

# Catholic Christianity: Redemption

## Key Words:

### Ascension

The event 40 days after the resurrection when Jesus returned to glory in heaven.

### Conscience

The voice of God in the heart of a person, guiding him/her to do what is right.

### Prayer

The raising of the heart and mind to God. Listening and speaking to God.

### Redemption

Process of making up for wrongs done by others to bring humans back into a relationship with God.

### Resurrection

The event three days after the crucifixion when God raised Jesus from the dead.

### Salvation

The belief that Christians are set free from sin through the death and resurrection of Jesus.



In the Old Testament an altar was where animals were killed as an offering to God. The altar where Jesus is sacrificed through the Eucharist is paramount.

Jesus is the example, restorer and victor. Jesus suffered so much during crucifixion but he still went through it, showing total obedience, making him the perfect example. When Jesus died the temple curtain tore into two, showing that the barrier between God and humanity had been restored – Jesus is the restorer. Jesus is the victor because he defeated suffering and death.

#### St. Irenaeus



St. Irenaeus uses the metaphor of a tree. Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating from the tree. Jesus died on the tree. The tree of knowledge brought death. The tree of the cross brought life.

#### St. Anselm



St. Anselm uses the metaphor of the slave trade to show how humans were slaves to sin, and Jesus' death paid for them to be freed from this sin.



Redemption is an ongoing process:



The Mass is a chance to experience what the heavenly banquet will be like. In John, when Jesus first appeared Mary didn't immediately recognise Him. This suggests that Jesus was different and redemption made creation perfect. In Acts, Jesus tells his disciples to continue his mission. This means everyone can be redeemed. During Pentecost the Holy Spirit gave the apostles courage and the ability to teach about Jesus, so they could accept his redemption.

**Salvation Past:** Jesus died and resurrected. Some Christians believe that nothing else is needed for salvation.

**Salvation Present:** sin still exists and people have to choose to accept salvation and resist temptation to sin.

**Salvation Future:** The Kingdom of God will be fully established at the end of time and the power of sin and death will be completely destroyed.



The crucifix shows Jesus suffering and love for us and helps Christians to feel grateful for this.



The cross is a symbol of Christ's victory over sin and death: Christ is not on the cross because he has risen.



The risen Christ emphasises the importance of Jesus' resurrection. 'If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins'.

However, the Mass is also re-enacting the Last supper, therefore some Churches prefer to have a table like in the meal. During the Last Supper Jesus told his disciples to eat his body and drink his blood 'which will be given up for you'. So, during Mass, the Last supper and the events of Calvary are remembered for this reason the central feature of the Church is both a table and an altar.



A Church is a building – a holy place of worship for Christians and the house of God.



The church are the people who make up the church – the people of God. Without the church, a church is just a building.

#### Pre 1965

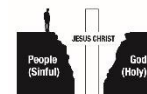
- Cruciform in shape
- Built facing Jerusalem
- Altar against the east wall
- Priest faced away from congregation
- Mass said in Latin
- Congregation kept away from the altar.

#### Post 1965

- Can be any shape, usually round
- Built facing any where
- Altar brought nearer the people
- Priest faces congregation
- Mass said in vernacular



God made creation perfect, but gave humans free will because God wants humans to choose him because they want to, not because they have to. Humans can use their free will to sin. All humans are born with **Original Sin**. Sin breaks the relationship with God. God the Son, Jesus, helps to restore the broken relationship between God and Man.



**Mass is the source and summit of Christian life:**

How does it show redemption? The offertory is brought to the altar and offered to God as a sign of thanksgiving. The Eucharistic Prayer and consecration the priest repeats the words said at the Last Supper. '**Do this in memory of me**' Catholics believe that Mass is the highest form of prayer. Different Christians understand the Mass in different ways.



**Benediction** is one way that Catholics can perform Eucharistic adoration. Consecrated hosts are placed in a monstrance and Jesus is adored, prayed to and worshipped.



Angus Dei = The Lamb of God.

This is repeated during the mass 3 times. We remember the lamb that was sacrificed to save the Israelites from slavery. We understand that we are slaves to sin and that Jesus was the new lamb who was sacrificed to free us.

### Lesson 1 – The Architecture of a church

### Lesson 2 – The main features of a church

### Lesson 3 – The role of Jesus in restoration through sacrifice

### Lesson 4 – Salvation

### Lesson 5 – Redemption in the Bible

### Lesson 6 – Conscience

### Lesson 7 – Redemption in the Mass

### Lesson 8 – Prayers in the Mass

### Lesson 9 – Revision

### Lesson 10 - Assessment

- Gaudium et Spes says '**Conscience is the most secret core.**'
- The CCC tells us "**For man has in his heart a law inscribed by God**".
- Natural law helps us to understand what is right and wrong but conscience needs to be educated.
- Through prayer and reading the Bible, we can educate our conscience properly.

## Main features of a Church



The Lectern is the reading stand. As Jesus is 'the word made flesh' Christ is present when the readings/Gospel is said.



The crucifix is a cross with Jesus crucified on it. It reminds Christians that Jesus suffered for us and loves us.



The altar is a place of sacrifice, where the bread and wine are offered to God during Mass. God strengthens Catholics when they receive Jesus.



The tabernacle is a box where the consecrated Bread is kept after the Mass. It is taken to people who can't get to Mass.

- Jesus showed total obedience to God through his life and the sacrifice of his death.
- Jesus continued to show love on the cross '**forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.**'
- Christians believe that when Jesus was buried he joined the dead. This shows God is with us during death.
- His resurrection destroyed the power of sin and death, so humans are able to overcome them and be with God after they die.
- Jesus appeared to his followers in a locked room, proving that he had risen.
- Jesus ascended (rose up) to heaven 40 days after he resurrected. This helps to restore the cosmic order and creation.
- Jesus promised he would send the Holy Spirit to all people to allow Jesus to work in us.