## Keywords

**Religion** - the belief in and worship of a superhuman controlling power, especially a personal God or gods.

**Gospel** – means 'Good News'. The Gospels are an authentic account of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, which the Church teaches have been divinely inspired. They are the Gospels according to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

**Bible** – Holy book of Christians. It contains many different books within the Old and New Testaments.

**Trinity** – Triune God (The Trinity) - In the Scriptures, God has revealed Himself as triune. This revelation means that God is both three and one at the same time: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Monotheism** – belief in one God.

**Omnipotence** - God is all-powerful. The evidence for this includes the creation of the world and the resurrection of Jesus.

**Omnibenevolent** - God is all-loving. For example, God sacrificed his own son for humanity, which shows how much he loves all human beings without exception.

**Omniscience** - God knows everything. Christians believe that God knows every person's inner thoughts as well as knowing all that has happened and all that will happen in the future.

**Transcendent** - God exists outside of our worldly constraints and physical laws. For example, God does not live and die as we do - he is eternal. Complete understanding of God is beyond the human intellect.

**Creator** – God who is responsible for the creation of the Earth, everything in the world and the universe.

**'People of God'** - Anyone who accepts Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord becomes a part of the people of God. When we make that choice to embrace God, He embraces us as well. Then we truly are His people.

**Prayer** – a communication with God where you raise your mind and heart to Him.

**Formulaic prayer** – set prayers (same words said in the same way every time).

**Eucharist** – meaning 'thanksgiving'. Commemorates the Last Supper, in which bread and wine are consecrated and consumed. For Catholics the bread and wine become the actual body and blood of Christ through transubstantiation.

# Year 7 Unit 1 – Nature of God Knowledge Organiser

## What is religion and what is the impact of a good Religious Education?

## RE is the "Core of the Curriculum"- St John Paul II

Religion focuses on the love of God, love of truth and dedication to inner progress. Devotion to goodness and truth is found at the heart of all religions. This is their inner bond.

- Studying RE gives students a chance to develop an understanding of different cultures and an empathy for people from all walks of life.
- Opens you up to unexpected opportunities.
- Learning to debate, even making the case for a point of view that you disagree with.
- Opportunities to immerse yourself in other cultures.
- Gain a deeper understanding of the world and learn how to consider different perspectives.




## History of Christianity

Jewish culture, language, beliefs and practices laid the foundations for Christianity.
The Catholic branch of Christianity is governed by the Pope and Catholic bishops around the world.
The Christian core of their faith is centred on the life and teachings of Jesus.
Key events in Christian history

- First church organized on the Day of Pentecost 50 days after Jesus's death.
- Constantine embraces Christianity and the Nicene Creed is re-established.
- The Catholic Church becomes the religion of the Roman Empire.
- The Great Schism.
- The Crusades.
- The Reformation.

## The Trinity

God is a Trinity of persons; the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Each of the three persons are fully God, but there are not three Gods. The Trinity shows that each of the three Persons has a special role: God the Father who created heaven and earth; God the Son, Jesus is the saviour of the world and God the Holy Spirit is an invisible spiritual power who continues to guide, help and inspire human beings.

St Patrick used the analogy of a shamrock. God is three persons but one God. A shamrock is one thing but has three individual leaves. St Augustine uses a metaphor: 'God is Love' (1 John 4:8). Love needs three things; the love itself (Father), the person doing the loving (Son) and the person who is being loved (Holy Spirit).

Using analogies and metaphors is a good way of helping us understand God but we will never be able to fully understand God because of His transcendence.

## The Nicene Creed

It is the declaration of the Christian faith. It explains the Church's teachings about the Trinity and ultimately belief about God. It is said at Mass and during baptisms to remind people about the main beliefs and teachings of Christianity.

# Year 7 Unit 1 – Nature of God

## Who is God?

St. Anselm of Canterbury described God as, 'that than which nothing greater can be conceived'. This means there is nothing equal to or better than God.

In the Gospel of John, God is love. This means that God does not only give love, He is the source of love. As the Creator of all things (Genesis 1:1), He is the One who created love. It is because of His love that we are able to love.

**God is…**

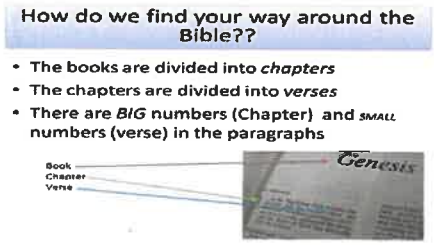
- Omnipotent
- Creator
- Omniscient
- Omnibenevolent
- Transcendent

**Evidence**

- Genesis 1
- "Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD" (Psalm 139:4).
- "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son". (John 3:16)
- The Lord declared "My ways are higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts". Isaiah 55:8-9

## What is the Bible?

The sacred book of the Christian Church is the Bible. Christians often refer to the Bible as 'God's Word'. The Bible has two sections, the Old Testament and the New Testament.







## Who is Jesus?

Key events in Jesus' life:

- Birth and Baptism
- Jesus' Ministry: Parables and Miracles
- Temptation and Transfiguration
- Betrayal and the Last Supper
- Arrest and Death
- Resurrection and Ascension

Jesus is…

- ✓ Son of God
- ✓ Teacher
- ✓ Selfless
- ✓ Inspirational
- ✓ Leader




## The Eucharist

This is a re-enactment of the Last Supper, the final meal that Jesus Christ shared with his disciples before his arrest and eventual crucifixion. At the meal Jesus ate bread and wine and instructed his disciples to do the same in memory of him. *Bible source: Matthew 26:17 – 30.*

## The four marks of the Catholic Church

**One** – means all members are united as the Body of Christ.
**Holy** – means the Church is centred on God. It is Christ who, by his sacrifice, makes the Church holy.
**Catholic** – means universal. The Church is for all times and all people.
**Apostolic** – means the Church is built on the foundation of the Apostles.

## What is the Catholic Mass?

Mass is the most important part of Catholic life because it is the central act of worship in the life of a Catholic. Going to Mass is about spending time with God and also receiving his grace (inner strength to live the Christian life) and the Eucharist. Sunday is a significant day for celebrating Mass because Catholics believe God acted decisively to free the world from sin, death, and corruption through the Resurrection of Jesus (Easter Sunday). Sunday is a day of rest and focus on God. Catholics will go to Mass.

## The Lord's Prayer is effective because…

- It help us to know God is our Father.
- It requires us to change.
- It is a formulaic prayer that can be shared easily.
- It is a template for our daily prayers.

## ACTS

- **Adoration** - praising God for his greatness and admitting dependence on him.
- **Confession** - owning up to sin and asking for God's mercy and forgiveness.
- **Thanksgiving** - thanking God for his many blessings, e.g. health or children.
- **Supplication** - asking God to help others or to help us through times of need, e.g. sickness, poverty, suffering in war.

## The Order of the Catholic Mass

- Penitential Rite – ask for forgiveness and healing
- Liturgy of the Word – Reading the Old and New Testaments. Say the Nicene Creed
- Offertory – un-consecrated bread and wine taken to the altar. Alms giving.
- Liturgy of the Eucharist – Prayer and Transubstantiation
- Holy Communion – Say 'Our Father' prayer and receive the Eucharist.
- Final Blessing – Priest says 'Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord'

# Year 7 – Unit 2
# The Truth About Jesus

## Keywords

**Proof:** evidence that shows that something is true or has happened

**Belief:** faith or opinion accepted as true even if without proof

**Fact:** provable truth

**Shroud:** piece of cloth used to wrap a dead body

**Archaeology:** the study of ancient cultures from their physical remains

**Prophecy:** a prediction of what will happen in the future (a prophet is a messenger of God)

**Messiah:** saviour, chosen or anointed one

**Trial:** investigation of a case before a judge and/or jury

**Charges:** accusations of wrong doing or criminal activity

**Execution:** putting a condemned person to death





## The Face of Jesus

Nobody knows what Jesus really looked like. No portraits were painted of him when he was alive and there is no physical description of him in the Bible. We do know that he did not look like the typical image we see in Western art – fair-skinned with long, brown hair.

Forensic science has advanced to the point that trained professionals can take a skull and reconstruct what that person's face would have looked like. Your face looks the way it does based on your bone structure.

Scientists took the skull of a man who was born and lived in Palestine around 2,000 years ago. The painstakingly reconstructed his face using clay on top of the bones of the skull. They coloured his skin to the kind of tone that a Middle Eastern man walking around in the sun would have. They also used a passage from the Bible to make a choice about the man's hair. St Paul wrote that it was disgraceful for men to have long hair so they gave the model a short style.

The face we are presented with is not the actual face of Jesus but it is the face of a typical man living at the time of Jesus.

## The Shroud of Turin

The Turin Shroud is a single piece of cloth 14ft long and 3ft wide. It has a faint image on it of a man who appears to have been crucified. We know this by the blood flow from the wrists and ankles. There are also trickles of blood around the head. The body has blood all over it from what appear to be whip marks.

Numerous tests confirm that the blood is real human blood. The Turin Shroud was examined with visible and ultraviolet spectrometry, infrared spectrometry, x-ray fluorescence spectrometry, thermography, pyrolysis-mass-spectrometry, laser, microprobe Raman analyses, and micro-chemical testing.

In 2010 it was confirmed that the Shroud of Turin contains the real image of a man from 2000 years ago who was whipped, who had sharp objects inserted around his head, and who was crucified. But is it Jesus? The Romans crucified a great many people.





## Old Testament Prophecies

In the Bible, we read about men and women who were called by God to deliver messages, instructions and warnings. These people were carefully chosen by God and often risked their lives to do the jobs he gave them.

The list of prophets identified in the Bible is very long! People have divided up the list into major and minor prophets but this is based on the length of their writings rather than indicating any kind of hierarchy. For example, major prophets include Isaiah and Ezekiel and minor prophets include Amos and Jonah. We also have a list of people who have had a prophetic vision or dream but did not actually live their life as a prophet. A good example of this is Joseph, Jesus' earthly father who had the angel Gabriel visit him in a dream.

There are many prophecies in Old Testament that Christians believe foretold the coming of Jesus. One of the most compelling is the story of the Suffering Servant that can be found in Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12.

## Mary

Day to day life would have been very hard for Mary. She would not have had any rights in this society. As a child she would have been under her father's rule and as Joseph's wife, anything she earned or owned would automatically have been his property. As a typical Jewish woman her day would have consisted of tending stoves, making beds, maintaining the home with any necessary repairs, looking after the animals, fetching water from the well, laundry and cooking (including preserving food for the winter). A pregnancy outside of marriage would have been catastrophic for the girl.

The unwed mother would most likely be forced to leave her family as her presence would cast too much shame upon them. There was the threat of being sold into slavery or being stoned to death. If she was very lucky, she would be married off quickly. According to the New Testament, Joseph considered sending Mary away but a visit from the angel Gabriel convinced him otherwise. Whatever happened, it would have been an incredibly frightening time for Mary.

## Revelation and the Second Coming

Read Mark Chapter 24 for Jesus' promises and warnings about the end of times!

## Jesus the Trouble Maker

It was inevitable that Jewish scribes and priests, guardians of the faith, would regard Jesus as a threat to ancient traditions. To Jewish leaders, Jesus was a troublemaker, a subversive who was undermining respect for the Sabbath and religious rites, an arrogant man who claimed that he above all other men was favoured by God.

**Charges brought against Jesus:**

**Blasphemy**: Putting yourself on the same level as God. This was considered to be one of the greatest sins.

**Violating the law and working on the Sabbath**: The Sabbath is the Jewish holy day of rest. Jesus fed and healed people on these days.

**Threatening the Temple**: The well-known story of Jesus driving the money-lenders and traders out of the temple in a violent rage was used against him.

## Historical Evidence

### Historians

Flavius Josephus was a Jew who wrote about his people for the Romans at the end of the first century CE. He confirms that Jesus was a real person who was a teacher, performed miracles and had a band of followers.

There was also a man called Cornelius Tacitus. He was a Roman writer (and certainly no friend to Christians!). He confirmed in his writings that Jesus was a teacher who had a big following and was crucified by Pilate when Tiberius was Emperor. This fits with the New Testament evidence.



### Eye-witness accounts

Our main sources of information for the life of Jesus come from the New Testament itself. From what we know of the authors, everything suggests that they were truthful, reliable people, who were even willing to die for what they said had happened. One writer, Luke, was a well-researched historian.

The copies we have of the New Testament books are very old. They're likely to be accurate copies as they are so close to the time they were first written. Historians accept that the copy we have of 'The Gallic War' by Caesar is accurate, yet there's a 900 year gap! For the New Testament we have 3,000 Greek manuscripts – for Caesar's book there are only ten!

### Archaeology

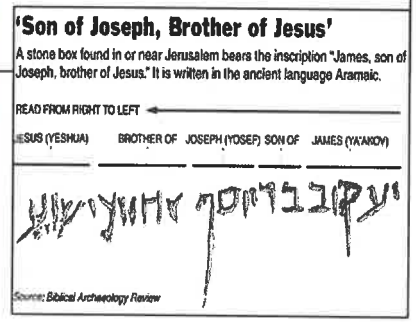
This the study of ancient civilisations based on physical remains.

We have skeletons bearing the marks of Roman crucifixion (some even with nails still in them!).

There are also ruins of buildings bearing inscriptions of Pontius Pilate. Archaeologists have also found an ossuary (a stone coffin/container for bones) bearing an inscription which reads, "James, son of Joseph, brother of Jesus".







# Year 7 – Unit 3
# Paschal Mystery

## Keywords

**Paschal** – of or relating to Easter

**Gospel** – "good news", the story of the life of Jesus

**Disciple** – a follower of Jesus

**Faith** – strong belief, trust

**Prayer** – communicating with God

**Betrayal** – to break somebody's trust

**Sacrifice** – to give up something you love for something or someone else

**Resurrection** – to return to life




## St Mark's Gospel

Mark's gospel includes many short accounts from Jesus' life but the longest section is the description of the events of the twenty four hours starting with the Last Supper and leading up to the crucifixion. This clearly shows what Mark thought was the most significant time in Jesus' life.

Mark's gospel was written between 60 and 70 CE and was based on the teachings of St Peter.





## *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by CS Lewis

C S Lewis (1898-1963) was the writer of the Chronicles of Narnia. There are seven books in the series and *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* is the second part.

C S Lewis was a devout Christian and wanted to write books that would convey Christian themes and teachings in a way that was accessible to young readers.

The character of Aslan is symbolic of Jesus. He sacrifices himself for a child who has done wrong to appease the laws of Narnia which echoes the death of Jesus to atone for the sins of humanity. Aslan is also resurrected and returns stronger than ever to lead the triumph of good over evil which mirrors the Christian belief about Jesus.

## Discipleship

The disciples Jesus chose were quite unlikely characters; they weren't wealthy, influential or popular men. They were ordinary men who had extraordinary qualities.

For example, Matthew was a social outcast, a tax collector. Peter, Andrew, James and John were poor but hardworking fishermen. James and John were known for their tempers. Judas was a part of a group of violent radical Jews known as Zealots.

Jesus was able to see beyond the appearance and status of a person to their true nature.

In *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, Peter, Susan, Lucy and Edmund Pevensey are disciples of Aslan. In the same way, they also appear to be strange choices. For one thing, they are children. As Susan herself says, "We're not heroes! We're from Finchley!"

However, they each display qualities that we would associate with disciples – courage, loyalty, resilience and faith.

The message of both the gospel and the book is that all of us have within us qualities that we may not be able to see but can be used for good.



## Faith and Prayer

The theme of faith runs through both the gospel and the book and faith is closely linked with prayer.

Faith means having complete trust in God and believing in His power. Faith is a personal response and for Christians it leads to a deep bond of love between the individual and God. Christians believe that for prayer to be effective, then there must be faith.

For Christians prayer is communicating with God. That means prayer is *talking* to God, and sometimes *listening* to God. Christians believe firmly in the power of prayer. They believe that God is a loving Father who wishes to help and support his children. They believe that He answers prayer.

There are various times where the issue of faith and prayer is touched upon in the book:

1. Lucy has faith in her belief in the existence of Narnia although her siblings doubt her until it is proven to them.

2. The characters of Narnia have faith that the children will help save them all and win the battle against the White Witch.

3. St Nicholas (Father Christmas) tells Susan to 'trust the bow', if she trusts it, it will work for her.

4. Susan is also given a horn to blow in times of need. This is symbolic of prayer as she is told "blow on this and help will come wherever you are", reflecting Christian beliefs about prayer.

## Betrayal

The betrayals of Jesus and Aslan are not entirely similar but the theme is strong in both stories.

In *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* Edmund slips away from the other children to see the White Witch. She had previously been very nice to him, giving him Turkish Delight and hot chocolate. He tells the White Witch about the return of Aslan, betraying his siblings in the process. There is a sense that although Edmund is doing wrong and isn't always the nicest brother, he has been tricked and still has an air of innocence about him.

Judas Iscariot's betrayal of Jesus with a kiss is a well-known story. At the Last Supper, Jesus tells his disciples that one of them will betray him and they are all shocked. Later than night, in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus asks his disciples to stay awake and keep watch with him but they fall asleep. Judas has promised to identify Jesus to the authorities in order that he be arrested and put on trial and he identifies Jesus by kissing him in front of the soldiers. It is common in many parts of the world for people to greet each other with a kiss on the cheek.

But is Judas really the villain he is made out to be? People did not like the popularity Jesus had gained and powerful men were plotting against him. Judas may have thought that handing Jesus over for a trial would prove his innocence publicly and ultimately save him. Judas had lived and travelled at Jesus' side for many years. It is easy to forget this and dismiss Judas as a bad friend but perhaps the story is not as simple as we are led to believe.

.

## Resurrection

The resurrection is important to Christians because:

- Christians believe that there is an afterlife.
- Although the body dies and is buried or cremated, they believe that their unique soul lives on and is raised to new life by God.
- The belief that Jesus rose from the dead three days after his crucifixion gives Christians hope that if they follow Jesus' teaching then a new life will be given to them.
- By being born as a human being, and then dying on the cross, Jesus made this new 'life after death' possible for all.
- Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies."

This is echoed in the resurrection of Aslan after his sacrifice on the Stone Table.



## Key terms

**Sacrament:** an outward sign of an inward grace
**Salvation -** freedom from sin and its consequences, believed by Christians to be brought about by faith in Christ.
**Sacraments of Initiation -** the process of being formally accepted as a member of the Christian community and lay the foundations for Christian life. Baptism, Holy Communion and Confirmation
**Sacraments of Healing** – celebrate the healing power of Jesus. Reconciliation and Sacrament of the sick.
**Sacraments of Service of Communion** – these help an individual to serve the community and bring about salvation of others. Marriage and Holy Orders.
**Symbols** – Usually more complex than signs and may have multiple or layered meanings that are closely connected to a particular culture e.g. a flag.
**Holy Spirit -** the third person of the Trinity; God as spiritually active in the world.
**Baptism** – The Sacrament where infants are baptised to welcome them into the Catholic faith and to free them from the original sin they were born with.
**Original Sin -** a state of sin in which humanity has existed since the fall of man, stemming from Adam and Eve's rebellion in Eden (eating the forbidden fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil).
**Reconciliation -** a sacrament to reunite an individual with God through forgiveness and an act to prove you're sorry/ to make up the damage.
**Sin** – any evil or immoral action which goes against God. Sin can and does alienate a person both from God and the Church.
**First Holy Communion –** this Sacrament is one of the holiest and most important occasions in a Roman Catholic's life. It means that person has received the Sacrament of the Eucharist.
**Confirmation** – a sacrament which strengthens and deepens one's relationship with God. It enables a baptised person to confirm the promises made on their behalf at baptism. It is also a sign of full membership to the Christian community.
**Vocation -** a divine call to God's service or to the Christian life
**Marriage** – The devotion of husband and wife have to each other, and to God. It mirrors Christ's love and service to the Church.
**Holy Orders -** the sacrament or rite of ordination as a member of the clergy.
**Sacrament of the Sick –** the giving of God's great love to someone experiencing the difficulties of grave illness or old age.

# Year 7 Unit 4 –The Sacraments



**Why is a Sacrament defined as an 'Outward Sign?**
The current Catechism of the Catholic Church notes (para. 1084), "...Christ now acts through the sacraments he instituted to communicate his grace."
Grace is a spiritual gift rather than a physical one so is something that the recipient cannot see. Therefore, when a priest or bishop performs a sacrament, he isn't the one providing grace to the person receiving the sacrament: it is Christ himself acting through the priest or bishop.

**Who is the Holy Spirit?**
The Holy Spirit is a Person. A divine Person. Equal in dignity and majesty with the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit is one member of the Holy Trinity. We can know and love the Holy Spirit just as we know and love the Father and the Son. And the Spirit loves us just as He loves the Father and the Son.
The whole universe is filled with the Spirit of God and it is through the sacraments of the Church that the believer comes to feel the full impact of that Holy Spirit of God. For a worthy celebration of the sacraments only one requirement is necessary, and that one requirement is faith. Where faith is present there is the power of the Holy Spirit.

**What is the role of the Holy Spirit?**
- God's Spirit is like a gentle dove that seeks peace between God and people.
- God's Spirit is like cleansing fire that purifies disciples from personal sin.
- God's Spirit is like refreshing water that sustains disciples day after day.
- God's Spirit is like precious oil that authorizes and empowers disciples to do God's work.
- God's Spirit is like heaven-sent wind that guides disciples along God's path.




**What are the Sacraments?**
*A Catholic's passage to salvation is a life-long journey, and we all need help along the way. The sacraments help Catholics on that journey through a special meeting with Jesus in each of the sacraments. This helps them to build on their relationship with God.*
- ✓ **Baptism (Normally soon after the child is born)**
- ✓ **Reconciliation also known as confession (First confession at around age 10)**
- ✓ **Holy Communion (First Holy Communion at around age 11)**
- ✓ **Confirmation (Around age 13)**
- ✓ **Holy Orders (You can begin your training as soon as you are 18)**
- ✓ **Marriage (You can legally marry at the age of 18 in England)**
- ✓ **Anointing of the Sick (At any point in your life)**



**The Baptism of Jesus**
Jesus came to John the Baptist while he was baptising people in the River Jordan. As soon as Jesus was baptised, he came up out of the water. Heaven was opened and he saw the spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon him. Then a voice said from Heaven, "This is my own dear son with whom I am pleased."

**Why is Baptism important?**

- Baptism washes away original sin. Free from original sin, you can now receive Christ in the sacraments.
- It is the door of the Church
- The person is entering into a new life; life in Christ and his Church
- It is a sign of God's love and forgiveness.

Symbols of Baptism and their meaning

- Water – washing away Original Sin
- Oil of catechumens
- Oil of Chrism
- White baptismal garment: Purity and freedom from original sin
- Baptismal candle – light of Christ

**Why is Reconciliation important?**

Reconciliation reunites us with God. "The whole power of the sacrament...consists in restoring us to God's grace and joining us with him in a (cherished) friendship" (CCC, no. 1468).

Therefore, this sacrament is important because:

70 X 7

•It helps build a closer relationship to God.
•Sin harms our relationship with God and damages our unity with the Church. It allows Catholics to be forgiven and that brings you closer to receiving salvation.
•Helps build better self esteem: a peaceful, happy conscience.
•Allows the Catholic to be spiritually stronger to fight sin and evil.
•It gives the Catholic the opportunity to be reconciled with people in their community.

**Why is Holy Communion important?**

First Holy Communion takes place when a child reaches the age of around 7-8 years and celebrates the first time that they accept the Eucharist. The bread and wine symbolise the actual body and blood of Christ as Jesus said, "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood live in me, and I live in them" (John 6:56). After this special occasion, the child is able to accept the bread and wine at Catholic Mass and is more deeply initiated into the Catholic Church. It unites young people with Jesus. It is food for your soul, to help you love God and obey His laws. It is a promise of your resurrection and future glory in Heaven. It helps you to move away from sin.

**Confirmation and why is it important?**

Confirmation is a sacrament which strengthens and deepens one's relationship with God. It enables a baptised person to confirm the promises made on their behalf at baptism. It is also a sign of full membership to the Christian community as it is the last of the three Sacraments of Initiation.

The effect of Confirmation is a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit like that of Pentecost. It binds the candidate more firmly to Christ and to the Church. It reinforces the gifts of the Holy Spirit in their soul. It gives a special strength to witness to the Christian faith. The candidate will choose a confirmation name (e.g. a saint that inspires them) and a sponsor or role model in their lives to support with their active involvement in the Church.

**7 steps of reconciliation**




1. **Preparation**
2. **Welcome of the priest**
3. **Confession of sins**
4. **Advice of the priest**
5. **Prayer and acts of penance**
6. **Prayer of absolution**
7. **Dismissal**

**Why is the sacrament of marriage important?**

Marriage is a sacrament of service of communion. In matrimony, a man and a woman are united with each other and God. Through marriage, a husband and wife give themselves to each other without reservation, promising to love each other freely, truly, faithfully and fruitfully for the rest of their lives, sharing their joys and sufferings in whatever circumstances life brings them. Marriage is a vocation. Marriage is regarded as the context within which to procreate and raise children. God gives the couple a special grace which makes them one. Their human love is made holy.

**Why is Holy Orders important?**

Choosing to be a priest is a vocation. Through the sacrament of holy orders, or ordination, a man vows to lead other Catholics by bringing them the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. He promises to do this by proclaiming the Gospel and by providing to Catholics other means to achieve holiness. The other promises they make include vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. The ministry of the priesthood is summarised as follows:

1.To proclaim and preach the Gospels
2.Consecrate the bread and wine offered at Mass
3.Celebrate the sacraments in the parish
4.Care for the needs of the community
5.To be holy and consecrate himself to God.

**The three stages of Holy Orders**

1.Being ordained a deacon - a deacon may baptise, preach and distribute Holy Communion.
2.Being ordained a priest - a priest is believed to have the power to change bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ (transubstantiation) and to forgive sins.
3.Being ordained a bishop - only a bishop has the complete fullness of the priesthood, with the power to confirm and to ordain deacons, priests and other bishops through the sacrament of Holy Orders.

**Why is the Sacrament of the Sick important?**

This sacrament is a remarkable sign of God's great love for us; for the recovery of their health, spiritual strength or to bring us safely to himself in Heaven.

Effects of this Sacrament:

•Spiritual comfort
•Forgiveness of sins
•Strength and courage to accept illness
•Relief from anxiety
•The sacrament allows for the possibility of healing while providing support, love and guidance for the individual and their family in the preparation for death.

**Stages of the Sacrament of the Sick**

- Bible reading
- Anointing of the sick
- The reception of Viaticum
- Prayers and laying on of hands

# Year 7 Unit 5 – Islam







## Key terms

**Allah**- The Arabic name given to God in Islam.
**Tawhid**- Muslims belief that there is only one God and that is Allah.
**Islam**- Is an Arabic word which means Submission.
**Qur'an** – The holy book for Muslims. The word of Allah.
**Surah** – a chapter of the Qur'an
**Shirk**- Denying God's existence or saying someone or something is equal to God.
**Tasbih**- Prayer beads to recite the 99 names of Allah.
**Surah** – a chapter of the Qur'an.
**Tasbih**- Prayer beads to recite the 99 names of Allah.
**Shahadah** – The Islamic profession of faith, "There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is his messenger": the first of the Pillars of Islam.
**Salah** – Prayers, said five times a day: the second of the Pillars of Islam.
**Zakah** – Where Muslims give 2.5% of their earnings to charity to help the poor and needy: the third of the Pillars of Islam.
**Sawm** – Fasting, especially during the month of Ramadan; the fourth of the Pillars of Islam.
**Hajj** – Pilgrimage to the holy city of Makkah in Saudi Arabia.
**Adhan** – Call to prayer.
**Wudu** – a ritual cleansing before Salah can be performed.
**Kab'ah** – a cube shaped building considered to be the 'House of God'.
**Du'aa**- a personal prayer.
**Mosque** – The name given to the Muslim place of worship.
**Taqwa** – To have or develop a sense of God- consciousness.
**Taraweeh Prayers** – additional prayers read only during the month of Ramadan.
**Lailat ul-Qadr**- Night of Power. Occurs in the last ten nights of Ramadan.
**Iftar** – a meal served at the end of the day to break the fast. Literally 'Breakfast'.
**Tawaf** – Circulating the Ka'bah seven times.
**Imam** – Someone who leads the prayers and gives sermons.
**Arabesque** – fancy designs and drawings to decorate everyday items or buildings.
**Hadith**- A book containing the sayings, teachings and actions of Muhammad.
**Islamophobia** - the hatred of all things Islamic



### Belief in Allah as the One God

**Allah** is the name Muslims use for the supreme and unique God, who created and rules everything. The heart of the faith for all Muslims is obedience to Allah's will. God is one and at one with all things. There is no god except Him and He has no equals or relatives (like sons, daughters, parents, etc.) This idea is called Tawhid. It is the MOST IMPORTANT belief in all of Islam.

Allah is *everlasting*. Allah has always existed and will always exist. Allah is *omniscient*. Allah knows everything that can be known. Allah is *omnipotent* (**Al-Aziz**). Allah has the power to do anything He wills. Allah has no shape or form. He cannot be seen (**Al-Ghaib**). Allah cannot be heard. Allah is neither male or female. Allah is just, He rewards and punishes fairly. Allah is also **Ar- Rahman** (Most Merciful) and **Ar-Rahim** (Most Kind).

If they worship anyone but God, this is considered disrespectful and is called shirk. It is a terrible sin in Islam.






### Life of Muhammad

In 570 CE, in Makkah in Saudi Arabia, a boy was born called Muhammad. His father had died right before his birth and his mother only lived until he was 6 years old. He was raised by his uncle, Abu Talib, who showed him great kindness and had him working as a shepherd. Because Muhammad was so hardworking and trustworthy, Abu Talib began taking him on business trips. While on these trips, he developed a reputation of being good, kind and honest. During this time, he met a very powerful and wealthy woman called Khadijah, whose husband had died. She hired Muhammad and eventually proposed marriage to him even though she was very afraid of rejection. However, she was Muhammad's one true love (until she died), and they were married when she was 40 and he was 25. They had six kids, though his two sons died when they were just babies.

Muhammad was living in Makkah with Khadijah and he was very troubled by what he saw happening around him. It was a very rich, trader city and the rich were cheating the poor all the time and taking away their rights. Many people were gambling away all their money and drinking and smoking. They all worshipped idols and even made sacrifices to them. Muhammad became too upset that he would regularly go out of the city to Mount Hira to mediate. One time, when he was 40 years old, he was in a cave and the angel Jibril appeared to him with a piece of cloth with fiery words on it. Muhammad heard him say 'Recite!' But Muhammad was illiterate and told the angel he couldn't read. The angel again repeated 'recite' and instantly Muhammad found he could read the words and they said "In the name of God, most gracious, most merciful: Recite!"

### How is Islam portrayed in the media?

The most important roles of the media are agenda-setting and representation. The media, particularly from the West, seems to feature Islam constantly in the negative light. The portrayal of the negative image of Islam takes place by constructing an image of Islam with terrorism, violence, extremism and hostility to the West. A more recent phenomenon of Western media towards Islam is the use of 'Islamophobia' a form of concerted efforts directed to frighten the world of the resentment and enmity imposed by Islam.

### What is meant by Tawhid and Shirk?

Tawhid is the Muslim belief in the oneness of Allah. This means that Muslims view Allah as unique, independent and unlike His creation. They also believe that no one can share or claim to have any of Allah's qualities and attributes. Shirk means associating partners with or thinking something is equal to Allah.

**Pilgrimage to Makkah (Hajj):**



An annual pilgrimage (religious journey) to Makkah is the duty of all Muslims at least once in their lifetime (if they are physically and financially able to perform it). About two million people go to Makkah each year from around the world. This annual journey is performed in the twelfth month of the Islamic calendar. Male pilgrims wear simple clothing to strip away class distinctions (all should be equal before God).

**The Mosque**

The Mosque is the place of worship for Muslim people. Most of these have a large dome above the main prayer hall. This is because the dome helps to echo the prayers around the mosque. Outside the mosque, there is a Minaret. This is a tower where the muezzin calls Muslims to prayer. Inside the mosque there is a space to store shoes. This is because Muslims are not allowed to wear shoes inside the mosque.

There is also a place where the Muslims can wash. This is because Muslims always wash before praying. There are no seats in the main prayer hall because Muslims kneel on mats on the floor during prayer.

The Qibla wall is a wall which faces Makkah. In this wall, there is a Mihrab, which is a small cove pointing towards Makkah. The Minbar is a platform where the leader of the service (called the Imam) gives his sermon.

**Why is going on the Hajj significant to a Muslim?**

Hajj is important as Muslims believe it is commanded by Allah. The Qur'an speaks of the Ka'bah as a place of security and prayer to which Muslims should return and give praise to Allah: ***'And [mention] when We made the House [ie the Ka'ba] a place of return for the people and [a place of] security. And take, [O believers], from the standing place of Abraham a place of prayer. And We charged Abraham and Ishmael, [saying], 'Purify My House for those who perform tawaf and those who are staying [there] for worship and those who bow and prostrate [in prayer].' (Qur'an 2:125)***

Those who complete Hajj are known as Hajji. Some hadith (sayings of Prophet Muhammad Pbuh) say that sins are cleansed by the journey: 'He will return as if he were born anew'.



**What is Jihad?**

'The most excellent man is one who works hard in the of Allah with his life and property'. (Hadith)

'The best jihad is to speak the truth before a tyrant ruler.' (Hadith)

Jihad was ordained at al-Madinah in the second year of Hijrah (This is the Prophet's migration from Makkah to Madinah). Jihad is the word used for personal struggle of every Muslim to follow the teachings of Islam and to resist evil. It literally means 'striving' or 'trying the best you possibly can.'



**How is a Mosque important to Muslims in their daily lives?**

Muslims try to go to mosque to pray their five daily prayers. If they can't go to the mosque they will pray in their homes. Muslims use the mosque as a school too - evening classes are held where young children, teenagers and even adults go to learn Arabic language and to learn how to read the Qur'an. Some Muslims get married in a mosque. There is also a place in a mosque or an outside room where they wash the body of a dead person to prepare them to be buried in their graves. The Mosque is used as a place of teaching, for local meetings and quiet meditation. As you can see – the mosque is very important to Muslims and their lives!

**Famous Muslim Female Calligraphers**

**A'isha bint Ahmad.** She was an expert at a calligraphy style known as Kufic. She had an extensive library and also wrote poetry.

**Zulaykhah Khatimi Sa'id**. One of the most beautifully illustrated copies of the Qur'an ever written was completed by her.

**Ridaa bint al Fath,** who lived in Baghdad, about 800 years ago, had such beautiful penmanship, that she earned the nickname, 'the Glory of Womanhood.'

**What is Greater Jihad?**

Greater jihad is a personal inward struggle of all Muslims to live in line with the teachings of their faith. This means they must observe the Five Pillars of Islam.

**Calligraphy**

One of the most difficult things is to describe something that we don't know and have never seen. We can have an idea of what we think God is like but we don't really know. This is one of the reasons why Muslims will never allow pictures of God (Allah) to be drawn but they do have a rich artistic tradition of calligraphy and patterns to express their beliefs.

**The prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said, *"Allah is beautiful and loves beauty."***

Islamic art often contains quotes from the Qur'an or important Muslim words in Arabic They are written in calligraphy and take a long time for the artist to complete .

**What is Lesser Jihad?**

Lesser jihad is seen as the outward struggle to defend Islam from threat.






**How do Muslim artist express ideas and feelings?**

(a) calligraphy- beautiful and stylised writing, especially verses from the Qur'an.

(b) geometric designs- especially repeating or tessellating ones that express infinity and reflect the order and precision of Allah's creation.

(c) flowery or leafy patterns (known as arabesque),-often repeating and set within a definite shape, which evoke a feeling of a luscious garden of Paradise. Sometimes artists combine two or all three of these in a single work, and they use all kinds of materials, techniques and colours.