

Trinity—One God in three persons.

Christians worship one God because it is the teaching of:

- Jesus, The Bible, The Catechism, creeds and Magisterium.

Believing in the Father means Catholics believe:

- Our relationship with God should be like that between a parents and child and that God continues to love and care for creation

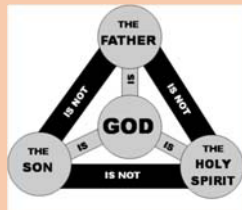
Believing in God the Son shows Catholics believe:

- Jesus is God incarnate and that Christians can worship Jesus because he’s God.

Believing in the Holy Spirit shows Catholics believe:

- The Holy Spirit is how God communicates with humans and that the Holy Spirit inspired the Bible

The Trinity in Catholic Worship Today



Baptism	Eucharist
The person is baptised ‘in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit’.	Mass begins with the sign of the cross. The Eucharist prayer gives thanks to the Father and makes the Son present through the Holy Spirit.

The Trinity in the Bible

- In Genesis, God says ‘Let **us** make man in **our** image’.
- Jesus said ‘ Make disciples of all nations; baptise them in the name of the Father, and the son, and the Holy Spirit’.
- At Jesus’ baptism, the Father speaks, the Son is baptised and the Holy Spirit descends in the form of a dove.

The Trinity is important to Catholics because it helps Christians understand the ways in which God is active in the world; the Father is the Creator, the Son saves us from sin and the Holy Spirit guides Christians today.

The Nature of Humanity—Humans are created in the image of God (imago Dei). This means they are rational (intelligent and can find God), have free-will and conscience, and are capable of giving and receiving love.

Humans are **stewards of creation**—this means they have a responsibility to look after and care for the earth and its resources. They should also make sure the earth’s re-sources are shared out fairly.

Humans also have **dominion over creation**—this means that God has given them control and authority over creation.



Creation

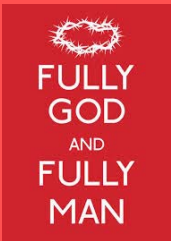
A contentious issue in the last 150 years is the question of how did we get here. The Bible begins with a creation story, in Genesis 1-3. This is a long passage, talks about 6 days of creation by God, finishing with Adam and Eve. There is a lot of debate about how to interpret the creation story –literal vs. symbolic. Most Christians tend to take it as a story and not literally, but all Christians believe God is behind it all. “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

All Christians believe God created the world, but have differing views on how to interpret the Genesis 1 account of creation. **Fundamentalist** –God created the world in six 24 hour days. **Catholic**–Genesis 1 is a poetic metaphor for God’s creation, allowing a more scientific understanding of how it unfolded.

The Incarnation—the belief that God became human in Jesus.

The virgin birth shows that Jesus was the Son of God because his conception was unlike any other human’s. It also shows that he has two natures; **he is fully God and fully human.**

The Incarnation is important because it shows that God cared for humans so much that he became human to save them. The incarnation is how God began the process of salvation and humans are able to better relate to God because he became human in Jesus.



GCSE Religious Studies

Unit 1.1 Beliefs and Teachings

Remember that you need to be able to refer to sources of Wisdom and Authority. The sources for this unit are overleaf.

Eschatology

The Catechism teaches that when people die, the perfectly pure will go to **heaven**, those with unforgiven sins will go to **Purgatory**, and those who reject God will go to **hell**. Christ will return at the end of time to **judge** and the dead will be raised to life.



Non-Catholic Christians do not believe in Purgatory because it is not in the Bible. Some evangelical Protestant believe that only good Christians will go to heaven, and may liberal Protestants believe that everyone will go to heaven.

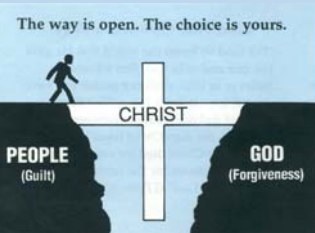
Life after death is important for Catholics because it gives their life meaning and purpose. It also gives them an **incentive to lead good** lives and to **show love for others**. Because of the belief in life after death, Catholics will try to **avoid sin** in their lives.

Salvation - being saved from sin

Grace—undeserved mercy

Salvation is important because without salvation an person cannot have a relationship with God and cannot enter heaven. Salvation was also the whole purpose of the incarnation and Jesus’ life death, and resurrection. Without salvation, a persons sins would mean they entered purgatory or hell.

Humans cannot save themselves from sin, but can choose to accept salvation. It is through the sacraments that we continue to receive and experience God’s grace.



Implications for Catholics today:

Catholics will try to avoid sin in their lives, they will also receive the sacraments, particularly baptism, reconciliation and the Eucharist. Catholics will also try to lead Christian lives.

The Paschal Mystery—the death and resurrection of Jesus and their effect on salvation.

- **The Last Supper**—Jesus took the bread and wine saying it was his body and blood; he established the Eucharist.
- **The arrest and trial**—Jesus was sentenced to death by Pontius Pilate.
- **The Crucifixion**— Jesus was executed on a cross.
- **The resurrection and ascension**— Jesus rose from the dead three days after the crucifixion. Forty days after the resurrection he ascended to heaven.



The paschal mystery is important because Jesus offered himself for our salvation. This means that the crucifixion brought forgiveness of sins and that humans can receive salvation and enter into a relationship with God. The resurrection promises eternal life for all who believe.

	Topic	Quote/Reference	Source
1	Trinity	The Trinity is one God, experienced as Father, Son and Spirit.	Nicene Creed
2	Biblical understanding of the Trinity	Jesus said “go make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”.	Matthew’s Gospel
3	Creation	“God saw all that he had made and it was good.”	Genesis 1
4	Nature of humanity	Being made in the image of God gives humans a special dignity because they are a person and not a thing.	Catechism
5	The Incarnation	He became incarnate of the virgin Mary and was made man,	Nicene Creed
6	The Paschal Mystery	Jesus’ resurrection is proof that he is God.	Catechism
7	Salvation and Grace	Only God knows who will and who will not be saved.	Catechism
8	Eschatology	Jesus said “I am the resurrection and the life, anyone who believes in me will have eternal life.”	John’s Gospel