

# Roman Catholic Christianity Beliefs & Teachings Knowledge Organiser

## The Trinity

The Trinity is used by Christians to express their belief in one God who has made himself known as the Father, Son & Holy Spirit. These are all equal persons.

1. **Father:** Is the powerful Creator of Earth. **"In the Beginning God created the Heavens & Earth" (Genesis 1)**
2. **Son:** Jesus Christ who is God incarnate. He was crucified to redeem humanity's sins. **"Word becomes Flesh" (John 1)**
3. **Holy Spirit:** Is the power of God that works in the world today. **7 Sacraments.**

## Eschatology (Life After Death)

**Catholics** believe in heaven, hell & purgatory.

1. **Heaven:** A place of God's love.
2. **Purgatory:** A place of reflection & judgement
3. **Hell:** A place without God's love.

**SOWA:** **"I believe in the life of the world to come" (Nicene Creed)**

**TOP TIP:** You could be asked to compare similarities or differences between Christian & Jewish beliefs about life after death.

## Creation

**Literalist:** They believe that what is written in the Bible is the Word of God. They do not accept scientific theories.

**Metaphorical:** Believe that God created the world but the Bible is a metaphorical story of how the world was created. They use science & religion together to explain how the world was created.

## Creation & Humanity

- Catholics believe that humanity is created in the image of God. They believe that God gave humans dominion over the world and that they are stewards

## Salvation

Salvation links to the Paschal Mystery & Eschatology.

- Being saved from sin through the death of Jesus.
- Through Jesus being sent to earth the sin of humanity are forgiven. His death was an offering to help mend the broken relationship between humans & God
- It allows humans to understand the importance of being reconciled with other humans and offers hope that they will be rewarded in the afterlife.

**SOWA:** **"I believe in the life of the world to come" (Nicene Creed)**

## The Incarnation

- Explains how God took human form through Jesus and came to Earth to sacrifice himself to restore the relationship between God & humans.
- Jesus was both divine & human. He performed miracles, forgave sins, and was resurrected after his death. He was born to a human mother, prayed to God & died.

**SOWA:** **"Word becomes Flesh" (John 1)**

## Paschal Mystery

The events that led to the suffering, crucifixion & death of Jesus.

1. **Last Supper:** Jesus shares his last meal with the disciples (Last Supper) Jesus washes his disciples feet, Jesus tells the disciples that someone will betray him. **SOWA: "This is My Body, This is My Blood" (Luke 24)**
2. **Crucifixion:** Jesus is tortured with a crown of thorns, Jesus carries his Cross, Jesus is crucified. **SOWA: "Crucified under Pontius Pilate (Nicene Creed)**
3. **Resurrection:** Jesus comes back to life after 3 days, the tomb is empty, Mary goes to tell the disciples. **SOWA: "On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day he rose again" (Nicene Creed)**
4. **Road to Emmaus:** Jesus walks along the road with his disciples, Jesus breaks bread with them, Jesus tells them to inform the others that he is resurrected. **SOWA: "Took bread, gave thanks, broke it" (Luke 24)**
5. **Ascension:** Jesus ascends to heaven 40 days after his resurrection. **SOWA: "He ascended into heaven" (Nicene Creed)**