Year 8 RE – Unit 1: Stewardship



Keywords

Stewardship – taking care of the environment and resources so that they can be passed on to the next generation

Creation – the action or process of bringing something into existence

Natural Resources – all the land, forests, energy sources and minerals existing naturally in a place that can be used by people

Big Bang – a theory about the origin of the universe

Evolution – the process of natural selection that leads to changes in species over time to suit particular environments

Natural selection– the idea that certain characteristics help animals survive so animals with that characteristic are more likely to breed and pass it on to the next generation, making it more common over time

Imago Dei – in the image of God

Freewill – the ability to make decisions and choose between right and wrong

Creation in Genesis

Genesis 1

- The traditional creation story in which God creates the universe in six days and rests on the seventh.
- Adam and Eve are created at the same time.
- Humans are created in the image of God.
- Humans are given stewardship over the Earth and all creatures that inhabit it.

Genesis 2

- The emphasis is more on the creation of humans.
- Adam is created first from the earth and God breathes life into him.
- The Garden of Eden is described. Adam is given the job of guarding and cultivating it.
- Adam is warned not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- Adam is given the job of naming all the animals.
- Eve is made as a companion for Adam.

Michelangelo's *Creation of Adam*

This famous painting expresses many beliefs about God and his relationship to humanity. Adam is shown as a perfect man, full of strength. He is just waking up as God gives him life. God and Adam mirror each other to show the belief that humans are made in the image of God (*imago dei*). Adam is shown naked and young as he is newborn while God is shown as old to represent his wisdom. Despite his grey hair, God is also strong and muscular to represent his power. Adam is placed on a mountain – he is rooted to the earth from which he was made and is at the very top of creation. God floats above the ground to show he is transcendent – above and beyond human understanding.

The hands of Adam and God reach out to each other but never quite touch. This represents the love between God and humanity but also emphasises that God's holiness means we are limited in our interactions with him.

Being made in the image of God means that we have freewill (the ability to make decisions and choose between right and wrong). We also have creative abilities on a scale not seen elsewhere in creation.



Scientific Explanations

The Big Bang Theory

The Big Bang theory is the leading theory we have at the moment about how the universe began. It was first put forward by Father Georges Lemaître, a Catholic priest, and since then has been built up by other scientists.
The idea is that all the matter that makes up the universe (the physical stuff of the universe) was compressed together. It was so dense and so hot that it couldn't keep itself together and exploded. This is the moment we call the "Big Bang" and at this point, space and time were created. Temperatures slowly cooled and elements such as helium and hydrogen were formed. Over time, bits of solid matter began to take shape and combined to form stars and galaxies.

Evolution

The theory proposes the idea that life forms have changed over time. Organisms gradually change and develop into new species through a process known as "natural selection". Certain characteristics help animals to survive. These animals breed and pass on the favourable characteristics to their young while animals lacking these characteristics die out. Over generations, these characteristics become more common and a new species develops. This is a long, slow process and can take millions of years.

The Catholic Church

There is no contradiction in accepting the evidence presented by the scientific community and accepting belief in an almighty Creator. The Big Bang theory can tell us *how* the universe came to be while the Bible can tell us *why* the universe was created. The Church maintains that the Genesis stories are metaphors, written in an unscientific age but containing the essential truth that God was behind it all. One day of creation is a metaphor for millions of years of evolution. If God chose to develop life through the process of evolution, then that is part of a greater plan.

Keywords

Exploitation – treating or using something or someone unfairly to gain advantage

Climate change – changes in the climate over time. This can be global or regional and can refer to warmer or cooler changes

Global warming – the increase in the earth's average temperature

Greenhouse effect – a process that occurs when gases in the earth's atmosphere trap heat from the sun

Stewardship of wealth – handling wealth in a responsible way that does not harm or disadvantage others

Fairtrade – a system which ensures decent working conditions and fair pay for farmers and workers in developing countries

Encyclical – a letter from the Pope outlining and clarifying certain teachings



Animals

The book of Genesis says several times that humans have dominion over the earth and the animals. Christianity also teaches that humans are made in the image of God and are set above all other creatures. Some people believe this means that we can do what we like with animals. However, the Bible also has many teachings stipulating that animals should be treated with care and kindness. There are passages directing rest for working animals and warning that God cares for each and every part of his creation and will punish those who are cruel.

Hindus believe that humans, animals and all parts of the natural world are of equal value and all creation should be treated with respect. Hindus believe that God (Brahman) is the life force or energy of the universe and can be found in all living things. Reincarnation is the belief that the soul is reborn into another body and this body could be an animal. There are also many stories in which gods and goddesses have appeared on earth in animal form. Both of these reasons lead many Hindus to have a vegetarian diet.

Climate Change

"Climate change" is the term used for changes in global or regional climates over time. This means that weather patterns shift on a large scale. Many people associate this with the term "global warming" but climate change can mean that some areas get warmer while others get cooler.

Burning fossil fuels produces energy, but also releases greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous monoxide into the air. Over time, large quantities of these gases have built up in the atmosphere. Once in the atmosphere, greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide form a 'blanket' around the planet. This blanket traps the heat from the sun and causes the earth to heat up.

Stewardship means that we have a duty to protect the environment from the devastating effects of climate change. There are many things we can do to help. The best approach is to work both individually and collectively. For example:

- Walk, cycle or use public transport
- Put pressure on the government to make policies that support the environment through protests, joining a pressure group and writing to your MP
- Get your electricity from a green supplier.

Stewardship of Wealth

Stewardship is not just about the environment and animals; it is also about caring for other people. Stewardship of wealth is specifically about handling or managing our wealth in a responsible way that does not disadvantage others. There is nothing wrong with being rich or wanting to make money but there is something wrong with creating that wealth by exploiting others.

In 1 Timothy 6:10 the Bible says, **"...for the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil."** This verse is often misquoted. It is important to note that the Bible is not saying that *money* is the root of all evil but the *love of money*. If you value money above all other things, your greed will lead you to justify any actions in order to get that money.

Jesus specifically tells us to **"love your neighbour as you love yourself "(**Matthew 22:39) and **"do to others as you would have them do to you"** (Luke 6:31). This means that having compassion for others is a direct teaching.

Christians also believe that we will face judgement for what we have or haven't done to help those in poverty. The **Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus** gives a clear warning to those who refuse to help.

Fairtrade provides us with a system which ensures decent working conditions and fair pay for farmers and workers in developing countries. Fairtrade requires companies to pay fair prices that must never fall below market value for the products they need so that the people who grow, mine or produce them are able to enjoy a decent quality of life.

If you buy things with the Fairtrade logo, you know that everyone involved in the production of these goods has been paid fairly, workers have been working in safe conditions and the environment has been protected so that growers will not lose nutritious soil for their crops and water will not be polluted.





FAIRTRADE

Laudato Si- Care for our Common Home

In 2015 Pope Francis wrote an open letter inviting everyone on the planet to join together to look after our common home – the Earth. In his encyclical, *Laudato Si*, he urges us to rethink our lifestyles. We live in a society where food, clothes and other goods are easy and cheap to come by. We are also very quick to throw things away and think little of our impact on the planet and poorer communities. *Laudato Si* challenges us to live simply, sustainably and in harmony with nature and each other.

Year 8 RE – Unit 2: Morality & Conscience

Key words

Sin– an action or type of behaviour which is believed to be against God

The Fall– the fall of man is a term used to describe the transition of the first man and woman from a state of innocent obedience to God to a state of guilty disobedience.

Omnibenevolent– the belief that God is all good

Omniscient– the belief that God is all knowing

Omnipotent– the belief that God is all powerful

Temptation– the desire to do something, especially something wrong or unwise

Original Sin– everyone is born sinful because of Adam and Eve's disobedience

Image and likeness– we are made to resemble God.

Evil– the opposite of goodness that often results in pain. Often causes suffering.

Suffering– experiencing pain, illness, loss, death. It can be the result of evil.

Moral Evil– evil caused by humans e.g. murder.

Natural Evil– evil that occurs naturally e.g. flooding.



The Fall of Man: Bible Story Summary

God created Adam, the first man, and Eve, the first woman, and placed them in a perfect home, the Garden of Eden. In fact, everything about Earth was perfect at that moment in time. Food, in the form of fruit and vegetables, was plentiful and free for the taking. The garden God created was spectacularly beautiful.
God put two important trees in the garden: the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Adam's duties were clear. God told him to tend the garden and not eat the fruit of those two trees, or he would die. Adam passed that warning on to Eve.
Then Satan entered the garden, disguised as a serpent and decided to trick Adam and Eve.

He lied to Eve:
"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (Genesis 3:4-5).

Instead of believing God, Eve believed Satan. She ate the fruit and gave some to Adam to eat and when they did, "the eyes of both of them were opened." (Genesis 3:7) They realised they were naked and so they quickly made coverings from fig leaves.
God invoked curses on Satan, Eve, and Adam. He could have destroyed Adam and Eve, but out of his gracious love didn't but he did, however, cast them out of the Garden of Eden.

From that time on, the Bible records a sad history of humanity disobeying God, but God had put his plan of salvation in place before the foundation of the world. He responded to the Fall of Man with a Saviour and Redeemer, his Son Jesus Christ.



The Fall of Man explains why sin and misery exist in the world today. Every act of violence, every illness, every tragedy that happens can be traced back to that fateful encounter between the first human beings and Satan.

Original Sin

Original sin is a Christian teaching **that everyone is born sinful.** This means that they are born with a built-in urge to do bad things and to disobey God.

In traditional Christian teaching, original sin is the result of Adam and Eve's disobedience to God when they ate a forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden. 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.

Catholics believe that everyone is born with Original Sin. Even a new born baby who hasn't done anything at all is damaged by original sin. 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.

Original sin affects individuals by separating them from God, and bringing dissatisfaction and guilt into their lives.
On a world scale, original sin explains such things as cruelty, war, exploitation and abuse.

Some Christians believe that human beings can't cure themselves of original sin. The only way they can be saved from its consequences is by the grace of God.
The only way people can receive God's grace is by accepting his love and forgiveness, believing that Jesus Christ died on the cross to redeem their sins, and by getting baptised.



Year 8 RE – Unit 2: Morality & Conscience

Key words

Atheist– someone that does not believe in in the existence of God

Theist– someone that does believe in the existence of God.

Agnostic– someone that is unsure whether there is a God

Free Will– the belief that human beings are able to make their own moral choices.

The problem of evil– questioning the nature and/or existence of a divine being because of the presence of evil and suffering in the world.

Moral dilemma– a situation in which a difficult choice has to be made between two courses of action.

Moral decision– a choice made based on a person's beliefs.

Bible– the Holy book of Christians

The Decalogue– the 10 commandments. A set of principles/rules given by God.

Conscience– the inner feeling of the rightness or wrongness of an action.

Church– the community of Christians

Natural Law– unchanging principles that are a basis for how humans should behave

Formation of the conscience– the process of training the conscience to be upright and truthful

Evil

Evil is a cause of human suffering. There are two types of evil:

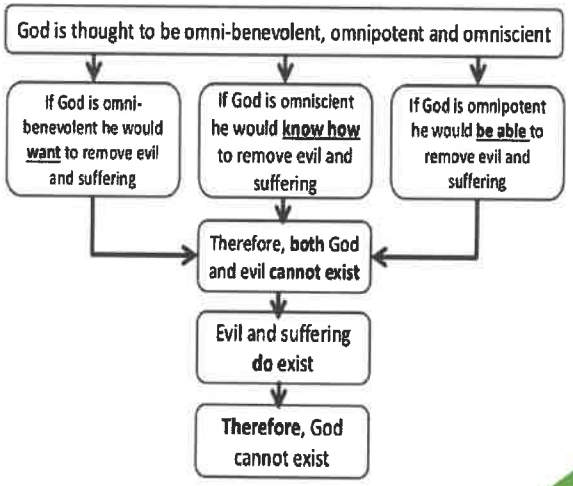
moral evil – the acts of humans which are considered to be morally wrong, e.g. murder and theft

natural evil – natural disasters, e.g. earthquakes or tsunamis, which humans have no control over

The problem of evil

Questions raised by the existence of evil and suffering in the world:

- What does the presence of evil and suffering say about God's love, power and purpose?
- Is there a purpose to suffering?
- Is suffering the price humans pay for free will?
- How do different religions respond to evil and suffering?
- How do individuals respond to evil and suffering?



Making moral decisions

When faced with moral dilemmas, Catholics use different sources of authority and wisdom to help them to know how to act in the most moral and Christian way.

The magisterium – the teaching authority of the Catholic Church formed of the Pope and Bishops of the Church
Holy scripture – the Bible which is classed as the Word of God, including the teachings of Christ
Apostolic tradition – the teachings of Christ that were revealed to the apostles and have been passed down as tradition

These three sources of Wisdom help us to train our conscience. By reading scripture, attending Mass, listening to the members of the Church, our conscience in informs and is able to support is making moral decisions.

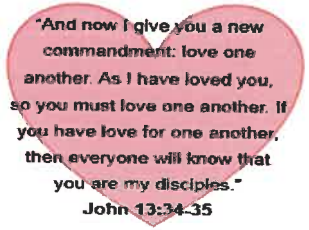
These sources should be all be consulted/ used together to help us to understand, interpret and develop teachings for the Catholic Church and to help us make moral decisions.

Catholic responses to the problem of evil

1. God gave humans free will and as a result some choose to abuse this gift.
2. God has a plan for our lives that we may not understand. We need to trust in God even through suffering.
3. We must follow the example of Jesus and help those that suffer.
4. Experiencing evil and suffering in this life prepares us for life in heaven.







Year 8 – Unit 3
Sikhism

Keywords

Diaspora – the dispersion or spread of people from their homeland
Guru – teacher
Waheguru – God, "Glorious Teacher"
Guru Granth Sahib – the holy book of Sikhism
Khanda – the symbol for Sikhism
Gurdwara – the Sikh place of worship
Reincarnation – your soul is reborn into another body
Atman – the soul
Khalsa – community of initiated Sikh men and women
Kirpan – a sword or knife
Gurpurb – anniversary of a Guru's birth or death
Caste – a social group within a strict hierarchical system of organising society, no longer legal in India
Martyr – someone who dies for their faith
Langar – kitchen, also the communal meal shared after worship
Prasad/parshad - a sweet vegetarian food that is received in cupped hands as a gift of God at the end of worship
Takht – the raised platform for the Guru Granth Sahib
Chanani – the canopy over the Guru Granth Sahib
Chauri – fan waved over the Guru Granth Sahib
Granthi – reader of the Sikh scriptures during services
Kirtan - singing of hymns
Ardas – prayer
Mela – festival or fair
Panth – the community of Sikhs worldwide
Singh – lion
Kaur – princess
Sewa/seva – selfless service

Sikh Beliefs – An Overview

Sikhs believe in **one God** (monotheism) with many names. Many Sikhs call God "Waheguru" (meaning "Glorious Teacher). God has no form or gender and is the creator of the universe. God is everywhere.

Sikhs believe we all have a **soul** (atman) that originated from God. The aim is to reunite your soul with God and this can be done through good actions. Sikhs believe that you can have more than one life (reincarnation) and the quality of each life is determined by the good and bad actions you have performed.

Equality of all people is a core Sikh teaching.

Sikhs **pray** several times a day to keep their lives focused on God. They believe that all **money** should be earned by honest means. Wealth is a blessing to be shared.

Sikhs show commitment to the faith through the ***amrit*** ceremony. Amrit is a sweet water.

Initiated Sikhs are permitted to carry a **kirpan**, a small sword or knife. This is a symbolic weapon for fighting injustice.



The Gurus

There are 10 Gurus in Sikhism ("guru" means "teacher"). Sikhs have a deep respect for the gurus but do not worship them. No guru is considered to be more important than the others as each has had his own role to play in the development of the religion. Their birthdays are celebrated although two gurus were martyred so their deaths are commemorated. These are called gurpurbs.

Guru Arjan Dev was the fifth Sikh Guru and the first Sikh martyr: he gave up his life for the Sikh people.
The Guru laid the foundation of the Golden Temple in Amritsar. He also designed the four doors in a gurdwara (the Sikh place of worship), proclaiming that "My faith is for the people of all castes and all creeds from whichever direction they come and to whichever direction they bow." He also declared that all Sikhs should donate a tenth of their earnings to charity.
The greatest contribution he made to the Sikh faith was to compile all of the past Gurus' writings into one book, now the holy scripture: the Guru Granth Sahib. It was this holy book that made him a martyr.
Guru Arjan Dev included the compositions of both Hindu and Muslim saints which he considered consistent with the teachings of Sikhism and the Gurus. In 1606, the Muslim Emperor Jahangir ordered that he be tortured and sentenced to death after he refused to remove all Islamic and Hindu references from the Holy book.
He was made to sit on a burning hot sheet while boiling hot sand was poured over his burnt body. After enduring five days of unrelenting torture Guru Arjan Dev was taken for a bath in the river. As thousands watched he entered the river never to be seen again.



The Beginnings of Sikhism

Sikhism originated in Punjab, north India, and was founded by Guru Nanak.
Nanak was born on 15 April 1469 into a Hindu family. Muslims had started settling in the area and held most of the wealth and power although the population was predominately Hindu. Nanak's father was employed as an accountant by a local Muslim landlord.
Nanak was a deeply spiritual person even as a young child. Hindus and Muslims alike were impressed with his devotion to God but his father found his lack of focus on practical life frustrating. He was meant to follow his father's footsteps into accounting but spent his time praying and meditating.
Nanak was sent to stay with his sister in the nearby village of Sultanpur and he began work in a grain store. One day he went missing while bathing in the river. Three days later he returned and announced:
"There is no Hindu and no Muslim, so whose path shall I follow? God is neither Hindu nor Muslim and the path I shall follow is God's."
Guru Nanak preached against the traditional Hindu beliefs of spiritual pollution and discrimination within the caste system. All people, regardless of social status, are worthy of seeking God.



Sikh Worship

Gurdwara - the place of Sikh worship, meaning "the residence of the Guru". There are about 200 Gurdwaras in Britain. In a modern gurdwara, the Guru is not a person but the Guru Granth Sahib. Any building containing the book is a gurdwara. There are no statues, or religious pictures nor are there candles, incense, or bells, or any other ritualistic devices.

The focus of attention is the Guru Granth Sahib. It is kept in a room of its own during the night and carried in procession to the main hall at the start of the day's worship.

The book is placed on a raised platform (**takht**, meaning "throne") under a canopy (**chanani**), and covered with an expensive cloth when not being read. During a service a person with a whisk or fan called a **chauri** waves it over the book. Although Sikhs show reverence to the Guru Granth Sahib, their reverence is to its spiritual content not the book itself.

There are four doors into a gurdwara as a symbol that people from all four points of the compass are welcome. There's always a light on in a gurdwara, to show that the Guru's Light is always visible and is accessible to everyone at any time.

Every gurdwara has a **langar** attached to it where food is served to anyone without charge. The food served in the langar must be simple and vegetarian so that anyone can eat in the langar.

While Sikhs do not regard any particular day of the week as a holy day, they usually go on Sundays in Britain as that fits the UK pattern of work. Most Sikhs go to the gurdwara on gurpurbs.

Anyone, of any faith, can visit a gurdwara and will be made welcome.

Visiting: All visitors should remove their shoes and cover their heads before entering the main hall. Sikhs will bow to the Guru Granth Sahib as the first thing they do, touching the floor with their forehead. People also place an offering of food or money in front of the Guru Granth Sahib. This is used to run the gurdwara and the langar. The offering is not charity but a sharing of God's gifts. If a person has no money or food to offer they may offer flowers, or just some words of sincere thanks. Non-Sikh visitors should also bow and make an offering.

Everyone sits on the floor in a gurdwara because it gives everyone a place of equal status to sit. Men and women generally sit on separate sides of the hall.

Towards the end of a service **karah prasad**, a sweet vegetarian food that has been blessed, will be served. This should be taken and received in cupped hands as a gift of God.

Sikhs do not have ordained priests and any Sikh can lead the prayers and recite the scriptures to the congregation.

Services: Each gurdwara has a **granthi** who organises the daily services and reads from the Guru Granth Sahib.

Kirtan - hymn-singing is an essential part of Sikh worship.

Sermon - A sermon or talk, usually based on a theme from Sikh history.

Ardas - The congregation then stands with eyes closed facing the Guru Granth Sahib for prayer (ardas).

Hukam - the Guru Granth Sahib is opened at a random page and the hymn found at the top of the left-hand page is read.

Food – the sharing of prasad and langar

Festivals

Gurpurbs

Most of the Sikh festivals are gurpurbs – a celebration of the anniversary of a Guru's birthday or sometimes their death. There will be a continuous reading of the Guru Granth Sahib which takes 48 hours and ends on the morning of the day the gurpurb is being observed. Readers read in shifts of around 2 hours but there is always someone ready to take over if someone needs a break. Once the reading is completed, there will be sermons and lectures about the Guru being celebrated. Afterwards food is shared among the congregation and occasionally with the wider community by volunteers handing treats or fruit out to passers-by.

Vaisakhi

Vaisakhi is one of the most important dates in the Sikh calendar. It is the Sikh New Year festival and is celebrated on April 13 or 14. It also commemorates 1699, the year Sikhism was born as a collective faith. Vaisakhi is a long established harvest festival in the Punjab.

In 1699 the tenth guru, Guru Gobind Singh, chose Vaisakhi as the occasion to transform the Sikhs into a family of soldier saints, known as the Khalsa Panth. During the Vaisakhi festival Guru Gobind Singh came out of a tent carrying a sword. He challenged any Sikh who was prepared to give his life to come into the tent and one man stepped forward. The Guru returned alone with his sword covered in blood. He then requested another volunteer and repeated the same action four times until five men had disappeared into the tent. The crowd was very concerned until they saw the five return with the Guru. They became known as the Panj Piare, or 'Beloved Five'.

Vaisakhi is celebrated in much the same way as gurpurbs. Gurdwaras are decorated and visited. Parades, dancing and singing happen throughout the day. Many Sikhs choose to be baptised into the Khalsa on this day.

Names and the Naming Ceremony

Equality is important in Sikh teaching. In the caste system, names were often a big clue as to what someone's social status was. The practice of women taking their husband's name after growing up with their father's also means that they are always defined by the male relationships they have. It was Guru Gobind Singh who introduced the tradition of replacing family names with "Singh" for men (meaning "lion") and "Kaur" for women (meaning "princess").

Naming a baby: A respected member of the community will visit the family and perform a small ritual in which *amrit* is given to both mother and baby. Soon after the birth, the baby will be taken to the gurdwara to receive a name. The baby is presented before the Guru Granth Sahib. The granti will open the book at random and read the first new verse at the top of the left-hand page. The first letter of the first word is used as the first letter of the baby's name. Names do not have to follow any strict rules in Sikh culture so parents can make one up or even blend their names together to form the baby's name. The granthi will then announce the baby's name to the congregation. The congregation will reply with the words "Sat sri akal" which is a Sikh greeting meaning "God is truth".

Sewa

Sewa involves acting selflessly and helping others in a variety of ways, without any reward or personal gain. It is a way of life for many Sikhs and is part of their daily routine. Sikhism teaches that sewa is an act of service towards Waheguru. It can be physical (cleaning the gurdwara), mental (teaching others) and material (donating money). It demonstrates humility, equality, love and compassion. Performing sewa brings Sikhs closer to Waheguru (God).

Year 8 RE – Unit 4: The Gospels



Keywords

Gospel – Good News

Apostle - Follower of Jesus, one sent out to preach the Good News.

Evangelist – Upper case "E" -The writer of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)

evangelist – Lower case "e" – Someone seeking to convert others to Christianity

Prophecy – a prediction of the future

Convert – to change from one religion to another

Genealogy– tracing your family tree.

Dei Verbum – The Word of God.

Magi – wise people

Salvation – Being saved, being completely close to God.

Papacy – authority of the Pope

Miracle – An occurrence in nature only attributable to God. Outside the laws of science.

What is a gospel?

The term "gospel" means "good news". The Bible contains four gospels. The gospel writers are Mark (written around 66-70 AD), Matthew, Luke (both written around 85-90 AD) and John (written between 90 and 110 AD) and their books are biographies telling the story of the life of Jesus.

Matthew, Mark and Luke's writings are often called the synoptic gospels as they are similar in content, arrangement and language.

The Gospel of John is missing some key stories including Jesus' baptism, temptation in the desert and transfiguration; and has some stories in a different order, happening at a different point in Jesus' life.

Christians believe that the gospels are the inspired Word of God. "Inspiration" in this context means that the Holy Spirit worked in and through the Evangelists ("Evangelist" with a capital "E" is referring to Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. An evangelist with a lower case "e" is someone who seeks to convert people to Christianity). The Holy Spirit and the writers worked together and the evangelists were empowered to use their own words and talents to communicate what God wanted them to write.

Since the gospels are inspired in this way, Christians consider them free from religious error: that is, free from errors related to salvation.



Mark

- Written before 70 AD approximately. It is the earliest gospel (although it appears second in order in the Bible) and both Matthew and Luke used it to help write their gospels.
- Mark was a companion of both Peter and Paul.
- Mark writes for the persecuted Christians in Rome – he explains Jewish customs and translates some Aramaic sayings into Greek so we know he was not writing for a Jewish audience
- He focuses on Jesus' actions and a whole third of the book is devoted to the arrest, trial, death, and resurrection
- Jesus refers to himself as the Son of Man which was an old Jewish title for someone who is close to God
- Mark's Gospel begins with the Baptism of Jesus.
- Mark's Gospel focuses on Jesus as the Christ, and the Son of God.
- The symbol for Mark is a Winged Lion, Lions are a sign of royalty which is appropriate for the Son of God

Matthew

- Written 70 AD approximately.
- Matthew was a tax collector.
- He is writing for Jewish converts. He emphasises Jesus' fulfilment of Old Testament prophecies.
- Matthew starts his gospel with the genealogy of Jesus, tracing his lineage back to King David and then further back to Abraham. King David is important as the Messiah will come from the line of David. Abraham is important as the founding father of Judaism.
- Matthew focuses on Joseph's dreams - first about Mary's pregnancy and later the danger they were in from Herod which lead to the flight to Egypt
- The symbol for Matthew is a Winged Man for Jesus' humanity

Luke

- Written after 70 AD approximately.
- Luke was a doctor and a disciple of the Apostle Paul.
- Luke portrays Jesus as the Saviour with concern for the poor, the outcasts and the powerless.
- We have another genealogy of Jesus tracing his lineage back to Adam, the first man
- Luke highlights the unique place of women in the ministry of Jesus.
- Luke gives more information about Jesus' birth and infancy. He includes famous parables such as the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son
- The symbol for Luke is a Winged Ox to represent Jesus' sacrifice for the sins of humanity

Keywords

Theologian – someone who studies God

Incarnation – made flesh, Christians believe Jesus is God incarnate (God in human form)

Mystery – something that cannot be explained in human terms

Messiah - Anointed One, chosen one, saviour

Parable - A story with a religious message particularly used for the stories of Jesus.

John

- Written around 90 AD . This is over 50 years after the death and resurrection of Jesus. Called the "spiritual gospel".
- John was a theologian and emphasises the mystery of Jesus
- Repeated refers to the Incarnation
- John's Gospel was written for a more educated audience as his stories are often difficult to understand.
- John has several "I am" symbols: "I am the Good Shepherd, I am the bread of Life."
- The symbol for John is an Eagle to represent Jesus being higher than the rest of us and his ascension



How were the books of the Bible chosen?

Deciding which books to include in the Bible was a long process which took place over a long period of time. The evidence we have for this process comes from theological treatises, church histories and letters. Different church leaders and theologians put forward their arguments about which books they thought belonged in the Bible and which books they did not.

A Christian historian named Eusebius (who also became Bishop of Caesaria) wrote a list of which books were considered to be correct in the early 300s. The recognised books included the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

The books themselves were written by various authors over a period of more than 1,000 years ranging from around 1200 BC to 1 AD. Because the authors were different, the styles of writing vary and we have mix of genres including poetry, history, prophecy, law and letters. Over time, the communities that used these books would decide which ones had real authority and which should be discarded. Most of these decisions took place before 400 AD but arguments continued through the centuries and reached a climax when Martin Luther published his version of the Bible in German in the 1500s.

Three criteria were used to determine whether a book deserved to be kept or not:

1. **Authorship** – who wrote it? This should preferably be an apostle, Paul or someone close to them.
2. **Antiquity** – how old is it? Preference was given to older texts written closer to the time of the events they were describing.
3. **Orthodoxy** – how closely does it follow Christian teaching?

Different versions of the Bible

Most Protestant Bibles have 66 books – 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament.

The Roman Catholic Bible has 73 books. The seven extra books are known as the Apocrypha and can sometimes be found in a separate section between the Old and New Testaments.

Death, Judgement, Heaven, and Hell

Death

Christians believe that death is a transition to a new phase of life. It is not something to fear because it is the start of eternal life without the limitations of an earthly body. The soul is an eternal part of a person that never dies. At the point of death, the soul is judged and sent to either Heaven or Hell. Catholics also believe that the soul might be sent to Purgatory.

Judgement

Catholics believe in two types of judgement:

Particular judgement happens immediately when a person dies. This judgement is on a personal, individual basis.

Final Judgement will happen at the end of time – the Day of Judgement. Jesus returns and judges the whole of creation. This means that every person that has ever lived will be resurrected, reunited with their body (which has been restored to full health) and judged for all to see.

Purgatory

Purgatory is not really a place but is a process or a journey towards becoming cleansed of sin. Even though God has forgiven sins, there is still a price to be paid and no one can enter Heaven with sin still on them. For example, if you broke your teacher's window your teacher will forgive you but will still expect you to repair the damage. Catholics believe that the process of purgatory can be made quicker through the prayers of those still alive.

Non-Catholic Christians do not believe in Purgatory. It is a matter of interpreting scripture in different ways.

Heaven and Hell

Heaven is a state of eternal happiness in the presence of God. All worries and cares are removed.

Hell, on the other hand, is the state of eternal separation from God. Christians believe that God doesn't send people to Hell; they send themselves there when they misuse their freewill. Jesus says it is a place of eternal torment, of unquenchable fire, and from which there is no return. He calls Hell a place of "outer darkness", comparing it to "Gehenna", which was a trash dump outside the walls of Jerusalem where rubbish was burned and maggots abounded

Year 8 Unit 5: Spiritual Quest

The term "spiritual" is something we cannot see or touch; it is not physical or material. By our focusing on this inner spirituality, we are able to adjust our lives and actions in a way to maximize the good feelings and minimize the negative. Every choice a human makes impacts upon their soul, therefore their spiritual journey is of high importance throughout their lives. Catholics believe that their spiritual quest is to be with God in Heaven. This can be achieved through God's grace and actively participating in the growth of their relationship with God.

Key terms

Spirituality - Relating to or affecting the human soul. It is not physical or material.

Soul - the innermost spiritual aspect of a person and that by which they are most especially in God's image.

Design arguments - identify various observable features of the world that constitute evidence of intelligent design and conclude that God exists as He is the best explanation for these features.

A posteriori – knowledge that can be obtained through experience.

Teleological – looking to the end results (telos) in order to draw a conclusion.

Cosmological argument - everything that is caused is caused by something other than itself. A causal chain cannot stretch infinitely backward in time. There must be a first cause of the universe. That cause is God.

Religious Experience - when someone feels they have had a direct or personal experience of God.

Miracle - an extraordinary event that cannot be explained by science so therefore it must an act of God.

Conversion - Any turning or changing from a state of sin to repentance or from unbelief to faith.

Why do religious people try to find God?

- God is a **creator**, we are made in his image ('imago dei') therefore God is our beginning and end. He can help us understand the meaning of life; our purpose and reason.
- God is **omnipotent**. He has the power to stop the problem of evil (both natural and moral). People look to God for his support through difficult times.
- God is **omnibenevolent**. People are attracted to Him search for this unconditional love, forgiveness and reconciliation.
- He is **eternal** i.e. He has no beginning or end, and does not die. Therefore, people look for Him for everlasting life in Heaven.

Design arguments (see key terms)

Since the concepts of design and purpose are closely related, design arguments are also known as *teleological arguments*, which incorporates "telos," the Greek word for "goal" or "purpose." The design argument rejects the idea that we were created by random chance. Examples of design:

- Trees take in carbon dioxide and give out oxygen.
- The Earth is uniquely placed in the solar system so that it can support life - not too close to the sun that we burn up, not too far from the sun that we freeze. Scientists call this the "Goldilocks zone" because it is just right.

"In the absence of any other proof, the thumb alone would convince me of God's existence". Isaac Newton (1642-1727)





St Thomas Aquinas' argument from design

St. Thomas Aquinas (c1225-1274) is arguably the most important Catholic theologian in history. His fifth way he said There is beneficial order in the universe, i.e. there are things in the universe that work towards an end or purpose. This beneficial order could not happen by chance. Therefore, they must be directed by something (archer and the arrow) that does have intelligence. Therefore, God exists as the explanation of this beneficial order.



William Paley's design argument

William Paley (1743-1805) put forward the most famous version of the design argument in his book Natural Theology (1802). To illustrate his argument he used an analogy; comparing the design of the universe to the design of a watch.

He argued that just as someone who found the watch would conclude that it was made by someone because of its design, someone who looks at the universe must conclude that there is a designer. If a watch needs a watch-maker, then the universe needs a universe-maker.

Strengths of design arguments

- It is an aposteriori argument. So evidence of design, complexity and purpose can be observed within the universe.
- The use of analogy (the watchmaker) in this argument makes it comprehensible to us: it moves from something within our experience to try to explain something beyond it (the creation of the universe).
- It fits in with human reason; it encourages and deepens the study of nature; it suggests purpose in the universe; it strengthens faith.
- The argument is not necessarily incompatible with evolution and Big Bang: both of these processes could be part of the design of the universe.

Weaknesses of the design arguments

- Analogous design argument's (like William Paley's) constrain and reduce nature, because they suggest that nature is like man-made objects and artefacts. In other words, worlds are not like watches.
- Evolutionary theory and natural selection seem to suggest that complex organisms arose through genetic mutation, not through design.
- David Hume suggests that just because things in the world have designers, that doesn't mean that the world itself has a designer.
- The world may be designed, but there may be more than one designer. (David Hume).





Aristotle's levels of happiness (see key terms)

Aristotle is a famous a philosopher and teacher of Ancient Greece. He created a theory about levels of happiness of which the highest is ultimate happiness and fulfilment with God.

Life of Saint Mother Teresa

https://www.biography.com/religious-figure/mother-teresa

Key terms

Laetus – achieving happiness through things e.g. chocolate, clothes etc

Felix – gaining happiness from competition e.g. winning a race, being the most popular person in school.

Beatitudo – achieving happiness from doing good things for others and make a positive difference to the world e.g. charity work, being kind to others.

Sublime Beatitudo – achieving ultimate happiness by serving God and developing a relationship with Him. Once you realise that material things in life are only temporary, you worry about them less and focus instead on faith and love.

Imago dei - human beings are created in the image and likeness of God.





Cosmological argument (see key terms)

Cosmological arguments, like design or teleological arguments, use the world around us to draw conclusions about the existence and nature of God (a posteriori). St Thomas Aquinas' cosmological argument suggests that the existence of the universe requires an explanation. It must have been caused by something outside of the universe (transcendent); this is assumed to be God.

Strengths of the cosmological argument	Weaknesses of the cosmological argument
• A posteriori - Therefore grounded in our experience. • Follows philosophically sound logic. • Science has proven that the world has a beginning. The cosmological argument supports scientific discovery and can be combined with other theories e.g. The Big Bang Theory and Evolution. • The natural world and Genesis provide support for this argument.	• Lots of assumptions made e.g. that there has to be a cause. • The world may be infinite and doesn't need to have a cause. • Contradicting statements - Everything needs a cause, but God doesn't need a cause? • Quantum physics (physics that explains how everything works) shows that something can come from nothing.

Religious Experience



Religious experiences are unique to the individual and bring people closer to the God. Genuine religious experiences seem to be encouraging; they do not condemn the individual, but help them to live a better life or help others. Richard Swinburne's types of religious experiences are explained below:

Public

1. You see 'God's action' in a public object or scene e.g. Numinous experiences like the sunset is really the 'hand of God', or the blooming of a flower is a 'miracle of God'.
2. A breach of natural law e.g. Miracles where Jesus turns water turns into wine (see John 2:1-11) and The Kangaroo Baby.

Private

3. A personal experience of God that *can* be described in normal sensory language like visions and dreams e.g. the conversion of Saul on the road to Damascus (see Acts 9:3-9), visions of the Virgin Mary and the life of John Pridmore - https://whyimcatholic.com/index.php/conversion-stories/catholic-reverts/24-catholic-revert-john-pridmore.
4. A personal experience that *cannot* be described in normal language. That is, it is *ineffable*.
   For example, some 'mystical experiences' can only be explained by using negatives (saying what it is not) or metaphor.
5. No specific experience, but more of a constant, or regular, feeling that God is simply 'there'. His presence can be sensed. This can link to experience of public and private prayer.







Imago dei

"You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb". (Psalms 139:13-14 NLT).

Why is it important to build a spiritual relationship with God?

Catholics believe:

1. **You are unique**. And made in the image of God (imago dei). You possess God given qualities and talents to support your spiritual development (See the Parable of the Talents Matthew 25: 14 – 30)
2. You're wonderfully **complex.** Complexity suggests design and design needs a designer. That designer is God. Created by God out of love, imago dei.
3. You were created for a **purpose and reason**. You didn't just evolve or merely the result of a biological process. You're who you are because God made you, and God has a plan and purpose for your life.

All humankind retains value in God's sight, despite sin. Therefore, we have the hope and assurance that no person is beyond the saving and redemptive work of Christ. John Hick believes that humans need to grow and develop into the "likeness" of God. He developed this further by explaining that through hardships and life, humans develop virtues, and these virtues are more meaningful than if they were simply graced to humans by God.

Can Religious Experiences prove God exists? Yes	Can Religious Experiences prove God exists? No
• Richard Swinburne's principle of credulity. if person believes God was present we should accept what a person experiences unless you can prove otherwise. • Swinburne's principle of testimony suggests that I should accept your statement of what you experienced unless I can demonstrate positive grounds showing it to be false. • William James observes that religious experiences tend to have a profound effect on the lives of people and even whole societies. Due to this is it reasonable to suggests that God is the reasons for this.	• It is impossible for a human to experience God. God is not physical; therefore, it is impossible to prove the existence of something we cannot experience. • On the whole, most examples of religious experiences are from individuals rather than groups. We cannot corroborate the account so cannot accept if it is true. • In many cases, drugs or alcohol can produce very similar effects to a religious experience. We also have physiological problems such as temporal lobe epilepsy. Therefore, it is difficult to prove the source of the experience to be God.

Year 8 – Unit 6
Human Rights

Keywords

Human Rights: the basic rights which it is generally considered all people should have, such as justice and the freedom to say what you think

Abuse: to use or treat someone or something wrongly or badly, especially in a way that is to your own advantage

Violation: an action that breaks or acts against something, especially a law, agreement, principle or something that should be treated with respect

Asylum seeker: someone who has run away from their homeland and arrives in another country asking for asylum (safety). They have a legal right to stay in that country while their application is being considered.

Refugee: someone who has asked for asylum and has had their request granted by the government. They have proved that they will be in danger if they are returned home and they can stay as long as they need to.

Migrant: someone who was born in one country and now lives in another.

Violation – an action that breaks or acts against something, especially a law, agreement or principle

Discrimination – treating people badly because of their race, gender, sex, age, class or ability

Prejudice – believing some people are inferior or superior without knowing them

Racism – the belief that a particular race is superior to others

Integration – the bringing of people of different racial or ethnic groups together as equal in society

Segregation – the policy of separating people of different races or ethnic groups, as a form of discrimination

Sanctity of Life – the idea that all life is sacred and belongs to God.

The Declaration of Human Rights

There is a big difference between what we *want* and what we *need*. The Universal Declaration of human rights outlines the rights that every person is entitled to and how they should be protected.

The Declaration of Human Rights was written by the United Nations in 1948 after the abuses that so many people faced during WW2 and the Nazi reign.
It consists of 30 articles (points) that aim to keep the citizens of the member counties safe, protected and treated justly.
It means you can defend your rights in UK courts and it compels public organisations – like the Government, police and local councils – to treat everyone equally, with fairness, dignity and respect.



The Sanctity of Life

- The Roman Catholic Church teaches that all human life is sacred and no one has the right to deliberately take or abuse an innocent person's life.

- ***'Everyone is responsible for his life before God who has given it to him. We are stewards, not owners, of the life God has entrusted to us. It is not ours to dispose of.'*** (Catechism of the Catholic Church).

- This means that life is sacred (holy) and belongs to God.

The Civil Rights Movement

The 1950s and '60s were the height of the civil rights movement and the continued struggle for social and racial justice for African Americans in the United States. The Civil War abolished slavery, but it did not end discrimination. African Americans, along with help from many white colleagues, mobilised and began an unprecedented journey for equality. The most famous events during this period took place in America.



"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal."
I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.
I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character..."



Seeking Asylum

Lots of people seek asylum because they feel unsafe or threatened in their own county. Every year, people risk their lives trying to get to a safe haven because of war, disasters and threats.

❖ There were **29,456** asylum applications (main applicants only) in the UK in 2020, an **18% decrease** (Impacted by COVID-19). (Source: regugeecouncil.org)
❖ Each year Great Britain gets around 2-3% of the entire world's asylum seekers (Source: UNHCR)
❖ There are about 26.3 million refugees worldwide. Around **133,094** refugees are living in the UK. (Source: UNHCR).
❖ In 2015 the UK received **38,878** asylum applications. Germany received 431,000 and Sweden and Hungary both received 163,000. Not all of these will be approved because there are strict rules about evidence and asylum seekers struggle to provide this. (Source: Red Cross)
❖ 67% of the world's refugees come from just 5 countries: Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela, Afghanistan, South Sudan &Myanmar. (Source: UNHCR)

Amnesty International- are a charity that work to:
- End the destitution of asylum seekers
- End the indefinite detention of asylum seekers.



Jesus the Asylum Seeker

Joseph, Mary and Baby Jesus were asylum seekers. They fled for King Herod because he wanted to kill the new 'King' and had ordered the death of all baby boys. Mary and Joseph had to flee in order to save the life of their new baby.



UK Human Rights Abuses

Grenfell Tower

As recently as March 2021, MPs voted to allow building owners to pass the costs of replacing the unsafe cladding (the same type that caused the Grenfell Tower fire disaster) onto the leaseholders of the flats. The owners of the building either arranged the construction of the building or took over responsibility for it when they bought it. The leaseholders are people who have bought a flat in the building but who had no say in the construction process.

What does the Bible say?

The Rich Man and Lazarus

In the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus, the rich man does nothing while alive to help Lazarus, a poor beggar, and when he dies the rich man goes to Hell whilst Lazarus goes to Heaven. While in Hell the rich man asks Abraham for some relief and he is declined, in the same way that he did nothing to help Lazarus. He also asks Abraham if he can go and warn his brothers, but once again is declined, as his brothers have the **prophets** to listen to. This parable sends the message that worldly and earthly possessions are of no benefit in the afterlife. Those who have suffered on Earth will receive their reward in Heaven while those who have treated others poorly will not be granted a place in the Kingdom of God.

-The Parable of the Sheep and Goats
-The Good Samaritan
(both studied in the Morality & Conscience unit)

Catholic Social Justice teaches us that all people are made in the image of God and so possess an equal and inalienable worth. Because of this essential dignity, each person has a right to all that is needed to allow him or her to live their full potential as intended by God. As God is love, we were created to love and be in relationship with each other. Human dignity is upheld when each person's needs are met and when he or she lives in harmony with others in a community that together pursues the common good.

CAFOD

Catholic social teaching (CST) is rooted in Scripture, formed by the wisdom of Church leaders. It is our moral compass, guiding us on how to live out our faith in the world.
There are seven Catholic Social Teaching principles:

- Dignity
- Solidarity
- The common good
- The option for the poor
- Peace
- Care for creation
- The dignity of work and participation

CAFOD
Just one world

Our faith calls us to love God and to love our neighbours in every situation, especially our sisters and brothers living in poverty. Following in the footsteps of Christ, we hope to make present in our unjust and broken world, the justice, love and peace of God.

UK Human Rights Abuses

The Right to Protest



The UK is currently debating a new law that would introduce more rules to protests in the UK. This would include:

- 10-year jail terms for defacing a statue
- the police and council to impose start and finish times on any protest if it is believed to be a 'public nuisance'
- a 'public nuisance' could constitute the use of a megaphone or blowing of a whistle

People are concerned this could be the first step towards non-democratic regimes, where the right to protest has been rescinded.