



2.2 Sin & Forgiveness

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CRIME VS. SIN

Crime - an action that breaks the law.

Laws protect the vulnerable, encourage acceptable behaviour, and keep good order in society.

Sin - an action that goes against God's will. God wills us to love one another.

Morality - the kind of principles (morals) somebody lives by. "Ethics" has the same meaning.

Absolute morality - when a person keeps to their moral principles without deviating from them eg if lying is wrong, it is always wrong. Christians often see the Ten Commandments as absolute moral principles, because God said those actions should not be done.

Relative morality - when a person believes that what is right depends on the situation eg lying is acceptable if it gets you out of trouble.

In practice, people often adopt a **mixed approach** - they are willing to consider the situation before deciding what is right (relative), but they also believe that some moral principles should never be broken, no matter what the situation (it is never right to rape - absolute).

Some sins are not crimes:

- adultery
- idolatry
- swearing by God's name

Some crimes are not sins"

- parking in an forbidden area

Most crimes are also sins, as crimes show recklessness which is also a sin - it can result in harm.

**Repent
AND SIN
NO MORE!**

Deterrence

= to put someone off doing something

- **Fear of punishment** can make someone think twice eg fear of prison or of a large fine, can be a deterrent

- **doesn't always work:** a rich person may not care about a fine; a homeless drug addict may not care about going to prison.

- **Christians would agree** with this aim as it discourages sin.



AIMS OF PUNISHMENT

Retribution

= to seek revenge for a wrong done.

- Punishment is meant **to make someone suffer** for the wrong they did - this feels like equal justice. But if the punishment is too harsh, it isn't justice - only revenge.

- it supports the OT idea of "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth"

- **Christians would disagree** with this, as it goes against Jesus' teachings to love your neighbour and to forgive others.

Rehabilitation

= to help someone go back to being a better person and a law-abiding member of society

- Punishment is meant to **help someone change** their behaviour - eg by curfews (stay away from trouble); community service (learn better behaviour)

restorative justice (meet their victim and realise what they did), job training courses in prison and counselling in prison can help someone

- **Christians would agree** with this, as Jesus would want people to be their best selves and less sinful.

- some people think this is a **"soft option"** and hardened criminals will never change.

Jesus taught forgiveness - it is the only way someone can have another chance at life. **If we don't forgive**, then we can't expect God to forgive us on Judgement Day, or live again in the Kingdom of God.

Forgiveness



Teachings on Forgiveness

In the **Parable of the Lost Son**, the father welcomes back his son - even though he spent all his inheritance (half the family money) - because he is happy to see him live again "This son of mine was lost, and is found; he was dead, and is alive".



In the **Parable of the Unmerciful servant**, the servant was forgiven a huge debt by his master, but he himself refused to forgive a fellow-servant from a small debt. When the Master heard about this, he put this servant back into prison to pay back all his large debt, because he had not shown the same forgiveness to others, as he himself had enjoyed from the master.



The Our Father Prayer
 "Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us".

The Woman caught in Adultery: the Jews want to stone her, for committing adultery, but Jesus challenges them "Let him who is without sin cast the first stone". Everybody is a sinner, therefore no-one has the right to punish: and they all drop their stones. We should remember this too, when we want to see someone else punished.

seventy *times* seven
70⁷
Matthew 18:21-22

Peter asks Jesus how often he must forgive, if the same person wrongs him - up to 7 times? Jesus replies - not 7, but 70x7 times - ie. many, many times. We should not be afraid to keep on forgiving.



Forgive or Punish?

Punish - because too much forgiveness is bad:

- we would not learn the seriousness of committing crime/ sin
- evil would go unchallenged, criminals would become shameless in wrong-doing
- punishment is needed to restore right order in society

Forgive - because too much punishment is bad

- criminals may become resentful if the punishment was too harsh for the crime committed
- punishment by itself will not help to rehabilitate the criminal or give them a reason to change
- justice will never be fully done on this earth: it is up to God to punish, not humans, so we should focus on showing forgiveness and giving people a second chance.
- we should focus on building a fairer society for everyone, so people don't feel that they have to turn to crime



CAPITAL PUNISHMENT Facts

China is the world's top executioner - mostly of political prisoners, but hides the exact numbers as a state secret.

Arab countries - Iran, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Pakistan account for 84% of world executions (as muslim nations, they obey the Qu'ran, which prescribes the death penalty for certain crimes). 38% of executions are of foreign nationals.

USA states have mostly banned CP, but Texas executes the most.

The UK abolished CP in 1965.

Aguments about CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

FOR - Catholic

Old Testament

- *An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth* - taking equal revenge is fair
- *Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed* (Gen 9:6) Equal justice.

New Testament

Jesus accepts the right of state to impose capital punishment, in his own death. He tells Pilate that his power to execute comes from God (Jn 19:11)

Gospel of Matthew "*Whatever measure you deal out to others will be dealt back to you*" (Mt 7:2) echoes OT arguments for equal justice - you get back what you give out.

St Paul says "Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for God has established them." (Rom 13:1-7)

Magisterium:

St Augustine wrote: "*The agent of authority is but a sword in the hand...to put criminals to death according to law or the rule of rational justice.*" This means that a just state acts as God's agent when it uses its legal power over life and death.

Catechism says the Death Penalty is acceptable when there is no other punishment available that can effectively protect society.

Other - Secular - Reasons

In favour of the death penalty

- Retribution or equal justice
- Closure: the victim knows the criminal has gone
- Deterrence
- shows how serious some crimes are, in particular, murder
- by killing others, the criminal has surrendered the legal right to his own life: so CP is more like suicide, not state murder.
- cheap in some countries

Against the death penalty

- Value of all human life, & right to live
- innocent may be executed in error
- Retribution is wrong
- It brutalises society, & is cruel & degrading
- It's too expensive:- ibecause of legal appeals
- hypocritical to kill, for murder
- It's unnecessary, when the prison system works

AGAINST - Catholic

Old Testament

Imago Dei/ Sanctity of Life: *God made man in his own image* (Gen 1:2) - therefore it is wrong to take the life of another human being, as it has a special dignity. **Pope Francis** says that even the worst crimes do not remove this dignity.

God is the Creator - Gen 1:1 so only God has the right to take life away.

5th Commandment "Do Not Kill" is a clear instruction with no exceptions.

The OT is outdated:it prescribes CP for 35 crimes that we no longer regard as deserving the death penalty. Also, today, society has alternative punishments available and these make the death penalty unnecessary.

New Testament

- Jesus came to save sinners but if someone is killed, they have no more chance to be saved .
- Jesus'New Law: "*you heard it said an eye for an eye, but I say to you, do not resist an evil person*"; instead of revenge, we should forgive.
- Jesus emphasised the importance of forgiveness (Lost Son, Unmerciful servant, Our Father prayer, woman caught in adultery).

Magisterium

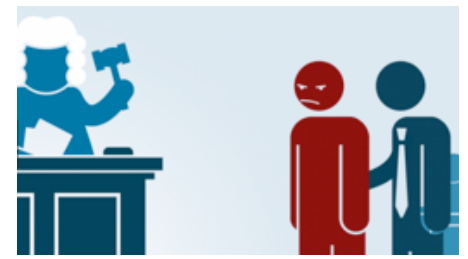
St. Augustine, said that the state had the right to execute criminals, but he believed that **other punishments should be sought, if possible:** "*we would prefer to have them set free than to have the sufferings of our brothers avenged by shedding their blood*". (Letter to Apringius)

Augustine cared more about giving criminals a chance to rehabilitate and change for the better: "*...the more we dislike the vice in question, the less do we want the offender to die without correcting his vices...There is no space to reform character, except in this life*". (letter to Macedonius)

Pope John Paul II said that the death penalty was inadmissible, except where it was not possible to protect society.

Pope Francis said CP was "*inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person*".

If the prison system works, then they must always have some **possibility of redemption**, so the death penalty must never be used, and should be abolished worldwide.



Redemption/ Salvation

Redeem - to recover something by paying a price for it.



Jesus is our **Saviour**, or **Redeemer**, because he paid with his own life, to free us from our slavery to sin and death.



Salvation - to be saved from sin and death, into the freedom of eternal life with God.

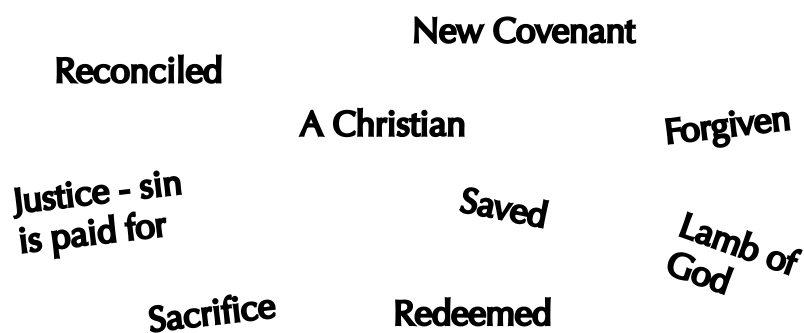
How Jesus Saves Us

1. Forgiveness is closely linked to salvation - it is only by being forgiven that anyone can have a **second chance** at living again.

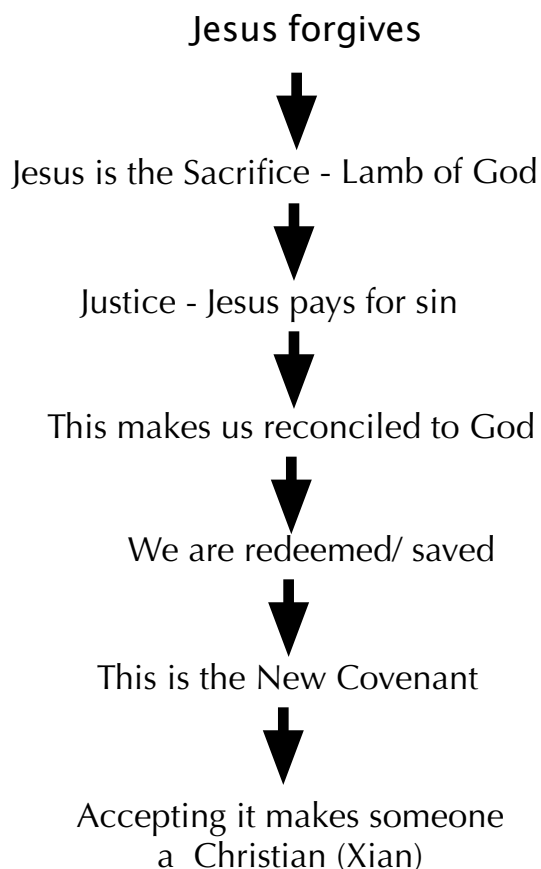
2. But the sin we committed, also has to be **made up, or paid for**, because as an attack on God's love, sin stops us from returning to God, if it remains.

3. Jesus does this for us. He dies for us as an innocent **sacrifice** (the Lamb of God) taking the effects of sin on himself (being cut off from God's love) - so that through him, we can be free to return to God (**reconciled**) and have a relationship with him.

4. This new 'deal' is the **New Covenant** - accepting it, to turn away from sin, is what makes us **Christians**.



Jesus forgives
 Jesus makes up for the sin
 Jesus is a sacrifice
 Jesus saves and redeems
 Jesus reconciles us to God

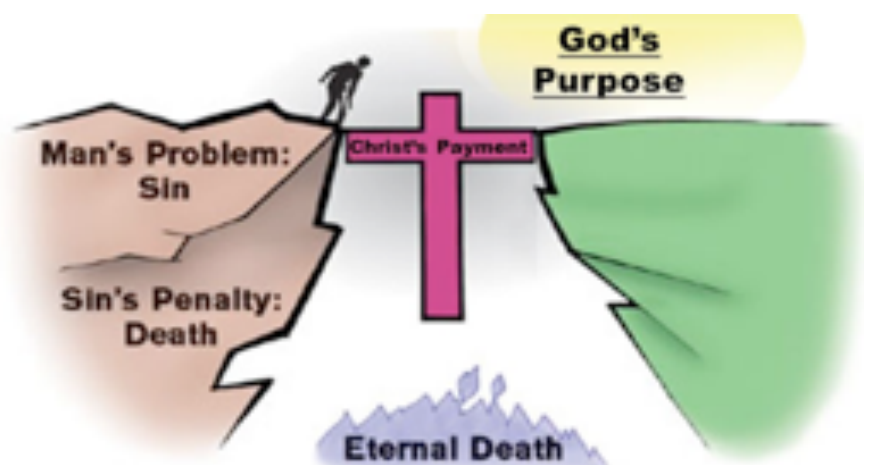


In Jesus, God shows both FORGIVENESS and JUSTICE - in him, sin is punished, but sin is also forgiven.

GRACE:

Because we are reconciled to God through Jesus, God shows us **love and mercy**. This is called "**grace**". It is God's free and undeserved gift to us.

God's grace is given to us in powerful and specific ways, in the Sacraments of the Church.



For Sam Just wRacked Red's New Xbox

The Paschal Mystery

Pascha = means Passover in Hebrew.

Paschal lamb - the lamb sacrificed on Passover night.

3 **Paschal mystery** = how Jesus **passed over** from death into eternal life. This happened over three days (the "Triduum")



Evening of **Holy Thursday** - Jesus eats his Last Supper with his disciples. At this supper, he tells them to eat the bread and wine as his body and blood - and to "**do this in remembrance** of him". Later, they go to the Garden of Gethsemane, where he is arrested by Jewish soldiers, after a kiss from Judas, the betrayer.



Good Friday - Jesus has to face two trials, first in the middle of the night in front of the Jewish court (**Sanhedrin**). They find him guilty of **blasphemy**, but they don't have the power to impose the death sentence. In the morning, he is taken to the Roman Governor **Pontius Pilate** on the charge of **treason** (claiming to be King of the Jews). Pilate agrees to sentence Jesus to death, to satisfy the Jews. Jesus is **mocked** with a crown of thorns, **scourged** with 40 lashes, then carrying his own cross, **crucified** and at 3pm, dies.

Holy Saturday - Jesus lies dead, in the tomb. No-one comes to anoint the body as it is a Sabbath, Jewish day of rest.



Easter Sunday - the **Resurrection** - women come at dawn to anoint his body with spices. They find the stone rolled away from the tomb, and the tomb empty. His burial cloths are rolled up. Two young men, or angels, tell them that "He is risen". Later, Peter and John come to the tomb to see for themselves.



Ascension - Jesus showed himself in his resurrected body for 40 days after his resurrection, to many different people on different occasions. On the 40th day, he ascended into heaven, commanding his disciples to preach the gospel, and promising them the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost- on the 50th day after Jesus' resurrection (10 days after his ascension) the Holy Spirit came down as tongues of fire, resting on the heads of the apostles, and filled them with courage and joy to go out and preach the gospel.

Importance of the Crucifixion

- *Jesus paid for our sins, so justice was served: sin was not just waived away
- *Jesus' death made it possible for us always to enjoy God's grace and love – he took our sins on himself.
- *He reconciled us to God, so our relationship to God was restored.
- *Jesus' death replaced the animal sacrifices in the Temple that had no power to take sins away
- *Jesus' death established a New Covenant between God and man - focused on accepting Jesus as the Saviour

Importance of the Resurrection

- Jesus' resurrection proves he was the Divine Son of God & has the power to live eternally
- * it proves he really did defeat sin and death & is the saviour
- * it shows we can trust his promise to give us eternal life
- it shows that he is for ever living and present
- * it shows that Christians have nothing to fear as their future is with him



Jesus was resurrected - raised up bodily into a new, eternal life with God.

He was **not** re-incarnated = reborn into another earthly body (Hindu/buddhist belief)

He was **not** resuscitated = restored to his original body and life

Some Christians do not think that the resurrection matters as much as the crucifixion - do you agree?

Can a loving God allow Hell to exist?

•If God is good and created everybody, He did so in love for them, not so that they could be forever lost in Hell

•If God is loving, He could not be satisfied with some people suffering in Hell forever, nor could people in heaven be truly happy, knowing there were some who were still suffering.

•If Jesus is the Saviour of the World, then that means everyone is saved for eternal life in heaven

•Origen, a Church thinker in the 3rd Century, thought that God in his goodness would even save the devil in the end, and hell was not a permanent option.

BUT

• God in goodness gave everyone free will - really free will, even to reject Him. So He allows and respects the will of those who want to be lost.

•Jesus' saving death is not automatic or forced: it requires our free acceptance, even though it may be offered to all, some may refuse.

•The Bible talks about a Final Judgement and a Second Death - when even hell itself is destroyed. So those in hell, will not suffer forever, but simply cease to exist. (Rev.20:14)

•Origen's view was condemned as heresy by the Catholic Church.

YOUR CONCLUSION?
Can a loving God send people to hell?

YOUR CONCLUSION?
Can non-Christians be saved?



Will only Christians be saved?

• **Extra Ecclesiam Nulla Salus** (no salvation outside of the Church) was said by St.Cyprian, a Bishop in C3rd. It means that it is necessary to belong to the Church for salvation. (Jn 14:6)

Jesus said:

"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No-one can come to the Father except by Me."

"He who believes in me and is baptised will be saved; he who does not believe in Me, will be condemned".(Mk 28:15)

•the Church provides access to the saving life and death of Jesus through baptism and the sacraments. **Without this, no-one can be saved.** The Catechism teaches that salvation is only through Christ, and this is **the surest way** to be saved

BUT

- BUT **Jesus died for all**, and his grace of salvation may be given to people living good lives outside the Church, because the **Church of Christ is wider (and invisible) than the Catholic Church**

- non-Christians who receive saving grace from God, actually receive it from Christ, though they do not know it - they can be seen as "**anonymous Christians**" and may be saved.

So the Church does not deny that non-Christians can be saved. They can.



THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS

A Sacrament is a visible sign of an invisible grace.

Every sacrament is a special meeting point with God, when God's grace is given to that person in a powerful way, for a particular purpose and vocation.

SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION (full entry into the Church)	SACRAMENTS OF HEALING	SACRAMENTS OF SERVICE TO COMMUNION
<p>BAPTISM: Sign: water. Grace of cleansing from guilt of Original Sin; - entering the life and death of Jesus' Paschal Mystery; becoming a member of the Church.</p> <p>CONFIRMATION Sign: laying on of hands, anointing with oil Grace of Holy Spirit to strengthen commitment to live as a Christian and soldier of Christ</p> <p>EUCCHARIST Sign: bread and wine Grace of the Real Presence of Jesus, nourishing us with his body and his spirit. Unites us as one Body in Christ.</p>	<p>RECONCILIATION Sign: words of absolution spoken by the priest - Grace of forgiveness, and given strength not to sin again</p> <p>ANOINTING OF THE SICK Sign: oil and laying on of hands - Grace of healing, comfort and peace to face death</p>	<p>MARRIAGE Sign: rings Grace to live in commitment and self-giving in family life</p> <p>HOLY ORDERS Sign: oil and laying on of hands Grace to minister God's word and sacraments to God's people, as priest or deacon</p>



The Sacramental nature of reality

All creation is created by God, and all creation can show the presence of God. **So every natural and human thing could be used by God as a way of communicating his presence** and love for us.

Sacraments use **physical objects** chosen by Jesus and the Church to communicate God's grace - water, oil, bread. These "outward signs" are signs of the invisible inner grace we receive. The objects are **signs** of what happens, not 'magical' in themselves.



Why are Sacraments important?

- They are **meeting points with God**, where grace is given in a powerful way, for a particular purpose or vocation. They enable someone to live out the vocation God has given them.
- The symbols are **visible signs** of God's grace being given to that person, so are important for strengthening our faith in God's help for us.
- The Sacraments were **established by Jesus** and this work was continued by the Apostles: Jesus commanded them to baptise, to celebrate the Eucharist, to heal, to forgive sins.
- The Sacraments **make Jesus' work of salvation available** to us - he died for our sins, and the Sacraments give us the grace of God that He won for us, so we can stay close to God.

THE EUCHARIST - BELIEFS



1. It is a Sacrifice

At the Eucharist, Jesus is offered up to God in the bread and wine, as a sacrifice: the priest does this, just like Jesus did himself in the Last Supper when he said that **the bread and wine would be his sacrificed body and blood**.

The mass is therefore the highest and most perfect form of worship, as it is Jesus offering himself to God – a moment that is eternally present in God..

2. Transubstantiation

At consecration, there is an invisible change in the substance of the bread and wine is – it looks the same, but through the Holy Spirit, it **has become the substance of the body, blood of the Risen Jesus**, because Jesus said "This IS my bod/ This IS my blood".

5. It is commanded by Jesus

Jesus commanded his disciples at the Last Supper to eat and drink his body and blood to **remember him** by celebrating this ritual together.

3. The Real Presence

At consecration, the bread and wine really become the body, blood and spirit of the Risen Jesus, **who is really and fully present** in it. Because it has really become Jesus, Catholics adore the consecrated host in prayer.

4. the Body Of Christ

By eating and drinking the Real Presence in the bread and the wine, the Eucharist **spiritually unites** Christians into the **one Body of Christ**. They become His body and presence on earth.

6. Spiritual Nourishment

By consuming Jesus' Real Presence in the bread and the wine, Christians are **spiritually nourished** by his Spirit, and their minor sins are forgiven.



- SACRIFICE
- TRANSUBSTANTIATION
- THE REAL PRESENCE
- BODY OF CHRIST
- REMEMBRANCE OF JESUS

**Explain why the Eucharist important for Catholics.*

**Explain Catholic beliefs about the Eucharist.*

** "The Eucharist is just a symbol of Jesus' death." Discuss.*



The Body of Christ

•St Paul calls Christians "the body of Christ" (1 Cor12:27) because **they share in eating of the same bread = the Body of Christ** in the Eucharist.

•As parts of the body, Jesus' followers **carry on Jesus' mission** – they are his mouthpiece, hands and feet. They do the sort of works that he did, in his body. Preaching, healing, helping, loving.

•St Paul explains that as parts of Jesus' body, we are all different, and **we have our own particular roles**, but the whole body needs all of us: we are all important, like a human body **needs all of its parts**: married, single people, religious. When one part goes wrong, all suffer.

•Christians are joined to the body of Christ **by baptism** in Jesus' death and resurrection, and they continue to be part of it, by eating the Eucharist.



Where is Jesus in the Mass?






in the priest - stands in the place of Jesus at the Last Supper *"as the Father sent Me, so I send you"*

in the people - who have been baptised into the Body of Christ & fed on him in the Eucharist *"where 2 or 3 are gathered in my name, I am there among them"*

in the Word of God - it is Jesus' word, he is expressed in it *"my words are truth and they are life"*

in the Eucharist - it is his Real Presence, *"this is my body, this is my blood"*

Four Marks of the Church

One 	Catholic 
Holy 	Apostolic 

(Church vs. church)



The Nature of the Church

ONE - one faith in God as Trinity. One saviour - Jesus died for all. One Holy Spirit making everyone holy.

HOLY - God is present in the Church through his Holy Spirit and makes her holy by His grace.

CATHOLIC - universal. The Church is worldwide. It includes people of all race, nation. Its mission is to reach out to everybody.

APOSTOLIC - the Church passes on the message of the Apostles - that Jesus is the Son of God and Saviour of all men - and passes on the Apostles' authority to teach the faith.



Mary as Model of the Church

Mary models qualities all Christians should have as members of the Church

Faith & Trust in God - she willingly accepted being the mother of God's son, even though she did not understand what this would mean

Charity - Mary always showed concern for others: for her cousin Elizabeth when she was heavily pregnant with J.B. & for the wedding couple in Cana when they ran out of wine - and because of her concern, Jesus performed his 1st miracle.

Discipleship- she accepted and followed the teaching of her Son, and remained faithful to what God wanted her to do, as the mother of Jesus

The Importance of Mary

- **accepted God's invitation** to be the mother of His Son: without her acceptance, Jesus would not have been born, and so would not die, and no salvation for us.

- she **models qualities** all Christians should have: faith, trust, discipleship, charity.

- Jesus gave her to be **our mother**, when he was dying on the cross, and she helps us by praying for us to Jesus and God (**intercedes** for us) - a **mediator**, and **intercessor**

- the Church honours her with **many titles** showing her importance: Our Lady of Grace, Queen of Heaven, Refuge of Sinners, Help of the Afflicted.



Structure of a church

Explain how the architecture of a church reflects the mystery of salvation.

Bell-tower with a bell
- calls people to prayer or to mass



Steeple - pointing to heaven, reminding people to remember God.



Faces EAST - to remind us of Jesus rising from death, and God's victory over sin & death

Cruciform (cross-shaped) to remind people of Jesus' death on the cross that won our salvation

Stained glass windows - with images of bible scenes or saints, to remind people of the things that God has done for our salvation

Vaulted ceilings/ spacious - to remind us of God's greatness and of heaven

INTERIOR STRUCTURE OF A CHURCH

- ALTAR**
- usually made of stone;
 - where the sacrifice of Jesus is offered to God.
 - as a table it also represents the meal believers share in

- LECTERN**
- where the word of God is read from, where the priest gives his homily/ sermon



- CRUCIFIX**
- representation of Jesus on the cross, to remind of the sacrifice he made

- TABERNACLE**
- where the consecrated hosts are kept (communion hosts left over from mass)
 - a focus of prayer for Catholics, as the Real Presence of Jesus is in them



- BAPTISMAL FONT**
- where baptisms take place.
 - usually near the church entrance



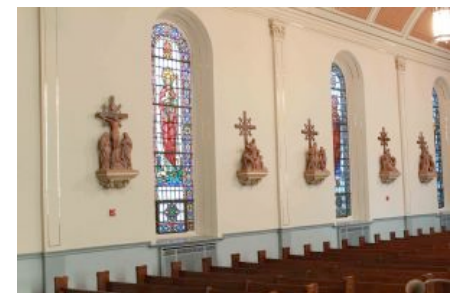
- HOLY WATER STOOP**
- by church entrance
 - believers sign themselves with holy water putting themselves in the presence of God as they enter
 - is a reminder of their baptism



- STATUES**
- of Mary or the Saints eg St. Joseph, St. Anthony etc.
 - remind Christians of the lives they led, and God's grace in giving us the saints as role models and intercessors



- CONFESSIONAL**
- where Catholics confess their sins to a priest, and receive absolution in the name of Christ
 - can be face to face with the priest, or from behind a grille



- STATIONS OF THE CROSS**
- 14 scenes from the Passion of Christ: Jesus' trial, carrying his cross, his scourging, crucifixion, death and burial.
 - believers pray under each one, particularly during Lent

Which is the most important feature of a church interior?

Compare the importances.

How do the features show the mystery of salvation?

Compare what each one shows about how Jesus saved us.

Evangelisation

Evangelisation = to proclaim the gospel

Why evangelise?

- before Jesus finally ascended into heaven, he told his disciples:

"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit"

The Church believes it has a duty to tell all people that they can be saved through Jesus, so that everyone can have this chance.

How difficult is it to evangelise?

- in the days of the Roman Empire, Christians faced severe persecution, arrest, death. All the apostles except one were martyred for preaching.

Persecution of Christians is also a big problem in some places today and makes further evangelisation very difficult.

- a **particular faith may be very established already** in a particular place, and may be suspicious of welcoming a new religion into their community. eg in muslim countries (Pakistan & Saudi Arabia) and atheism in China.

- there may be a **lot of religious diversity** in a country already and Christians must evangelise with sensitivity to these other faiths eg in the UK, Christianity is only 60% of the population. Christians must get along with others by sharing commitment to core values - eg mutual respect, non-violence, charity.

- it may mean **personal sacrifices**: not having a family as you need to be mobile; giving up luxuries and the security of having a home, being far from friends and family. US missionary John Chau was killed when trying to enter a protected area inhabited by an indigenous tribe. He believed he was doing the loving thing by bringing them the gospel.

Why does the Church have a duty to evangelise?

What are the challenges to evangelisation today?

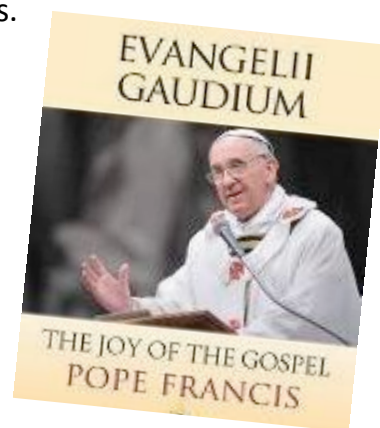
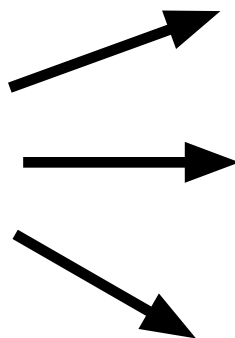
What can the Church do, to respond to the challenges of evangelisation?



"GO" - leave your place of comfort and security

"MAKE DISCIPLES" - tell them the gospel - who Jesus was and what he did. They will believe and follow Him.

"OF ALL NATIONS" - be courageous, talk to different people, go to new places.



How to evangelise?

The Pope wrote an encyclical letter, **Evangelium Gaudii**, explaining how much joy believing in Jesus can bring to people, and how the core of Jesus message is to love one another. ,

locally:

The Pope says that **parishes** and must be examples of welcoming love

- offer retreats, do outreach charity work, put on social events to create community
- talk to outside agencies as part of caring for people and building community
- **catholic schools** can also be involved in teaching Catholic faith and doing outreach work

nationally:

- the Archbishop of Westminster **co-ordinates** evangelisation across the UK and produces resources
- organises **youth conferences** eg the 'Flame' conference in Wembley Arena
- **catholic magazines** and newspapers give a Catholic view on current affairs & so evangelise

globally:

- The Pope has a **dedicated department** at the Vatican to focus on evangelisation eg organises World Youth Days
- organises **global charity and outreach** efforts through Cafod and Caritas

UK Laws, Festivals, Traditions

Law courts:

- witnesses must swear to tell the truth, while putting one hand on the Bible (but if not Christian, can use their own holy book, or just swear a "witness affirmation").

Religion in Schools:

All pupils in all schools must be taught religious education by law, and must provide some act of daily worship.

30% of all state schools are faith schools.

98% of all faith schools have a Christian religious character.

Weddings & Funerals:

- many people like to have a Church wedding, or a Church funeral, even if they are not religious.

Christian Traditions in the UK

- the UK is a Christian country

Religion in Parliament:

The House of Lords includes the "Lords Spiritual" who are 26 of the most senior churchmen of the Church of England - so religious clergy have a direct role in shaping UK law.

Both the House of Commons and the House of Lords open their sittings with **Christian prayers**.

Many UK law reflect the **10 Commandments** - do not kill, do not steal.

UK public holidays

- include Christmas Day and Easter Sunday, and these days are included in school holiday period.

Sunday trading:

- 3rd commandment "Keep the Sabbath day holy" means many shops stay closed on Sundays, or have shorter opening.



Monarch is the Head of the Church of England:

- since Henry VIII, the King or Queen of England also has the title of "Head of the Church of England", and appoints bishops.



But...is the UK a Christian country?

Many secular festivals:

Valentine's Day: though now a commercial celebration of love, this day has its roots in a Christian saint.

Bonfire night - Guy Fawkes tried to blow up Parliament

Hallowe'en - originally based in remembering all holy souls who have died, it is now a festival of ghosts and ghouls.

Notting Hill Carnival: secular festival celebrating cultural diversity in modern Britain

Conclusion: is the UK a Christian country?

The UK is a diverse society:

The UK is a multi-cultural society. Only 60% of the population identify themselves as Christians. (Muslims are the second largest group - 5%)

There are many places of worship that have been built, belonging to other faiths, and religious festivals from other faiths may be celebrated in public eg Diwali in Southall.

The Humanist society campaigns for the abolition of faith schools and for the removal of religion from public life.



Component 2.2

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	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.