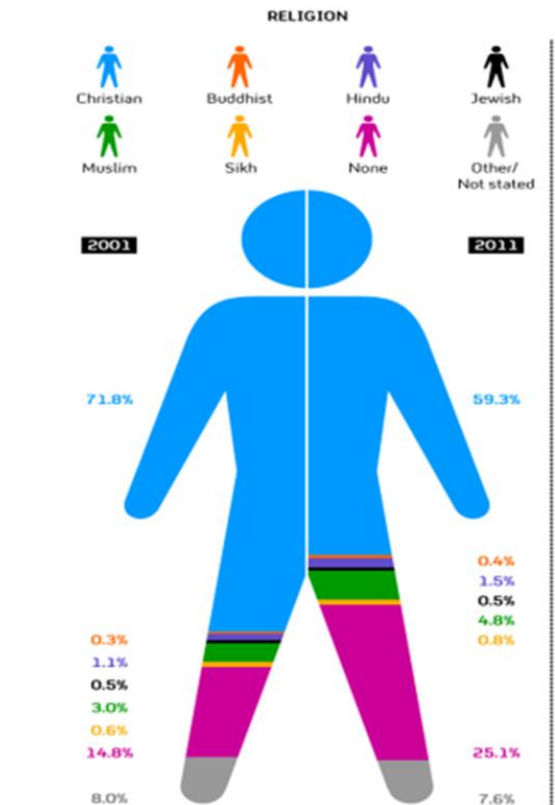


How does the Church engage in evangelisation?

<u>Locally</u>	<u>Nationally</u>	<u>Globally</u>
Pope Francis says that the parish "possesses great flexibility" meaning it can spread the Gospel in many ways. The parish will offer youth groups, social events, sacramental programmes, charity work and bible study. All of these spread the word of the gospel. The local parish will also try and bring the society together even working with other faiths for the goal of helping others. Each diocese will also have a Catholic newspaper.	There are Catholic national newspapers such as the Catholic herald which reach out to an audience weekly. The national bishops conference helps Catholics to know and share the Gospel 	The Catholic Church is a global presence, the pope has millions of followers on twitter, reaching out to a whole new audience. The church lives out the Gospel in the work of international charities like CAFOD Events such as world youth day reach out the young people, they are the future of the Church. These are attended by hundreds and thousands of Catholics worldwide.

Evangelising in the UK

- The diagram shows the changing nature of religion in the UK. The religious diversity of the UK has changed considerably over a 10-year period and many predict that this will continue to change.
- Such diversity brings challenges for evangelisation as so many people are happy with no faith so they do not wish to be preached at or wish to convert.
- Christianity is still the largest faith in the UK but some Churches are struggling with numbers and at risk of closing. This makes it increasingly difficult to spread the Gospel.
- However, the benefits of such diversity mean that we can learn and understand more about other faiths. The Catholic Church teaches that people of other faiths should be respected and Catholics should be sensitive to those who have no religious beliefs yet still seek to do good.
- Catholics should try to respect the difference and work in unity sharing common values such as respect, tolerance, charity and non-violence.



UK laws

- Christianity was introduced by the Romans to the UK almost 2000 years ago. This long history means that it is deeply embedded in many of the laws, traditions and festivals of the UK. The Church of England is the established religion of England; this means that it has links with the laws and court system. The Queen is also the head of state and the supreme governor of the Catholic Church.
- For laws to be passed in the UK the House of Commons and the house of laws have to have a say. The house of lords contains some of the Church of England's most senior bishops, so they have a direct role in shaping UK law. Meetings of both houses of parliament open with Christian prayers.

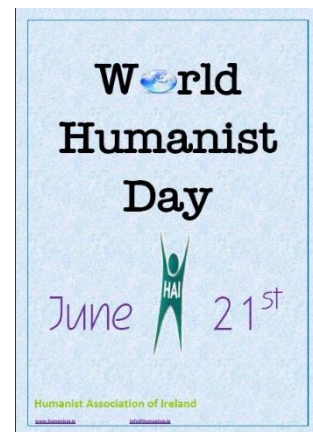
UK traditions

Many of the traditions in the UK have their foundation within Christianity for example:

- ✓ Keep the Sabbath holy - shops still have restricted opening hours on a Sunday
- ✓ In a UK court of Law witnesses are asked to swear on the Bible or a holy book of their choice to confirm they are telling the truth.
- ✓ Many people still choose to marry in a church even though they are not very religious.

UK Festivals

- The Christian calendar still influences UK public holidays. The two major Christian festivals are still widely celebrated in the UK. School holidays fall over these periods and many businesses will close.
- St. Valentine's day is also celebrated but many Christians say this is now too commercial and the religious element of this day has been lost.
- Other religious festivals are also celebrated such as Eid al-fitr which celebrates the end of Ramadan for Muslims
- There are many non-religious festivals celebrated in the UK such as the Notting Hill carnival and bonfire night, these are events which bring communities together without focusing on religion.
- Non-religious groups such as humanists will celebrate world humanist day but these are not celebrated by the rest of the UK.



Can you have a church without God?

- The Sunday Assembly was started by two comedians who were on the way to a gig in Bath when they discovered they both wanted to do something that was like church but totally secular and inclusive of all—no matter what they believed.



- The first ever Sunday Assembly meeting took place on January 6th 2013 at The Nave in Islington. Almost 200 people turned up at the first meeting, 300 at the second and soon people all over the world asked to start one. Now there are over 70 Sunday Assembly chapters in 8 different countries where people sing songs, hear inspiring talks, and create community together.

"Evangelism isn't appropriate in a multi-faith society like the UK"

Discuss this statement and bullet point ideas to show that you have considered a variety of different view points