

Key Terms

Baptism: The sacrament in which a person becomes a child of God and a Christian.

Eucharist: 'Thanksgiving'; another name for the Mass.

Grace: God's free gift of his unconditional love to the believer.

Imago Dei: The belief that humans share some of the qualities of God.

Incarnate Son: The belief that Jesus is God made man.

Reconciliation: Bringing people back to a good relationship with God and with one another.

Son of God: A title used in the Bible for Jesus, stressing his divinity.

Son of Man: A title that Jesus used for himself, which refers to both his suffering as a human and to the authority given to him by God.

CATHOLIC CHRISTIANITY: INCARNATION

God became man to show how much he loves the human race and helps Christians to value God's love. In the Gospel of Luke, the Angel Gabriel tells Mary that she has conceived Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit. This story is called the Annunciation. Mary agrees to God's wishes 'let it be with me according to your word'. The Gospel of Matthew focuses on Joseph's part in the Incarnation. The Angel Gabriel tells Joseph that he was right to marry Mary, because Jesus ('God saves') was conceived by the Holy Spirit.

- Lesson 1** – Incarnation
- Lesson 2** – Jesus is the Word of God
- Lesson 3** – Fully human, Fully God
- Lesson 4** – Religious Art
- Lesson 5** – The Beatitudes
- Lesson 6** – St. Irenaeus
- Lesson 7** – The Sheep and the Goats
- Lesson 8** – Grace and Sacraments
- Lesson 9** – Imago Dei and Abortion
- Lesson 10** – Revision

The Catholic Church teaches that God is three persons. The Son of God is also known as the Word of God. In John's Gospel it says 'and the word became flesh and lived among us'. This confirms that Jesus is the Word and came to guide people closer to God. This also shows that Jesus was fully human and fully God. Jesus also confirms he is the Son of God at the Jewish trial. The resurrection also proves that Jesus was the Son of God. Heresies are beliefs that suggest Jesus is not fully human and God. The documents Dei Verbum 4 and Verbum Domini 12 show that Jesus is fully human and God. The document Dei Verbum 4 'For he sent his Son...so he might dwell among men and tell them the innermost being of God.' This shows that God is revealed through Jesus. Verbum Domini 12 says '...Jesus shows that he is the divine logos (word) but at the same time the new Adam, the true man.'

Jesus also called himself the Son of Man, to emphasise his humanity and to explain that he would suffer, 'then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering.' Being human meant he would feel pain.



Ichthys means fish. The letters also mean 'Jesus Christ, God, Saviour.' The early Christians used it as a declaration of faith. Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. They show that God and Jesus are involved in everything from beginning to end. The Chi-rho symbol form the first two letters of the word for Christ and is a reminder of the death of Jesus.

Christ the Redeemer, a Sacred Heart statue and the crucifix are three statues of Jesus. Christ the Redeemer shows Jesus' arms outstretched to show his obedience to God and love for all. The Sacred Heart statue represents his total self-giving love to all people with a crown and heart.

A sacrament is an outward sign of inward grace. This means that a sacrament is a sign of God's love. Catholics believe in the sacramental nature of reality. In other words: The world and everything in it is a sign of God's love and God's presence and love can be seen throughout the world. The incarnation played an important role in helping Catholics to view reality as sacramental.

Catholics believe that it is acceptable to use human images to show God because it inspires people, gives them something to focus on and helps people to learn about positive aspects of God's work. Jesus was fully human and God and died to save humanity, so can be pictured as a member of any race. In Judaism and Islam it is an offence to show God because it is against the second commandment 'you shall not make for yourself an idol.'

Jesus developed the laws (commandments and rules) given to Jews in the OT. The Beatitudes are a series of statements in which Jesus blessed certain attitudes to living and said how people with those attitudes would be rewarded. 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.' The Parable of the Sheep and Goats is a story which Jesus tells Christians that when they serve and care for others, they serve God and will be rewarded with eternal life. 'I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink...'