

Life and Death 2

Key Word	Phonics	Definition
Death	D/e/a/th	The end of physical life . Catholics see death as a
Eternal Life	E/ter/na/l L/ife	Spiritual existence after death of the body. Christians
Heaven	He/a/ven	A condition or place of great happiness, delight or
Hell	H/ell	A place of horrors where Satan rules. For Christians, a
Judgement	Ju/dg/e/ment	Judging someone on their actions. Catholics believe God will judge people on how they have loved their
Magisterium	Mag/is/ter/i/um	The teaching authority of the Roman Catholic Church
Resurrection	Res/ur/rec/tion	Returning to life from the dead. Christians belief that
Soul	S/ou/l	The spiritual part of a human that can never die. The part created by God that lives on after the death of

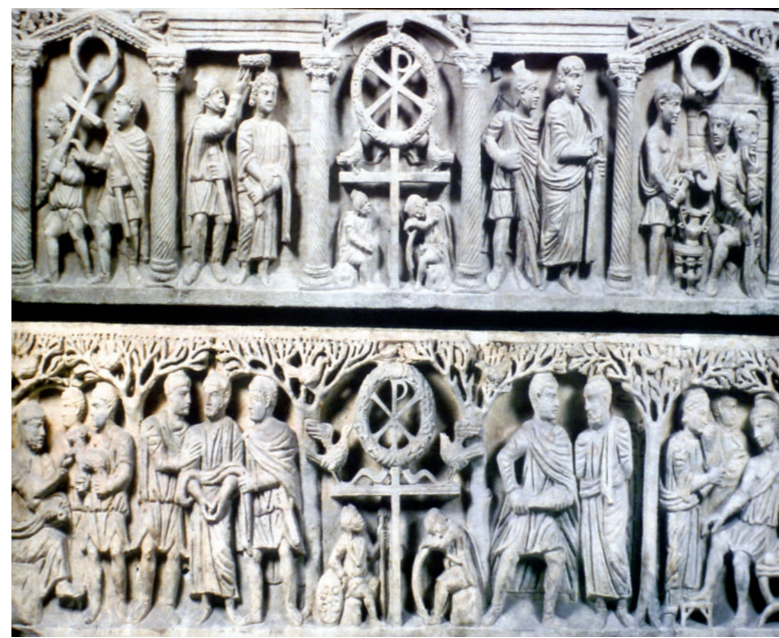
KEYWORDS



The 1960s was a time of dramatic change around the world. The Second Vatican Council was an ecumenical council of the Catholic Church during which Bishops from all over the world came together to discuss how Roman Catholicism needed to meet the challenges of the modern world.

Changes brought about by Vatican II

Before the Council	After Vatican II
Mass was said in Latin.	Mass now said in the vernacular (local language) so people can understand what is said.
The priest and congregation faced the altar to show the link between the Eucharist and Jesus' sacrifice.	The altar turned round and the priest faces the people so everyone can see. Increases sense of community and participation.
The priest leads everything.	Lay people are encouraged to read and be Eucharistic ministers. More women get involved.
The congregation only receive communion in the form of bread.	Communion under both bread and wine encouraged.
Catholics did not read the Bible	More emphasis on the liturgy of the Word. Catholics encouraged to read scripture.
Catholics encouraged to see themselves as different from other Christians and not to mix with them. Catholics were not allowed to go to Protestant churches.	Emphasis placed on what all Christians believe in common. Catholics encouraged to work for Christian Unity and pray with other Christians. This is called Ecumenism.
Closed off to other religions and world views.	Open to dialogue with people of other faiths especially Judaism. Catholics encouraged to see Jews as brothers and sisters under the same God.



In Rome it was custom for wealthy people to be buried in stone tombs called sarcophagi. They were usually decorated with scenes from mythology and with Roman gods. The first Christians adapted this practice, they continued to use the stone tombs but developed images that would reflect their beliefs about eternal life.

Sarcophagus with Scenes of Jesus' Passion

One example is the Sarcophagus with Scenes of Jesus' Passion that is now in the Museo Pio Cristiano in the Vatican, Rome. It dates from the 4th Century and has a variety of images that reinforce the belief that Jesus' death and resurrection was a triumph over sin and a sign of hope. The entire decoration is based on the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus. In the Early Christian period, when believers were working out ways of visually showing their religion, they relied on the example of art around them and biblical stories.

Prayer

The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines prayer as 'raising the mind and heart to God'. This means being totally focussed on God.



For Catholics, prayer is communicating with God. Catholics pray together through liturgical worship, most commonly the Mass. This is normally called public worship. Catholics also pray on their own, this is called private prayer or private worship.


Catholics can use formulaic prayers. These are prayers which have been passed down over many years as part of the Church tradition. There are many of these prayers that Catholics can use. For example, the Lord's Prayer (Our Father, Glory Be and Hail Mary). Or they might use their own words to speak to God. This is called extempore prayer. It is more spontaneous and does not require planning or preparation.

Magisterium

The official teaching of the Church on moral matters, the teaching office of the Church. Bishops- in union with the Bishop of Rome, the Pope hold the responsibility to teach with this authority. Magisterium's task to teach the faith and to ensure that believer's honour the values of tradition in their lives Mission is accomplished by:

- Bishops delegate- cannot do all teachings by themselves, assign others such as teachers and catechists.
- Give a teaching mission to theologians and to all those who speak in their name.
- Teach directly- publish formal definitions of faith, write encyclicals, pastoral letters and declarations.
- 2 levels- Extraordinary (2 situations, ecumenical council, the college of all bishops united with pope pronounce solemn decree OR solemn decree when the pope speaks explicitly as the head of the church), Ordinary (normal daily teachings of the bishop throughout the world).





Paschal Candle

The Paschal candle represents **Jesus Christ, the Light of the World**. Made of **pure beeswax**, it represents the **sinless Christ** who incarnated in the womb of His Mother. The priest inscribes in the candle a **Cross**, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, **(1) Alpha** and **(2) Omega** 'the beginning and the end') and the current year.

Five grains of incense inserted into it in the form of a cross, recalling the **aromatic spices** used to anoint Our Lord's Body, and the **five wounds** in His hands, feet, and side.

Catholic Fortress

The Catholic Funeral Rite

Catholics believe that death is not the end. As Christians, they can look forward to eternal life with God in heaven.

At a Catholic funeral, the mourners pray for the person who has died, entrusting them to the love of God. They believe that God listens to their prayers and will be merciful towards the departed person.

The service is also a celebration of a life. The mourners look back over the dead person's life and thank God for the good times they enjoyed.

A Roman Catholic funeral usually takes place as part of a form of liturgical worship known as a Requiem Mass (Requiem for short). Requiem means 'rest' in Latin and it reflects the fact that Catholics are praying that the person who has died is now at peace with God.

