

Key Terms: Christianity



Key Beliefs



- Omnipotent:** God as all-powerful.
- Loving:** God as all-loving (benevolent).
- Just:** God as perfectly fair and righteous.
- Problem of Evil:** The challenge of reconciling God's nature with the existence of suffering.
- The Trinity:** The belief in one God in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- Creation:** The belief that God created the universe, including the role of the Word (John 1:1-3) and the Spirit (Genesis 1:1-3).
- Resurrection:** The belief in life after death, where the body is raised.
- Judgement:** The belief that God assesses people's actions to determine their eternal destiny.
- Heaven:** Eternal happiness in the presence of God.
- Hell:** Eternal separation from God.



Practices



- Liturgical Worship:** Structured, formal worship with set prayers and rituals.
- Non-Liturgical Worship:** More informal and flexible worship, often without a set structure.
- Informal Worship:** Spontaneous or community-based worship, often using modern styles.
- Private Worship:** Individual prayer and reflection outside of church services.
- Prayer:** Communication with God, including set prayers (e.g., Lord's Prayer) and informal prayer.
- Sacrament:** A visible sign of inward grace.
- Baptism:** A sacrament signifying entry into the Christian community, including infant and believer's baptism.
- Holy Communion (Eucharist):** A sacrament commemorating Jesus' Last Supper; its significance and interpretation vary among Christians.
- Pilgrimage:** A journey to a sacred place, such as:
- Lourdes:** Associated with healing and miracles.
- Iona:** A place for reflection and spiritual growth.
- Christmas:** Celebrating the birth of Jesus.
- Easter:** Celebrating Jesus' resurrection.



Jesus Christ and Salvation



- Incarnation:** The belief that Jesus is God in human form.
- Crucifixion:** Jesus' death on the cross to atone for humanity's sins.
- Resurrection (Jesus):** Jesus rising from the dead, affirming His divinity.
- Ascension:** Jesus' return to heaven after His resurrection.
- Original Sin:** The inherited tendency to sin, stemming from Adam and Eve.
- Salvation:** Being saved from sin and its consequences.
- Grace:** God's free gift of love and salvation.
- Atonement:** The reconciliation between God and humanity, achieved through Jesus' sacrifice.

The Role of the Church



- Food Banks:** Providing food for those in need as part of local community outreach.
- Street Pastors:** Offering practical help and support to people in urban areas.
- Mission:** Spreading the Christian message and helping others.
- Evangelism:** Proclaiming the Gospel to inspire faith in others.
- Church Growth:** Expanding the Christian faith through new members and communities.
- Reconciliation:** Restoring broken relationships, inspired by Jesus' teachings.
- Persecution:** The challenges Christians face for their faith, and how churches support them.
- CAFOD:** A Catholic charity promoting social justice and disaster relief.
- Christian Aid:** A charity fighting global poverty and injustice.
- Tearfund:** A Christian organization tackling poverty through sustainable development.

