

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 Gods love.
2. **Purgatory:** A place of reflection & judgement
3. **Hell:** A place without Gods 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 3rd 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)**