

Sin and Forgiveness 3




Features of a Catholic church

Confirmation

The meaning

- Confirmation is the final sacrament of initiation and means that the person has fully joined the RC Church.
- The sacrament gives grace which is needed in order to live a Christian life.
- Confirmation is a sacrament which marks the growth of a Christian into a mature member of the Church. By retaking the baptismal vows for themselves, Catholics bear witness to their faith. It is a public declaration of it.




The importance

- Only those who are full members of the Church can take on lay ministries (Confirmation allows this)
- Confirmation spiritually identifies a believer in Christ.
- Part of Confirmation is the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit inspires a person to have faith and be a witness to their faith.
- It is a public declaration of the baptismal promises made for a person as a child. It represents an individual's personal choice to declare their belief.

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

The meaning

- Is a strengthening sacrament and is given to those in danger of death from sickness or old age.
- Helps a person to deal with their illness.
- It can be received as many times as necessary.
- The sacrament can help a person to prepare for death.



- It joins the person with the rest of the Christian community. The community will pray for the sick person.
- The sacrament copies the healing actions of Jesus. It reminds people the Church can still heal like Jesus today.

The importance

- It is a supportive sacrament. It gives spiritual strength and healing.
- It is reassuring, showing the love of the community for the sick person.
- It allows the person's sins to be forgiven.
- The final anointing in the sacrament reflects both the anointing they received in baptism and the anointing of Christ before his death. It is a reminder of their life with Jesus.

The Mass

The meaning


- The Mass is an re-enactment of The Last Supper and a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus.
- It is celebrated every day except for Good Friday and Holy Saturday morning.
- There are four parts to the mass.:

- The **Penitential Rite**: makes Catholics aware that they are sinners and need the forgiveness of God on a regular basis.
- The **Liturgy of the Word**: bible readings followed by a homily from the priest. Relating the readings to modern day life. The congregation will then recite the creed and join in with the prayers of intercession.
- The **Liturgy of the Eucharist**: the priest re-enacts events of the last supper and changes the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ. **Transubstantiation**.
- The final part of the mass Catholics give thanks for what they have received and are given a blessing to help them with the week ahead.

Catholics are expected to attend mass every Sunday and on Holy days of obligation.

The importance

- The bread and wine are turned into the body and blood of Christ. Jesus is really present during the mass.
- The Eucharist is a sacrament.
- It is a celebration of the resurrection. Catholics pray that they can receive eternal life.
- During the mass the congregation join together to show their love for God. By doing this they strengthen their faith and copy the community of the apostles.
- It is important that Catholics attend Mass since it was commanded by Jesus at the Last Supper. **'Do this in memory of me.'**



The Magisterium


The Pope and the college of Bishops interpret the Bible and tradition for Roman Catholics today.

Role:

- Interpret the Bible and traditions for the C21st
- To tell Catholics how to respond to modern developments e.g. genetic engineering.
- To define the beliefs of the Catholic Church in the Catechism
- To make sure all Catholics are fully informed about the beliefs and teachings of the Catholic Church.

The importance:

- If the Magisterium states something to be true then it is true.
- It gives Catholics answers to issues that did not exist in the time of the Apostles. e.g. Same sex marriage.
- If Catholics follow the teaching they will have eternal life in heaven.
- It provides clear guidelines for Catholics on what to believe and how to behave as Catholics in today's world.



Evangelism

'Evangelism' - the spreading of the Christian Gospel by public preaching or personal witness.

Pope Francis tells us there are three main groups of people who require evangelism;

- Those who are already believers but require strength to grow spiritually.
- Those who have been baptised but do not have a relationship with the Church.
- Those who have not heard or have rejected the message of Christ.

Benefits of Evangelism

If we spread the **good news** to groups of people who may not have heard or turned their back on Christ's message, we in theory should all live in harmony.

It produces many benefits including; keeping the Gospel alive today, it grows our love for our neighbour, it prompts us to answer questions that deepen our faith and our knowledge of the scripture.

Challenges of Evangelism

There are many obstacles in the face of those trying to evangelise, for we are not 'all one body', looking after one another.

Some of these challenges are; many faiths and cultural groups, which mean there is question over which is the 'true' religion, appeals from sins such as premarital sex, personal strife (death and suffering) of those we love and the rise in atheism.



This is a big stone bowl filled with water where baptism takes place. Baptism is the first sacrament by which a person becomes a Christian. It used to be by the main door to the church to show that people entered the Church through baptism. Now the font tends to be at the front so that all those present can easily see a baptism when it takes place.



A tabernacle is a safe-like place in which the consecrated host are kept. The sacrament is reserved here so that it can be taken to the sick and those who are unable to come to church. It is also a focus for private prayer and devotion.



Statues are usually found around the church to help people pray. One of them will usually be of Our Lady. In front of the statue there will probably be votive candles. In Catholic churches, Christians place a lighted candle symbolizing their prayer.



The main action of the Mass, the liturgy of the Eucharist, takes place at the altar. The priest consecrates bread and wine here. "Altar" reminds Christians of the sacrifice and death of Jesus on the cross.



It is from here that the priest, deacon or reader reads from. At the Liturgy of the Word scripture is read from here. Catholics believe that at mass they are nourished and fed by listening to the word of God. At services, they will read from a lectionary. A lectionary is a book containing a collection of scripture readings appointed to use on a given day.



In Catholic churches there is always a crucifix, a cross with an image of the crucified Christ on it. It is usually on or near the altar. It serves as a reminder of the suffering and death of Jesus. Catholics believe that the death of Jesus was the price he paid for their salvation. Catholics, like all Christians, believe that Jesus died for them to forgive their sins and give them eternal life.

