

Roman Catholic Christianity Forms of Expression & Ways of Life Knowledge Organiser

Catholic church Architecture

Catholic churches are places of prayer & worship.

Design of the church:

1. **Circular:** A reminder that God is eternal & has no beginning & no end. **SOWA: God hovered above... (Genesis)**
2. **Cross Shaped:** A reminder that Jesus died on the Cross to save us from sin. **SOWA: "Crucified under Pontius Pilate (Nicene Creed)**
3. **Facing east:** Sun rises in the east, a reminder that Jesus rose from the dead, **SOWA: "On the 3rd day he rose again" (Nicene Creed)**

How churches are used.

1. Churches are used for worship- Mass & the 7 Sacraments.
2. Private prayer.
3. Popular Piety- Stations of the Cross, Rosary, Eucharistic Adoration.

Catholic church Features

The things that we would find in a church.

1. **Lectern:** Where the Bible is read from, **links to the Liturgy of the Word during Mass.**
2. **Altar:** Table that is a focal point of the church, **reminds us of the Last Supper.**
3. **Crucifix:** Has Jesus on, **reminder of his death for our sin.**
4. **Tabernacle:** Where the Body of Christ is kept. **Jesus physically in the church.**

Sacred Vessels

These are used to help Catholics focus during Mass.

1. **Ciborium:** Used to hold the Body of Christ.
2. **Paten:** Used to hold the Body of Christ- used by the Priest.
3. **Chalice:** Used to hold the Blood of Christ.

Sacred Objects

1. **Sarcophagi:** Some very old churches have sarcophagi containing the bones of significant people, they are sometimes decorated with biblical scenes.
2. **Hunger Cloths:** The cloths are now more common in developing countries to show pictures of how God is involved in the lives of ordinary people.

Symbols

Christians use symbols to express belief & faith.

1. **Cross:** Shows the resurrection of Christ. **Reminds us that he rose again..**
2. **Crucifix:** Shows the sacrifice that Jesus made for our sin. **Reminds us that God so loved the world, he gave his only Son.**
3. **Fish:** Early symbol of Christianity. **Reminds us that Jesus called us to follow him.**
4. **Dove:** A symbol of peace & love. **Reminds us to follow teachings of Jesus.**

Artwork in Catholicism

Artwork is used to help Catholics learn about their faith and stories from the Bible.

1. **Icon:** A religious image painted on wood.
 2. **Fresco:** A religious painting on plaster.
 3. **Painting:** A religious piece of artwork. **SOWA: "Sacred art is true and beautiful" (CCC)**
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1. **Sistine Chapel:** Creation of Adam, God creating Man. **SOWA: "6th day, God make Man. (Genesis 1)**
 2. **Last Supper:** Shows the Last Supper, Crucifixion & Resurrection of Jesus. **SOWA: Paschal Mystery.**
 3. **St John of the Cross:** Depicts Christ looking over the world on the crucifix, links to Trinity- God & Incarnation.

Sculptures & Statues

These are a way of remembering religious individuals.

1. **Pieta:** Mary holding Jesus after the crucifixion. **Example of her faith & discipleship.**
2. **Christ the Redeemer:** Christ with his arms open. **Showing his welcoming arms or his crucifixion.**
3. **Sacred Heart:** Statue of Jesus that shows his heart in thorns- **reminder of his Passion.**

Drama

Drama is used to express religious belief.

1. **Passion Play:** Tells the story of the Passion of Jesus- trial, crucifixion & death of Jesus. **SOWA: "Crucified under Pontius Pilate (Nicene Creed)**
2. **Mystery Play:** Plays about Bible stories, originally used to allow those who could not read or write to explore their faith.

SOWA: "Drama... engages the heart" (CCC)

Music

Music is used in Mass & other forms of worship.

1. **Hymns:** Used for prayer, worship & adoration.
2. **Plainchant:** singing without set music, Taize is a common form.
3. **Psalms:** Found in the OT, used in Liturgy of the Word part of Mass.
4. **Worship Songs:** Modern form of worship, Gospel choir songs, linked to youth movements as less traditional.

SOWA: "Make melody to the Lord with all your heart" (CCC)