

Paintings, frescoes and drawing within Catholicism

Religious art can be used as an aid to worship, an expression of faith and emotions in response to God, can give insight into truths of the Catholic faith, and help the observer understand more about God

Icon of Christ St Catherine's Monastery, Sinai

Icons are religious paintings and this is the oldest known icon of Christ. The different facial expressions show Christ's two natures. The halo shows Christ's holiness.



Fresco by Giotto of St Francis of Assisi

A fresco is a method of painting on plaster so the colours fuse with the wall. St Francis preaching to the birds shows nature as part of God's creation. The halo shows the holy quality of his life.



For Religious Art	Against Religious Art
Art expresses our relationships with God and helps us understand our faith The Prodigal Son by Rembrandt helps us understand Bible stories The Creation of Adam by Michaelangelo helps us understand the nature of God and humanity.	Protestants believed representing God in art is a form of idolatry God is too complex and great to represent in art; art can actually confuse our understanding of God Jesus and Mary are often represented as white, which is not historically accurate

Internal features of a Catholic Church

Lectern: used for Bible readings in Mass.

Altar: at the centre of the church. It represents sacrifice, and so makes worshippers reflect on the importance of redemption. It is also where the Eucharist takes place.

Crucifix: reminds worshippers of Christ's sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins.

Tabernacle: a container for consecrated hosts which Catholics believe Christ is present in. Worshippers genuflect towards the tabernacle to show respect.



Architecture, design and decoration of Catholic Churches

The Catechism says that a church is a house of prayer in which the Eucharist is celebrated, where the faithful assemble, and where Jesus Christ is worshipped.

- The nave: where people gather for worship
- The sanctuary: at the front of the church and contains the altar, lectern and tabernacle



Different forms of architecture

Older churches have the sanctuary separated from the people reflecting pre-Vatican II ideas.

Sacred Objects

Sacred Vessels are used for the bread and wine:

Paten— plate that holds priest's host
Ciborium— plate that holds the people's hosts
Chalice— cup to hold the wine and water
Holy water stoup— at front of the church used for blessings



Cloths and vestments are used as special covers for the altar and lectern and for the priest to wear.

White or gold for special celebrations; green for 'ordinary' time; red for events involving martyrs, Good Friday, and Pentecost; purple for sorrow during Advent and Lent

Hunger Cloths: used during Lent to depict scenes from the life of Christ are hung over the rood screen in front of the altar.

Sculptures and Statues

Statues are used as a focus of prayer, will have votive candles lit in front of them, and many worshippers will touch the foot of St Peter and kiss it in devotion when they enter or leave a church.

The Virgin Mary with her baby son: shows Mary is the mother of God
Mary with her adult son: shows that she is her son's daughter as much as he is her son

Sacred Heart of Jesus: remind Catholics of the Passion of Christ and the fire of his eternal love

St Peter: shows that he was the rock on which Christ built his Church and was given the authority to forgive sins



GCSE Religious Studies

Unit 1.4 Forms of Expression and Ways of Life

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

Symbolism and Imagery

Crucifix: representation of Jesus on the cross symbolises his death, sacrifice, love and forgiveness

Fish: symbolises Christianity as the fish regularly features in the Gospels.

Chi-Ro: made from the first two letters of 'Christ' in Greek

Alpha and Omega: first and last letters of the Greek alphabet symbolise the eternity of Christ



The **four evangelists** have their own symbols, each with wings to symbolise their role as messengers:

Matthew's symbol is a man, emphasising the incarnation of Jesus
Mark's symbol is a lion, emphasising Jesus' courage and power
Luke's symbol is an ox, stressing the sacrifice of Jesus
John's symbol is an eagle, suggesting Jesus as the Word of God

Drama, mystery plays and passion plays

Mystery Plays: medieval dramas which were an effective teaching tool for the Church as they put across the message of Christianity by using the local language, humour, and simplifying the spiritual message.

Passion Plays: a play that tells the story of Holy Week and Jesus' last days. Actors will put across the message of Christ's Passion by using the local language, bringing the events to life and making it a spectacle (often 500+ actors involved)



How does drama express belief?

- Bring Christian beliefs to life through play and characterisation
- The mass is a drama when the priest re-enacts the Last Supper in Eucharistic prayer
- At the Veneration of the Cross, people take part in the drama as they file up to kiss the cross
- At the Easter vigil, the Paschal candle is lit, expressing the belief in the resurrection as the light of the resurrected Christ, and is brought into the darkened church.

Music in worship

The Church teaches that music and song are an appropriate response to the wonder of God's love seen in the coming of Christ.

Hymns: Hymns are often addressed to God and express beliefs and emotions. They may feature in the Mass as the bread and wine are brought to the altar. E.g. 'Hail Holy Queen' and 'Here I am Lord'.



Plainchant: early Christians developed a tradition of unaccompanied singing from Jewish synagogue worship. The two types are responsorial (with a soloist singing a verse then a response from the congregation) and antiphonal

Psalms: sacred songs or hymns contained in the biblical book of Psalms. They were written in around 1000 BCE by King David. The psalms contain human emotions about life and God. E.g. Psalm 23 'The Lord is my Shepherd'

Worship Songs: A Bible verse or Christian message is put to contemporary music. They developed from Youth 2000 as a response to Pope John Paul II's call to young people to evangelise to each other to celebrate the new millennium.

	Topic	Quote/Reference	Source
1	Church Architecture	A church is a house of prayer in which the Eucharist is celebrated.	Catechism
2	Internal features of a church	The altar is the centre of the church where the sacrifice of the cross is made present.	Catechism
3	Sacred objects	All signs in the liturgical celebrations are related to Christ.	Catechism
4	Paintings and frescoes	Art glorifies God	Catechism
5	Statues and Sculptures	In creating art, humans share in God's creativity.	Catechism
6	Symbolism and imagery in religious art	The dove traditionally symbolises the Holy Spirit	Catechism
7	Drama	Drama engages the heart.	Catechism
8	Music	Music lifts the soul	Catechism