

# Body of Christ

The Church is described as the **BODY OF CHRIST** in both the **OT and NT**. This means that:

1) All Christians continue the work of Christ on earth. They are his physical body



The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we are all baptised by one Spirit into one body—whether Jew or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

3) All Christians receive the Body of Christ during the Mass at the Eucharist. This joins all Catholics with the other Christians around the world receiving the sacrament.

2) Christians become part of the Church and so part of the Body of Christ through baptism

# Sin and Forgiveness 2

## Why the Church as the Body of Christ is important for Catholics?

- This is how the Church is described in the New Testament by St Paul.
- It explains why the mass is so important. By sharing communion, Catholics share in the Body of Christ through transubstantiation and are part of the Body of Christ.
- Christians can continue the physical helping and teaching work of Jesus because they are the Body of Christ on earth.
- Each person within the Church has a different talent that they can use for the good of the Church in the same way that each part of the body has a different talent that is used for the good of the body. Yet the Church remains at unity because all are working together as the body of Christ.

## The Virgin Mary

### Role:

- To act as an intercessor. Prayers are said to Mary to ask her for help because of her special relationship with God.
- She is a role model who shows Christians how to live a good Christian life.
- She shows us how to live a pure life. She was conceived without sin (the immaculate conception).
- Mary shows how to love Jesus.

### The importance:

- She had an immaculate conception. This means that Jesus was totally sinless because his mother was without original sin and his father was God.
- If Mary had not obeyed God, Jesus would not have been born. No Christianity or salvation.
- As the mother of God Mary must be the most important human being.
- In heaven she is able to pray for the souls of Christians on earth, so she can make the prayers of Catholics more effective and give them more chance of God's help.



### The meaning:

- The Church believes that Jesus gave the apostles his message and authority to begin the Church.
- The Church teaches the Gospels and the oral messages of the apostles.
- The apostles established the first Church as they were inspired by Jesus.
- The Church teachings were handed down by Jesus as should be followed if you wish to live as Jesus intended.

### The importance:

- It gives the Church the authority of Jesus to teach the faith.
- It gives Catholics confidence in the true faith taught by the Church.
- It guarantees the teaching Catholic follow is correct.
- Not everything Jesus said or did is written in the gospels. The unwritten message of Jesus was preserved by the apostles and has been passed on to the present day through the apostolic tradition.

## Apostolic Tradition

### The meaning:

- Catholics believe that the tradition from the apostles has been handed down in the Church through the Pope and the bishops.
- Jesus appointed St Peter to be the founder of the Church and gave him the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven.
- Apostolic succession continues by the sacrament of Holy Orders.
- The same teaching that the apostles gave their congregation is given to congregations today, so the teaching of the Church is unchanged since the Apostles.

### The importance:

- The authority of St Peter has been passed down by apostolic succession to the current Pope.
- It proves that when the Pope and The College of Bishops give the teaching of the Church in the Magisterium, they speak as successors of the apostles chosen by Jesus.
- It makes sure the faith of the Church today is the same faith as that of the apostles.
- It is one way which Jesus keeps his promise to stay with his Church.

## Apostolic Succession

### Baptism

Sacraments are celebrations. They mark stages in life and are outward signs and symbols which show that an inward gift from God has been given.



### The meaning

- Baptism is the washing away of the old life and entering a new one, free from sin.
- Through Baptism a person becomes part of the Christian Church. Catholics are usually baptised as babies and their parents make promises on their behalf. That they will bring the child up according to the teachings of the Church. (God parents make the same vows)
- It is the first sacrament of initiation.
- Original sin is washed away at baptism. This means the sacrament is a sign of God's forgiveness and love.
- Baptism is a powerful sign that the child is chosen by Christ to be a believer. This is symbolised by the anointing with Chrism and the candle which is lit and given to the God parents.

### The importance

- A person can not receive the other 6 sacraments if they have not been baptised.
- Baptism makes a person a full member of the Church and is given the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- A person becomes closer to God and can receive salvation (sins are washed away)
- Magisterium says baptism is necessary for salvation.

### Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is also known as the sacrament of Confession.

### The meaning

- Allows someone to ask God for his forgiveness and with God's help not to commit sin again.
- The penitent is given advice on how to overcome temptation.
- Receiving this sacrament will make someone feel better and have an increased self-worth.
- A Roman Catholic should receive the sacrament at least once a year.

### The importance

- Gives a person the opportunity to strengthen their relationship with God. By receiving God's forgiveness they become closer to God.
- A person receives a spiritual strength to battle evil and temptation.
- When Jesus appeared after his resurrection he spoke about the importance of forgiveness.

