

## KEY TERMS

**Apostolic succession:** The authority and power of Peter and the apostles passed on to the next generations of popes and bishops.

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

**Evangelism:** Preaching the good news about Jesus to other people.

**Mission:** 'Sending out' people with a job or function to perform.

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

**Trinity:** The belief that there are three persons in one God.

**The Mass Settings:** These are parts of the mass that should be sung rather than said, the music enables people to join in.

**Acclamations:** Praising with great enthusiasm

St. Augustine and Catherine LaCugna were both Christian theologians who studied the Trinity. Augustine focused on the relationship **within the Trinity** and how it can be understood through the concept of love. LaCugna focused on how the Trinity is revealed to humans as God's attempt to redeem them (to bring them back to a relationship with God). She placed more importance on the **outward effects of the Trinity**.

## CATHOLIC CHRISTIANITY: THE TRIUNE GOD

The Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life. Along with the Incarnation it is the most controversial aspect of Christianity and sharply differentiates it from Judaism and Islam. Though the actual word 'Trinity' or 'Triune God' is not used in the Bible Christians can find it in the scriptures.

**The Baptism of Jesus** shows the trinity present. Jesus the son is being baptised in the river Jordan, God the father speaks from a cloud "this is my own dear son, I am pleased with you" and the Holy Spirit is present in the form of a dove.

**Deuteronomy** tells us that "The Lord is one". Catholics are MONOTHEISTIC though they believe that the one God has 3 distinctive parts.

Councils are held to discuss and make decisions about important issues for the Church. Two important councils were held in the 4<sup>th</sup> century to help confirm the Church's teaching about the nature of the trinity. The council at Nicea confirmed that the Father and Son have always co-existed together and they are both equal and of the same nature. The council at Constantinople confirmed that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity and fully God and that Jesus is both fully God and fully human. As a result of these councils, the Nicene Creed was produced. It is a statement of faith that all Catholics accept and is read out at Mass.

It doesn't matter how you pray, just that you do it. Physical posture can assist prayer and help show the intention behind the prayer. Kneeling is a sign of humility and genuflecting or standing can show respect and an acknowledgement of God's presence. Praying whilst walking shows that God is always with us and joined hands is a sign of asking.

Baptism is a sign of initiation through which a person becomes a member of the Church and a child of God. Jesus ordered his apostles to baptise all of his followers and Jesus himself was baptised by John the Baptist. Through Baptism we enter the life of the Trinity and become a child of the Father, join in with Jesus' death and resurrection and are filled with the Holy Spirit. There is a lot of symbolism in Baptism: The total submersion under water represents joining Jesus in the tomb after he died. Rising up out of the water symbolises joining in with Jesus' resurrection to begin a new life as a Christian. Catholics no longer use submersion but the symbolism still applies. The use of water in baptism also symbolises the Holy Spirit. In baptism, the person is baptised "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit".

Catholics believe music should be used during worship to praise God because it unites and inspires people and increases the beauty of worship, making them feel closer to God. The Second Vatican Council says 'Sacred music is to be considered the more holy when connected to the liturgy as it adds delight to prayer.' Parts of the liturgy are sung and use Psalms (poetry from the book of Psalms in the OT), Plainchant (ancient form of music), Traditional hymns (religious songs that praise God), contemporary worship songs modern religious songs) and mass settings (parts of the mass that are sung, like the Alleluia).

When the apostles went to different areas to preach they chose individual believers to lead the Church in that area, these designated individuals were and still are, known as Bishops. This choice was performed by the laying on of hands – a symbolic gesture that passes on the power of the Holy Spirit. The laying on of hands also passed on the apostolic authority – this means that the bishops were appointed successors to the apostles and given authority.

Prayer is the raising of our hearts and minds to God; it is a conversation inspired by the Holy Spirit. There are 2 types of prayers, tradition and spontaneous. Traditional prayers are set words that have been passed down over generations. E.g. the Our Father and the Hail Mary. Spontaneous Prayers have no set format or words and the Holy Spirit guides them in what to say. Some people prefer traditional prayers as the words are familiar and they don't have to worry about what to say while others prefer spontaneous because they feel more sincere and personal.