

# Key Terms: Catholic Christianity



## Beliefs and Teachings

- Trinity:** One God in three persons—Father, Son, Holy Spirit.
- Nicene Creed:** Statement of Christian faith, affirming the Trinity.
- Council of Nicaea:** Defined the doctrine of the Trinity.
- Creation:** God's act of bringing the universe into existence (Genesis 1 & 2).
- Dignity of Human Beings:** All people are created in God's image.
- Incarnation:** Jesus as fully God and fully human.
- Divine Word:** Jesus as the Word of God in human form.
- Salvation:** Deliverance from sin through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.
- Grace:** God's free gift of love and salvation.
- Redemption:** Jesus' sacrifice to save humanity.
- Resurrection:** Jesus rising from the dead; hope of eternal life.
- Judgement:** God's decision on eternal destiny.
- Heaven:** A state of eternal happiness in the presence of God for the saved.
- Hell:** A state of eternal separation from God for those who reject Him.
- Purgatory:** A temporary state of purification for souls destined for heaven but needing cleansing from sin

## Practices

- Prayer:** Raising the mind and heart to God.
- Formal Prayer:** Pre-written prayers such as the Lord's Prayer, used collectively or individually.
- Informal Prayer:** Personal, spontaneous prayers expressing an individual's thoughts and feelings to God.
- Lord's Prayer:** A prayer taught by Jesus, emphasising praise, submission to God's will, and reliance on Him for daily needs.
- Rosary:** Meditative prayer using beads.
- Stations of the Cross:** Reflection on Jesus' Passion and Crucifixion.
- Pilgrimage:** Religious journey for spiritual growth.
- Funeral Rite:** Catholic rituals surrounding death, including prayers and a Mass to commend the soul to God.



## Sacraments

- Sacrament:** A visible sign of God's grace.
- Baptism:** Cleansing from sin; entry into the Church.
- Confirmation:** Receiving the Holy Spirit to strengthen faith.
- Reconciliation:** Confessing sins and receiving forgiveness.
- Eucharist:** Christ's Body and Blood; the heart of Catholic worship.
- Matrimony:** Lifelong marriage covenant.
- Holy Orders:** Ordination of priests, deacons, and bishops.
- Anointing of the Sick:** Healing for the ill, physically or spiritually.



## Work of the Church

- Love our Neighbour:** Acting selflessly to help others.
- Catholic Social Teaching:** Promoting justice, dignity, and care for creation.
- Gaudium et Spes:** Document on social justice and human dignity.
- Justice & Peace:** Core values of Catholic action.
- Reconciliation:** Restoring relationships through forgiveness.
- CAFOD:** UK charity supporting global development.
- Trocaire:** Irish charity promoting justice and aid.
- Missio:** Catholic mission organization spreading the Gospel.
- Mission:** Spreading the Gospel and serving others.
- Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP):** Helping the poor and vulnerable.
- Pax Christi:** Catholic peace movement advocating nonviolence.
- Corrymeela Community:** Group promoting peace and reconciliation in Ireland.

