

KEY TERMS

Omnipotent: All-powerful.

Transcendence: The belief that God is beyond and outside life on earth and the universe – he is unlimited.

Adam: the Hebrew word for humanity. Which any people see as the name of the first man.

Free Will: belief that God gives people the opportunity to make decisions for themselves.

Dignity: being worthy of honour & respect.

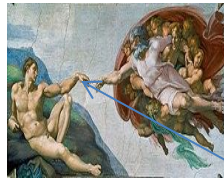
Sanctity of life: The belief that all human life is precious and holy.

Stewardship: The idea that humans have a duty to look after the environment on behalf of God.

Sustainability: only using natural resources at a rate at which they can be replaced.

Natural Law: moral principles and values that are considered to be inherent to all humans.

CATHOLIC CHRISTIANITY: CREATION



You must be able to describe this with another piece of art, like **Meiere's** Mosaic.

The Creation of Adam shows humanity depends on God for life; God and Adam look similar, showing that man is created in God's image. God and Adam are touching hands, showing the longing for a close relationship between God and humanity.

Genesis shows God is **transcendent** and **omnipotent**. Catholics do not see creation as a scientific account but it tells us about God's nature.

- Lesson 1** – Genesis 1
- Lesson 2** – Genesis 2
- Lesson 3** – Creation and Art
- Lesson 4** – Origins and Structure of the Bible
- Lesson 5** – The Bible as the Word of God
- Lesson 6** – Interpreting Genesis
- Lesson 7** – Natural Law
- Lesson 8** – Significance of the Creation Stories
- Lesson 9** – Stewardship
- Lesson 10** – CAFOD and Sustainability

Genesis (first book in the Bible) tells the creation story and can be interpreted in different ways. Some Christians believe it word for word and others take the meaning from the story. All Christians believe that God made the world. **'And God said let there be light'**.

Genesis 2 shows that humans share the spirit of God and have been given free will (the ability to make decisions and think for themselves). **'Then God formed man from the dust of the ground'**. God commands Adam and Eve not to eat the apple, but does not stop them. It also teaches that humans have dignity (worthy of honour and respect) and that the sanctity of life is important. Catholics believe that everyone should respect their own dignity and the dignity of other people.

God tells Adam to have dominion (be in charge) over every living thing. This shows God has given power and authority to rule over other creatures. God also puts Adam in the Garden of Eden to **'till it and keep it'**. This shows that Christians must be stewards and look after the world. Christians believe the world is a gift from God, but God expects them to protect and care for it in return. Jesus also taught that Christians have to **'love thy neighbour'** and this means caring for the environment where their neighbour lives. Catholics must care for the environment by recycling, putting pressure on politicians and boycott international companies that harm the environment. Sustainability means living in a way that respects the environment and its natural resources in order to keep everything in balance and harmony. **CAFOD** is a charity that supports sustainability. It helps people living in poverty and encourages people in England and Wales to live simply.

The Bible is divided into the **Old** and **New** Testament and contains different writings, such as Law and Prophecy (OT) and Gospels and Acts (NT). The Bible is the word of God. It reveals God to humans. The writers of the Bible were inspired by the Holy Spirit. The Bible is also interpreted by the **Magisterium** (the teaching authority of the Catholic Church). The Magisterium is continually guided by the Holy Spirit.

CAFOD
Just one world

The Catholic Church teaches that the creation stories are **myths** – they are stories that tell us deep spiritual truths and are not meant to be taken literally. **Fundamentalists** are Christians who interpret the Bible literally.

Natural law refers to the moral principles and values (laws) that all humans are born with. Humans are born with the understanding of what is right and wrong because God made all creation good and humans are made in the image and likeness of God. The most basic natural law is to **do good and avoid evil**. The sanctity of life teaches all life is sacred and holy and must be preserved and protected. That is why Catholics are against **Abortion** and **Euthanasia**.