

WJEC Religious Studies Syllabus A

Revision Book Roman Catholicism Two



Name

Beliefs, Teachings and Sources



KEYWORDS

Cosmological Theory - A theory by Thomas Aquinas to prove the existence of God.

Monotheist - A believer in One God (eg Christian, Jew, Muslim).

Apostolic Succession - Lineage from the Apostles to the present day Pope and Bishops, giving them authority within Christianity.

KEYWORDS

Church Council - throughout history there have been meetings of Bishops and Popes to discuss and define church doctrine. The last was Vatican II in the 1960s. There have been 21 councils in all.

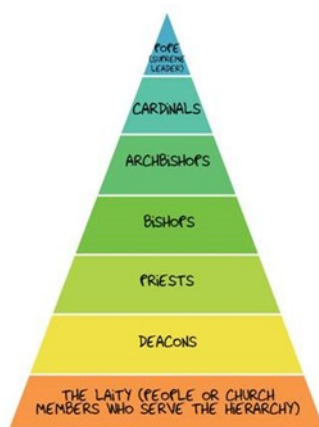
Infallibility - the ability of the Pope to make a pronouncement on faith and morals to the whole Catholic Church. This was defined in the 18th Century at Vatican I.

Bishop- comes from the 'episkope' which means overseer.

Encyclicals - letters written to the church by Popes. The most recent was 'The Joy of the Gospel' by Pope Francis. These are very important.

Magisterium - the teaching of the Pope and Bishops to define laws and teachings about the Church, guided by the Holy Spirit.

Structure of the Catholic Church



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The Pope

The Pope is called the Bishop of Rome, Successor of St Peter and Pontiff (bridge builder). Vicar of Christ this means he takes the place of, or acts in, place of Christ.

The Pope is able to make Infallible statements, but has only done so on two occasions: Immaculate Conception of Mary (1854) and the Assumption of Mary 1950. He uses infallibility when speaking **Ex Cathedra** (from the chair), to the whole church on matters of faith and morals. Infallibility comes from the Petrine Promise and Jesus' promise to send the Holy Spirit to help and guide the church in the Acts of the Apostles.

Foundations of Belief

Most Catholics are influenced by parents and family/community members. Or they may be inspired in their belief by someone (a teacher/priest or a saint), or had some sort of mystical experience/vision/inner voice (think John Pridmore Gods Gangster).

Many Catholics are brought up going to Mass, going through the sacraments and some experience Catholic schooling. Faith becomes part of life.

Reason and Revelation- The Bible, that was finalised by the Catholic Church around the 4th Century, is referred to as the '**Word of God**'. The Church teaches through documents such as '*Verbum Dei*' that reading and praying with the Bible is important as it one important way that God speaks to us. It also has authority on what to believe and how to act. This is sometimes called Propositional Revelation- or God revealing Himself directly through the Bible.

Non Propositional Revelation is when God reveals himself through personal religious experiences ie miracles/prayers/visions.

Reason - Throughout history, some have tried to use reason to prove God exists.

St Thomas Aquinas developed the Cosmological Argument in the 13th Century. This stated that everything had to come from something eg the chair came from wood, which came from a tree, which grew because it was planted by a person, the person came from his parents etc etc. Aquinas argued that there must be one thing that started the universe. This 'thing' had to be eternal, or else it would have needed something to bring it into being. Aquinas called this the Prime Mover. He stated that the only explanation for the Prime Mover was God and therefore God must exist.

The Church

The Church was founded by Jesus Christ who gave St Peter the role of leader. Since then the Bishop of Rome has been given the titles of Pope, and Successor of St Peter. He is leader of the Catholic Church.

The teaching of Apostolic Succession is based on Matthew 16:18-19 '**You are Peter the Rock and on you I will build my church, whatever you consider permitted on earth will be considered permitted in heaven whatever you consider forbid on earth will be considered forbidden in heaven.**' This is known as the Petrine Promise.

This means the Pope has the authority to interpret the Bible and make Church laws. The lineage of Popes and Bishops is called Apostolic Succession. This Succession is passed down through the 12 original Apostles. The teaching authority of the Pope and the bishops is called the Magisterium.

The Episcopacy

The Episcopacy refers to the line of Bishops from the 12 Apostles to the present day. They are seen as having authority to teach and preach within their Diocese. The Pope can overrule or remove them.

A Bishop must be ordained by a Bishop or someone of equivalent (a Cardinal or Pope). Each country is divided up into a number of Dioceses that are run by a Bishop.

Bishops are often referred to as shepherds, they have a crozier (shepherd's staff) to symbolize this.

The Bishops have many roles:- to ordain Priests and Deacons; oversee all Catholic Education and Parish life; write pastoral letters and perform Confirmations.

When groups of Bishops meet at a local level or an international level to discuss the Church it is called a Synod.

Practices and ways of life

What it means to be human	Respecting oneself respecting oneself
<p><u>Humans are created in the image and likeness of God</u></p> <p>Christians believe that each human being is created in the image and likeness of God and therefore reflect God in a unique way.</p> <p><u>Humans have free will</u></p> <p>God has given humans free will - the ability to choose between right and wrong for themselves. God has shown people how they should live but it is up to humans to decide whether or not to follow God's instructions.</p> <p><u>Humans grow and develop in the five following ways:</u></p> <p><u>Spiritually:</u> Relating to or affecting the human spirit or soul as opposed to material or physical things.</p> <p><u>Intellectually:</u> Relating to a persons mental powers.</p> <p><u>Physically:</u> Relating to the body as opposed to the mind.</p> <p><u>Socially:</u> Relating to how they interact with other human beings.</p> <p><u>Emotionally:</u> Relating to the awareness, control, and expression of one's emotions, and the ability to handle interpersonal relationships thoughtfully and compassionately.</p>	<p><u>Christian attitudes towards drugs and alcohol</u></p> <p>The key Christian teaching in relation to the use of drugs and alcohol is that the physical body is the natural home of the soul, and is therefore precious and sacred.</p> <p>'Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit.' (1 Corinthians 6:19)</p> <p>So, Christians do not approve of the taking of illegal drugs, including most recreational drugs, especially those which can alter the mind and make people incapable of praying or being alert to God.</p> <p>Christians can take prescription drugs when appropriate.</p> <p>Alcohol, tobacco and caffeine are examples of recreational drugs which are not forbidden to Roman Catholics as long as they are not abused.</p> <p>The Roman Catholic Church says:</p> <p>"The use of drugs inflicts very grave damage on human health and life. Their use, except on strictly therapeutic grounds, is a grave offence."</p> <p><u>Christian attitudes towards food</u></p> <p>The Catholic Church believes that human beings are permitted to participate in legitimate pleasures. Society however, often lures people into excess in the direction of either extreme.</p> <p>Enjoying a good meal is a good thing, but if you continually eat more than you need then you become obese - which can result in major health problems. It is also gluttony, which is a sin. On the other hand, if you deprive yourself of food until your health suffers, all for the sake of looking good - that's vanity.</p> <p>Both gluttony and vanity would be considered a lack of respect for 'The Sanctity of Life' - the belief that life is holy and belongs to God.</p> <p><u>Christian attitudes towards occupation</u></p> <p>Again 'The Sanctity of Life' issue that all life is holy and belongs to God should govern a Catholic's choice of occupation.</p> <p>Catholics should not choose an occupation which is unlawful for example a drug trafficker or prostitute. At the same time they should not choose an occupation that disrespects the basic human rights and dignity of themselves or others for example sex trafficking or working in the pornography industry.</p> <p>When choosing an occupation, Christians consider jobs where they are able to act as witnesses to the teachings of Jesus Christ.</p>

Identity, Diversity and Belonging

<p>How can Christians be responsible citizens of the world?</p>	<p>Multi-culturalism as a benefit and a challenge.</p>
<p><u>Serving others</u></p> <p>Christians often have jobs which involve serving others. Christians can be found in caring professions such as teaching, nursing and social work</p> <p><u>Showing compassion to those who suffer</u></p> <p>Many Christians, inspired by their beliefs, spend time working for charities for example involving themselves with the work of CAFOD who help relieve poverty and suffering overseas.</p> <p><u>Caring for the planet</u></p> <p>Christians see themselves as gifts from God created in His image and likeness. We are therefore unique and have a unique responsibility to be stewards of the world and care for everything which God created. Catholics will care for the environment by recycling, respecting natural resources.</p>	<p>The United Kingdom has a very strong spiritual heritage based on the Christian religion and this remains the case today. At the same time the United Kingdom is more a multi-faith society than any other in the European Union.</p> <p>Prior to the Second World War there were comparatively few people belonging to a non-Christian religion in the United Kingdom. The first wave of immigrants, after 1945, was mainly West Indian and Christian, and they soon began to form their own churches. Then in the 1960's there was a large influx from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Hong Kong, followed later by people from Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya. This led to the growth of significant communities, of Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs in the UK.</p> <p><u>The Benefits of a multi-faith society</u></p> <p>It increases tolerance and understanding as people realise that everyone is entitled their own opinion on religion.</p> <p>People are given an insight into the beliefs and practices of other religions.</p> <p>Living in a multi-faith society helps the religious believer to think about their own faith and beliefs.</p> <p>Ideally, living in a multi - faith society, should stop religious conflicts because to be truly multi- faith means there is religious freedom.</p> <p><u>Issues raised in a multi - faith society</u></p> <p><u>Conversion</u> - Conversion is an issue because the teachings of religions and the facts of a multi - faith society conflict with each other. They may believe that their religion is the only true religion and that all other religions are mistaken.</p> <p><u>Inter - faith marriages</u> - Often there can be no religious wedding ceremony because both couples must be members of the same religion for a religious wedding ceremony to be allowed.</p> <p><u>Bringing up children</u> - Most religions encourage parents to ensure that their children are brought up in their religion, and become members of it; consequently many parents do not want their children to learn about other religions.</p>

Ecumenism

What is ecumenism?

Ecumenism refers to the 'coming together' of different Christian denominations which have been divided since the splits in the Church in earlier ages. Catholics and Protestants do not agree on issues such as the nature of the Eucharist - Catholics believe that the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ - many Protestants do not.

Many Christians believed that the image of a divided Church hindered Christian efforts to present the Christian message to the world. Divisions among Christians seemed to contradict Jesus' prayer, "May they all be one, just as, Father, you are in me and I am in you." (John 17:21)

The Ecumenical Movement began in the early 20th century and encourages Christians to work together and seek unity. Ecumenical activities may include prayer, shared worship, joint discussion and study, joint social action and co-operation in charitable activities. In some places there are local or national councils of churches or inter-church clergy fellowships.

How has the ecumenical movement worked in practice?

The Taize Community

The Taize community was founded in 1944 by Brother Roger Schultz at Taize, a small village in South - Eastern France. It was set up as an ecumenical community to work for reconciliation among Christians. Today Taizé is one of the world's most important sites of Christian pilgrimage. Each year tens of thousands of young pilgrims flock to the small village of Taizé in central France to share in the community's way of life and celebrate what unites us as a Christian community.

Revision questions

- Describe how Roman Catholics can show that they are responsible citizens of the world. (4)
- Explain what ecumenism is (4)
- Explain the work of the Taize community (4)
- 'Christians have far more in common with what they believe than in what divides them.'

Do you agree? Give two reasons for your answer. You must include reference to religious belief in your answer. (4)

- 'All societies should be multi - faith societies'

Do you agree? Give reasons or evidence to show that you have considered more than one point of view. You must include reference to religious belief in your answer. (8)

Practices and ways of life

What it means to be human?	Respecting oneself respecting oneself
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Vocation

The word vocation means calling. It can be described as an inner feeling of what you have to do or a way that you have to live.

Christians believe they have a calling from God to be followers of Jesus, to be his disciples, to be members of the Church and to live their lives on Earth in the Christian way so that when they die, they can enter heaven.

How and why the laity can show vocation in daily life and work

Lay Christians can show vocation in the following ways:

By their choice of career, Christians can show vocation. They may act as a witness to the faith by choosing a caring profession such as a doctor, nurse, carer, teacher, counsellor, or a person working for equal opportunities.

Marriage is a vocation because the couple choose to have God's blessing on their relationship and are acting as witnesses to God by doing his will. They also bring up children in a Christian family which means parents are acting as disciples through teaching the faith.

Lay Christians show their vocation in daily life and work because they believe that when Jesus asked the disciples to go and 'baptise all nations', he meant that they should show their Christian faith in all their actions and in what they say to others.

How and why some Christians show their vocation by taking holy orders

The priesthood is a vocation, a calling to serve God. A priest has to be an unmarried man. He is usually assigned to a parish. It is the duty of the bishop to make sure there are priests to serve the people in his diocese. If a man wants to become a priest, he must want to follow Christ and be prepared for the kind of life he will have to lead.

Men take holy orders because:

It is their vocation. They have a special calling from God to devote the whole of their life to his service through the ordained ministry.

It is a calling that most priests could not ignore. When priests talk about why they have taken holy orders, they often say that they tried to ignore God's call, but it was so persistent that in the end they had to accept it.

As the Catechism of the Catholic Church states, it is the way in which they can 'share in the mission that Christ entrusted the apostles'.

They want to serve the Church by carrying out the vital work of celebrating the sacraments that give spiritual food and strength to the people. For example, consecrating the bread and wine during the Mass.

Some men also feel called to serve the needs of the people in their own parish.

The role of the 'Religious'

Religious are lay people, men and women, who live in a community and take vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Religious are usually known as monks, brothers, nuns or sisters. Some Christians choose to follow God by joining a Religious Order. There are two main types of religious life.

Contemplative - this applies to those who choose to live out their vocation in structured prayer, meditation and work, usually in enclosed religious orders.

Apostolic - religious communities which combine a life of prayer with a life working in the world, for example in education.

Religious men and women are consecrated to God by three vows, these are called evangelical counsels. They are not considered commands but gifts. They are poverty, chastity and obedience - giving up their money, their sex life and their freedom to do as they want, to show their complete love of God.

Roman Catholicism 2 - Meaning, Purpose & Truth



The Origin of Evil

What is original sin?

Original sin is an Augustine Christian doctrine that says that everyone is born sinful. This means that they are born with a built-in urge to do bad things and to disobey God. It is an important doctrine within the Roman Catholic Church. The concept of Original Sin was explained in depth by St Augustine and formalised as part of Roman Catholic doctrine by the Councils of Trent in the 16th Century. Original sin is not just this inherited spiritual disease or defect in human nature; it's also the 'condemnation' that goes with that fault.

An explanation for the evils of the world

Some Christians believe that original sin explains why there is so much wrong in a world created by a perfect God, and why people need to have their souls 'saved' by God.

The Fall and the origin of evil

Christians believe that when Adam and Eve sinned in Eden and turned away from God they brought sin into the world and turned the whole human race away from God.

The doctrine absolves God of responsibility for the evils that make our world imperfect by teaching that Adam and Eve introduced evil to a perfect world when they disobeyed him.

The Nature of God

God- is one

Trinity- One God - three persons - The Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Father- creator of all

Son- Jesus Christ redeemer of Mankind

Holy Spirit - The Lord the giver of Life.

Consubstantial- The Son comes from the Father, he is not created

Filioque- The Holy Spirit comes from the Father and the Son.

Omnipresent - God is everywhere

Omnipotent-God is all powerful

Omniscient - God is all knowing

Omnibenevolent - God is all loving

Immanent- God is close to people and acting in the world

Incarnate- God became a human being in Jesus Christ.

Transcendent - God is beyond human understanding

God also seen as the following;

Eternal, Judge, Shepherd, Father, Creator

Evil & Suffering

Evil and suffering can take two forms:

Moral evil: This is evil that is caused by humans misusing their free will. It is always possible to choose to do something good or something evil. Humans choosing to do evil makes a moral evil. War is a good example of moral evil.

Natural evil: is suffering that has not been caused by humans. Earthquakes, floods, volcanoes, drought, tsunamis, hurricanes, tornadoes, cancers and so on are not actually caused by humans, but they result in massive amounts of human suffering. However, the destruction of the natural environment by humans does lead to the balance of nature being upset and more disasters happening.

Expressing Meaning



Social Action

Social justice implies that everyone should be treated equally and fairly. The Catholic Church teaches '**God made man in His own image**' and therefore everyone should be treated with respect. Jesus teaches '**Love your neighbour as yourself**' and spent His time on earth with outcasts in society eg the tax collectors. Jesus also commanded that His followers do the same. The parable of the sheep and the goats says '**Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine you did it for me**'. Our actions on earth affect how we are judged and our eternal destination.

The Work of CAFOD

CAFOD stands for the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development. It began in 1962 and its vision is to see the world transformed to reflect the Kingdom of God. CAFOD believes that the rights and dignity of every person needs to be respected and all should have access to basic needs in life. CAFOD has four main aims:-

Short Term Aid - CAFOD responds to emergencies all over the world, providing food, clean water and shelter. They also act before a crisis by developing early warning systems and encouraging the use of drought resistant crops.

Long Term Aid - '**Give a man a fish and feed him for a day, Teach a man to fish and feed him for a lifetime**'. CAFOD works to give people in the developing world the skills they need to deal with their own problems eg helping people set up their own businesses, teaching skills eg farming methods, giving equipment, education and supporting people to help themselves out of poverty.

CAFOD also works with other agencies, eg Christian Aid, Fair trade and Caritas International

CAFOD and Fundraising

Most of CAFOD's money comes from fundraising and the Catholic community in England and Wales. CAFOD also gets some funding from the Government eg they match pound for pound all fundraising done in a set period, for example Lent, Comic Relief and the DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee).

Out of every pound donated about 76p supports international emergency and development work, 12p is used for education and campaigning to tackle poverty, 11p is invested to generate more income and 1p is used for administration costs.

CAFOD and Education

CAFOD's education department work with volunteers, who visit schools, youth groups and parishes to talk about the work of CAFOD.

CAFOD produces many resources for schools to use with the aim of helping people understand the causes of poverty and how CAFOD works.

Campaigners put pressure on MP's to help tackle causes of poverty, for example, Climate Change.

Beliefs about Mary

The Immaculate Conception

This is a belief, an infallible statement made in 1854 that Mary was born without Original Sin. This enabled her to give birth to God's Son.



In this painting, Mary has 12 stars around her head, symbolising the 12 disciples or the 12 tribes of Israel. She is clothed with the sun and has the moon under her feet and she is pregnant. This is linked to Revelation 12:1-6 where it refers to 'a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of 12 stars on her head. She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth'. It is believed that this passage is about the Virgin Mary. Mary is seen as the Queen of Heaven.

Catholics believe that the birth of Jesus is miraculous because Jesus is God as a human being (the Incarnation). No human father was involved in the conception of Jesus, this teaching is known as 'the Virgin Birth'. Some early Christian writers believed that as Mary was without Original Sin, she did not suffer pain in childbirth, and therefore looks very serene in some paintings of the Nativity.

Many artists have painted pictures of the Annunciation, when the Angel Gabriel announced that Mary was to be the Mother of God. The prayer the Hail Mary, recalls the words of the Angel Gabriel 'Blessed are you amongst women'. Many artists have painted this scene

In the Catholic Church there are feast days for Mary, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and a feast that celebrates Mary the Mother of God

Icons

Icons are used by Catholics as a focus when praying.



This is a Hodigitria icon. Mary is pointing to Jesus as if to say look at Him, not me. She is wearing a veil with 3 stars to symbolise that she is ever Virgin. Mary's attitude is one of Majesty, symbolising she is the Queen of Heaven. Jesus looks straight at the viewer and blesses them.

The Assumption of Mary

This was proclaimed as an infallible statement in 1950 by Pope Pius XII. This states that because Mary was without Original Sin she did not die, but was taken up to Heaven, body and soul, to be with God forever. This was a privilege granted to Mary by God.

Why Do Catholics Honour Mary?

She is the Mother of God, her Son, Jesus Christ is the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity.

Through Baptism Christians become the children of God and brothers and sisters of Christ, therefore Mary is our Mother, the Mother of the Church.

On the cross, Jesus gave his Mother to be our Mother when He said to the disciple John 'Son, this is your Mother'

Values and Commitments



Purpose of Punishment

Christianity teaches that God is loving and forgiving. However, loving your enemy does not mean that criminals. The reasons for punishing criminals are:-

Retribution - taking revenge. The Old Testament says "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" however, Jesus says to "turn the other cheek" which means Christians should not seek revenge.

Deterrence - to put people off offending by making potential criminals fear the consequences. Christians would support this view as long as the punishment is seen to be fair and just.

Protection - To protect society from dangerous criminals. This is in line with Christian teaching, although many Christians object to the death penalty.

Reformation - To turn criminals away from crime. This is in line with Christian teaching on Reconciliation, repentance and forgiveness.

Capital Punishment

Capital punishment is the death penalty, imposed by the state. In the UK it stopped being used in 1965. However, it is still used by many countries both democratic and non democratic.

In the past, many Christians accepted that Capital Punishment was necessary, however, in recent times, opinions have changed and many Christians now argue against it on the grounds that Christians should support life.

The Catholic Church has never said Capital Punishment is wrong, although many Popes have condemned it. The Church of England believes the justice system should show mercy but people should be punished for their crimes.

Arguments For Capital Punishment

The Old Testament teaches "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth". In the Old testament you could be put to death for 36 offences including idolatry, magic, blasphemy and murder.

It is argued that if you commit an offence knowing that the punishment is death, then it is like suicide, you have chosen to die.

It costs thousands of pounds a year to keep someone in prison.

It is used as a deterrent and to protect society.

Arguments Against Capital Punishment

If God gives life and only God should take it away.

It cannot be reversed if mistakes are made.

Jesus said to the woman committing adultery "Let he who is without sin, cast the first stone".

The Ten Commandments say "Do not kill".

If murder is wrong, why is execution right?

Christianity is based on forgiveness and compassion.

Useful Quotations for GCSE Religious Studies

'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth' - Old Testament

'Turn the other cheek' - Jesus

'An eye for an eye makes everybody blind' - Ghandi

'Love your neighbour as you love yourself' - Jesus

'Love your enemies, bless those who persecute you' - Jesus

'Do not kill' - 10 Commandments

'Do not commit adultery' - 10 Commandments

'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us' - Lord's Prayer, Jesus

'For better, for worse, in sickness and in health' - Marriage ceremony

'What God has joined together let no man separate' - Marriage ceremony, Jesus

'You knit me together in my mother's womb' - Old Testament

'For a man to lie with a man is beastly' - Old Testament

'Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you' - Old Testament

'God made man in his own image' - Genesis creation story

'On this rock I will build my church' - Jesus said this to Peter, the first Pope

'All Scripture is God breathed' - St Paul

'Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them' - Jesus

'It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven' - Jesus

'Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit' - St Paul

'The merciless slaughter of unborn children is never justified' - The Catechism of the Catholic Church

'Let he who is without sin, cast the first stone' - Jesus

Useful Bible Passages

The Good Samaritan

A teacher of the Law came up and tried to trap Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to receive eternal life?"

²⁶ Jesus answered him, "What do the Scriptures say? How do you interpret them?"

²⁷ The man answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind'; and 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself.'"

²⁸ "You are right," Jesus replied; "do this and you will live."

²⁹ But the teacher of the Law wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbour?"

³⁰ Jesus answered, "There was once a man who was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho when robbers attacked him, stripped him, and beat him up, leaving him half dead. ³¹ It so happened that a priest was going down that road; but when he saw the man, he walked on by on the other side. ³² In the same way a Levite also came there, went over and looked at the man, and then walked on by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan who was traveling that way came upon the man, and when he saw him, his heart was filled with pity. ³⁴ He went over to him, poured oil and wine on his wounds and bandaged them; then he put the man on his own animal and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Take care of him,' he told the innkeeper, 'and when I come back this way, I will pay you whatever else you spend on him.'"

³⁶ And Jesus concluded, "In your opinion, which one of these three acted like a neighbor toward the man attacked by the robbers?"

³⁷ The teacher of the Law answered, "The one who was kind to him."

Jesus replied, "You go, then, and do the same."

The Woman Caught Committing Adultery

Then each of them went home, while Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."

The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats

"When the Son of Man comes as King and all the angels with him, he will sit on his royal throne, ³² and the people of all the nations will be gathered before him. Then he will divide them into two groups, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the righteous people at his right and the others at his left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to the people on his right, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father! Come and possess the kingdom which has been prepared for you ever since the creation of the world. ³⁵ I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your homes, ³⁶ naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me.' ³⁷ The righteous will then answer him, 'When, Lord, did we ever see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? ³⁸ When did we ever see you a stranger and welcome you in our homes, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we ever see you sick or in prison, and visit you?' ⁴⁰ The King will reply, 'I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important of these followers of mine, you did it for me!'

⁴¹ "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Away from me, you that are under God's curse! Away to the eternal fire which has been prepared for the Devil and his angels! ⁴² I was hungry but you would not feed me, thirsty but you would not give me a drink; ⁴³ I was a stranger but you would not welcome me in your homes, naked but you would not clothe me; I was sick and in prison but you would not take care of me.' ⁴⁴ Then they will answer him, 'When, Lord, did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and we would not help you?' ⁴⁵ The King will reply, 'I tell you, whenever you refused to help one of these least important ones, you refused to help me.' ⁴⁶ These, then, will be sent off to eternal punishment, but the righteous will go to eternal life."

Keywords

Agnosticism - Not being sure whether or not *God* exists.

Anglican Churches - Churches that are in communion with the Church of England

Apostolic succession - The belief that the bishops and the Pope continue the mission Jesus gave to Peter and the apostles.

Apostolic tradition - The oral *Gospel* passed on by the apostles to the bishops.

Atheism - Believing that *God* does not exist.

Bishops - Priests specially chosen by the Pope who are responsible for all the in the Diocese.

CAFOD - The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, a Catholic Charity.

Catechism - Official teaching of the Roman Catholic Church.

Catechist - A person who instructs Catholics about their faith especially in preparation for the sacraments.

Catholic - Universal or worldwide (The Church reaches out to all people).

Celibacy - Living without engaging in any sexual activity.

Confirmation - The sacrament admitting a baptised person to full participation in the Church.

Contemplative life - The life of prayer and meditation lived by some religious orders.

Cosmological Argument - Theory to prove *God's* existence developed by Thomas Aquinas.

Deacon - Those called to assist bishops, especially in the caring for the needy.

Deterrence - The punishment should prevent someone from wanting to commit the crime in the first place.

Diocese - A Church area under the direction of a bishop.

Discrimination - Treating people less favourably because of their ethnicity/gender/colour/sexuality/age/class.

Ecumenism - Working together, regardless of differences of belief eg Protestants working with Catholics.

Episcopacy - The Bishops in the Church.

Eucharist - A service celebrating the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ using elements of bread and wine.

Golden Rule - The teaching of Jesus Christ that you should treat others as you would like them to treat you.

Holy orders - The status of a priest, bishop or deacon.

Humankind - Every human being is made up of a physical, mental, spiritual and emotional nature.

Immaculate Conception - The Catholic belief that *God* preserved the Virgin Mary from original sin from the moment she was conceived.

Infallible - The Pope has the authority to make Infallible statements, which come from *God* and cannot be questioned. This has only happened twice, for the Immaculate Conception and the Assumption of Mary.

Interfaith marriage - Marriage where the husband and wife are from different religions.

Just war - A war that is fought for the right reasons in the right way.

Laiety - All the people of the Church who are not chosen to be bishops, priests or deacons.

Liturgy of the Eucharist - The re-enactment of the Last Supper during which the bread and wine are transubstantiated.

Liturgy of the Word - Bible readings in the second part of the Mass.

Moral evil - Actions done by humans which cause suffering.

Multi-Culturalism - Living in a society where lots of people have different beliefs, traditions and cultures.

Natural evil - Things that cause suffering, but have nothing to do with humans, for example, earthquakes.

Omni-benevolent - The belief that God is all - good.

Omnipotent - The belief that God is all - powerful.

Omniscient - The belief that God knows all that has happened, all that is happening now, and all that will happen in the future.

Origin - The beginning, how it all started.

Our Lady - A respectful title used by Catholics for Mary.

Pacifist - Someone who believes in non-violence eg Jesus, Martin Luther King and the Quaker Church.

Papacy - Referring to the Pope.

Parish - A local church community.

Penitential Rite - The confession and absolution at the beginning of Mass.

Personal Conscience - An inner feeling of right or wrong. Some believe it to be the voice of God guiding the moral decisions we make.

Pluralism - The belief that all religions are equal and are just different ways of finding God.

Pope - The head of the Roman Catholic Church.

Reform - Punishment should help people become responsible members of society again, and they won't commit the crime again.

Reparation - If someone breaks the law, they must make amends by paying back to society eg community service.

Retribution - If someone has committed a crime they should be given a punishment that fits the crime eg 'an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth'

Rite of communion - Receiving the body and blood of Jesus.

Sanctity of life - The belief that life is holy and belongs to God.

The Religious - Monks or nuns who have a calling from God.

Transubstantiation - The belief that during Mass the bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Vocation - A calling from God. The Catholic Church sees the Priesthood, becoming a monk or nun (the Religious) and Marriage as vocations.

Catholic Teachings on the Use of Force and Violence

The teaching of the Catholic Church on violence is based on the teaching of Jesus. He taught to **"love your enemies"**, **"turn the other cheek"** and **"do good to those who persecute you"**. Jesus did not just teach non-violence, He lived it all the way to his death when He prayed **"Father forgive them for they know not what they are doing"**.

Jesus was a Pacifist (someone who did not believe in violence) and today the Church teaches that violence is wrong unless it is used in self-defence. Christians are encouraged to follow the example Jesus set. Jesus taught **"love your neighbour as you love yourself"** and it is clear from the Parable of the Good Samaritan that your neighbour is your enemy, as the Jews and the Samaritans hated each other.

However, throughout history Christians have partaken in acts of violence eg the Crusades and the Slave Trade. It is recognised that this was wrong, and today they use a variety of non-violent methods to get their message across such as: peaceful demonstrations, sit-ins, picketing, holding vigils, fasting and hunger strikes and blockades.

Martin Luther King is an example of a Christian who used non-violence to achieve his aim of equality for all, whatever your skin colour, in the USA. Martin quoted Ghandi when he said **"an eye for an eye makes everybody blind"**.

Oscar Romero was born in 1917 in El Salvador, he was the Archbishop who spoke out about the poor, wrote to world leaders asking them not to provide money for weapons which were being used in the Civil War in El Salvador, and called on soldiers not to kill the poor. He was assassinated whilst saying Mass in 1980 by those who objected to his message.

Just War Theory

A Just War is a war that has to be fought but is fought within certain conditions. The Just War Theory provides guidance for states to act in the event of a conflict situation.

The original conditions for a Just War were written by St Augustine. He said war could only take place if there was:-

A Just Cause, this could only happen if you were to defend yourself.

War can only be declared by a Government eg Civil War is not Just.

Thomas Aquinas added:-

There had to be a clear aim and fighting stopped once the aim had been achieved.

The Just War Theory

Four more clauses were added:-

Limits to restrict the amount of force used, and the protection of those not fighting

There is a reasonable chance of success, it would be wrong to fight a war with no chance of winning.

All other possibilities of solving the conflict have been tried. War is a last resort.

The good achieved as a result of war, must outweigh the evil of war.

The Problem of evil and suffering

Some cannot believe that a good God would have designed a world with natural evils in it. If they had been God, they would not have created a world with floods, earthquakes, volcanoes, cancers, etc; as they believe God must be better than them, they cannot believe that God would have done so. They find it easier to believe that these features are a result of the Earth evolving by accident from the Big Bang and so they question or reject God's existence.

Some people cannot believe in a God who allows humans to cause so much evil and suffering when He could stop it if He wanted to. If God exists, He must have known what Adolf Hitler would do, so why would He not give Hitler a heart attack before all the suffering caused by the Second World War and the Holocaust?

Philosophers express the problem of evil and suffering in this way:

If God is omnipotent (all powerful), he must be able to remove evil and suffering from the world.

If God is omni-benvolent (all - good), he must want to remove evil and suffering from the world because they cause so much unhappiness.

It follows that if God exists, there should be no evil or suffering in the world.

As there is evil and suffering in the world, either God is not omnipotent, or God is not omni-benvolent, or God does not exist.

This is often connected with God's omniscience, because if God knows past, present and future, why doesn't he stop evil and suffering before it occurs?

Personal Responses to Suffering

There are several Catholic responses to the problem of evil and suffering. They can include the following:

Response One:

Catholics believe that God wants them to help those who suffer. The New Testament teaches Catholics that Jesus regarded evil and suffering as something to be fought against. Jesus healed the sick, fed the hungry, challenged those who were evil, and raised the dead.

Response Two:

Many Catholics respond by claiming that evil and suffering are not God's fault. According to Genesis 1, God created humans in His image, which means he created them with free will. They claim that God wanted people to be free to decide whether to believe in God or not. To be free means to do either good or evil, and so God could not have created people who always did the good. So evil and suffering are a problem caused by humans, and are not God's fault.

Response Three

Often connected with the free will response is the Christian belief that evil and suffering in this life are not a problem because they are part of a plan in which those who suffer will be rewarded by eternal paradise after they die.

Most Catholics claim that this life is a preparation for paradise. If people are to improve their souls they need to face evil and suffering in order to become good, kind and loving. They claim that the evil and suffering in this life is something God cannot remove if He is going to give people a chance to become good people. But, in the end, he will show His omni-benevolence and omnipotence by rewarding them in heaven.

In the Old Testament, Job has a wife and family and good life. Satan asks God if he can tempt Job to curse him.

Satan makes Job's life miserable, takes his family away makes him ill. Job does not give in even when his friends tell him he must have offended God.

In the end God restores his health and explains his omniscience.

Response Four

Many Catholics believe that there is no point in worrying about the problem because humans cannot understand God's reasons for doing things. God must have a reason for allowing evil and suffering, but humans cannot know what it is because they are not God. However, Catholics know from the life of Jesus that even God's own Son had to suffer, and that Jesus commanded his followers to respond to suffering by helping those who suffer.

Vocation

The word vocation means calling. It can be described as an inner feeling of what you have to do or a way that you have to live.

Christians believe they have a calling from God to be followers of Jesus, to be his disciples, to be members of the Church and to live their lives on Earth in the Christian way so that when they die, they can enter heaven.

How and why the laity can show vocation in daily life and work

Lay Christians can show vocation in the following ways:

By their choice of career, Christians can show vocation. They may act as a witness to the faith by choosing a caring profession such as a doctor, nurse, carer, teacher, counsellor, or a person working for equal opportunities.

Marriage is a vocation because the couple choose to have God's blessing on their relationship and are acting as witnesses to God by doing his will. They also bring up children in a Christian family which means parents are acting as disciples through teaching the faith.

Lay Christians show their vocation in daily life and work because they believe that when Jesus asked the disciples to go and 'baptise all nations', he meant that they should show their Christian faith in all their actions and in what they say to others.

How and why some Christians show their vocation by taking holy orders

The priesthood is a vocation, a calling to serve God. A priest has to be an unmarried man. He is usually assigned to a parish. It is the duty of the bishop to make sure there are priests to serve the people in his diocese. If a man wants to become a priest, he must want to follow Christ and be prepared for the kind of life he will have to lead.

Men take holy orders because:

It is their vocation. They have a special calling from God to devote the whole of their life to his service through the ordained ministry.

It is a calling that most priests could not ignore. When priests talk about why they have taken holy orders, they often say that they tried to ignore God's call, but it was so persistent that in the end they had to accept it.

As the Catechism of the Catholic Church states, it is the way in which they can 'share in the mission that Christ entrusted the apostles'.

They want to serve the Church by carrying out the vital work of celebrating the sacraments that give spiritual food and strength to the people. For example, consecrating the bread and wine during the Mass.

Some men also feel called to serve the needs of the people in their own parish.

The role of the 'Religious'

Religious are lay people, men and women, who live in a community and take vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Religious are usually known as monks, brothers, nuns or sisters. Some Christians choose to follow God by joining a Religious Order. There are two main types of religious life.

Contemplative - this applies to those who choose to live out their vocation in structured prayer, meditation and work, usually in enclosed religious orders.

Apostolic - religious communities which combine a life of prayer with a life working in the world, for example in education.

Religious men and women are consecrated to God by three vows, these are called evangelical counsels. They are not considered commands but gifts. They are poverty, chastity and obedience - giving up their money, their sex life and their freedom to do as they want, to show their complete love of God.

Roman Catholicism 2 - Meaning, Purpose & Truth



The Nature of God

God- is one

Trinity- One God - three persons - The Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Father- creator of all

Son- Jesus Christ redeemer of Mankind

Holy Spirit - The Lord the giver of Life.

Consubstantial- The Son comes from the Father , he is not created

Filioque- The Holy Spirit comes from the Father and the Son.

Omnipresent - God is everywhere

Omnipotent-God is all powerful

Omniscient - God is all knowing

Omnibenevolent - God is all loving

Immanent- God is close to people and acting in the world

Incarnate- God became a human being in Jesus Christ.

Transcendent - God is beyond human understanding

God also seen as the following;

Eternal, Judge, Shepherd, Father, Creator

The Origin of Evil

What is original sin?

Original sin is an Augustine Christian doctrine that says that everyone is born sinful. This means that they are born with a built-in urge to do bad things and to disobey God. It is an important doctrine within the Roman Catholic Church. The concept of Original Sin was explained in depth by St Augustine and formalised as part of Roman Catholic doctrine by the Councils of Trent in the 16th Century.

Original sin is not just this inherited spiritual disease or defect in human nature; it's also the 'condemnation' that goes with that fault.

An explanation for the evils of the world

Some Christians believe that original sin explains why there is so much wrong in a world created by a perfect God, and why people need to have their souls 'saved' by God.

The Fall and the origin of evil

Christians believe that when Adam and Eve sinned in Eden and turned away from God they brought sin into the world and turned the whole human race away from God. The doctrine absolves God of responsibility for the evils that make our world imperfect by teaching that Adam and Eve introduced evil to a perfect world when they disobeyed him.

Evil & Suffering

Evil and suffering can take two forms:

Moral evil: This is evil that is caused by humans misusing their free will. It is always possible to choose to do something good or something evil. Humans choosing to do evil makes a moral evil. War is a good example of moral evil.

Natural evil: is suffering that has not been caused by humans. Earthquakes, floods, volcanoes, drought, tsunamis, hurricanes, tornadoes, cancers and so on are not actually caused by humans, but they result in massive amounts of human suffering. However, the destruction of the natural environment by humans does lead to the balance of nature being upset and more disasters happening.

The Problem of evil and suffering

Some cannot believe that a good God would have designed a world with natural evils in it. If they had been God, they would not have created a world with floods, earthquakes, volcanoes, cancers, etc; as they believe God must be better than them, they cannot believe that God would have done so. They find it easier to believe that these features are a result of the Earth evolving by accident from the Big Bang and so they question or reject God's existence.

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Identity, Diversity and Belonging

How can Christians be responsible citizens of the world?

Serving others

Christians often have jobs which involve serving others. Christians can be found in caring professions such as teaching, nursing and social work

Showing compassion to those who suffer

Many Christians, inspired by their beliefs, spend time working for charities for example involving themselves with the work of CAFOD who help relieve poverty and suffering overseas.

Caring for the planet

Christians see themselves as gifts from God created in His image and likeness. We are therefore unique and have a unique responsibility to be stewards of the world and care for everything which God created. Catholics will care for the environment by recycling, respecting natural resources.