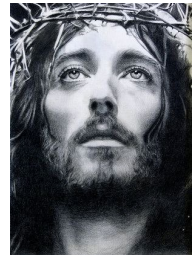


NAME: _____

RE TEACHER _____

AQA RELIGIOUS STUDIES

INCARNATION



THE MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATION

1. The mystery concerning the identity of Jesus Christ has become one of the most important questions of all time
2. The **Mystery of the Incarnation** is the belief that God took on the human condition in Jesus Christ
3. Christians believe that Jesus Christ was **fully man** and **fully God** (sharing both our **humanity** and God's **divinity**)
4. This belief is upheld by Church Tradition, the Magisterium, Scripture and the teachings of Jesus Christ himself

IMAGES AND SYMBOLS

5. Symbols are used to give a deeper meaning to things connecting with our emotions as words can be limited
6. During times of persecution the first Christians often used symbols in order to conduct secret meetings



Alpha and Omega

The first and last letter of the Greek Alphabet showing that Jesus and God are eternal



Ichthus

Greek Acronym...
I CH – Jesus Christ
TH U S – God's Son and Saviour



Chi-Rho

The first two letters of Jesus' name in Greek in the shape of a cross

7. Many Protestant Christians believe that it is not acceptable to use images because the second of the Ten Commandments clearly states '**You shalt not worship any false idols or graven images**'
8. Catholics believe that it has become acceptable to use images and statues because God has already made himself visible to us in the person of Jesus through the Mystery of the Incarnation
9. Catholics believe through artistic impression we can give more glory to God through our gifts and talents



The Divine Mercy

Water and blood pour from the side of Jesus whilst speared on the Cross revealing his dual identity



Sacred Heart of Jesus

The crown of thorns and fire surrounding his heart show the perfect and unconditional love Jesus had for each of us



La Pietà

Michelangelo's statue shows the humanity of Jesus in his relationship with his mother Mary and his suffering



Christ the Redeemer

Funded by the poor people of Rio De Janeiro the statue of the risen Jesus transcends the city as a symbol of hope

SCRIPTURE

10. The four **Evangelists** are Matthew, Mark, Luke and John (also known as the four gospel writers)
11. Each evangelist gives an account of Jesus but they tell their stories to different audiences for different reasons
12. **Matthew and Luke** begin their Gospels with a **birth narrative** (they record the events around Jesus' birth)
13. **Mark** does not see the birth of Jesus as significant and starts his Gospel with the **baptism** of Jesus in the Jordan
14. **John** goes back to the beginning of time and rewrites Genesis as we have come to a new understanding of who God is because of Jesus. John uses the term '**Word**' to show that **the Father** and **the Son** have always **co-existed**

'In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God and the Word was God' (John 1: 1)

THE BIRTH NARRATIVES



Matthew starts his Gospel with a **genealogy**... Matthew was a Jewish tax collector who became one of Jesus' twelve disciples... Matthew writes for the Jewish people to help them see that Jesus is their **Messiah**... Matthew includes **many quotes** and **messianic prophecies** to prove who Jesus is (e.g. **line of David**)... Matthew links Jesus to Moses as the **new law giver** (Herod links to Pharaoh) to show Jesus had authority... He focuses on the role of Joseph in the Virgin Birth (as evidence from Mary would not have had worth to the Jewish community) and gives Jesus the Jewish name '**Emmanuel**' for Jesus ('**God with us**')



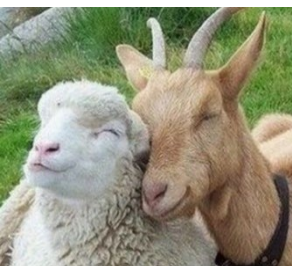
Luke starts his Gospel with the story of the **Annunciation**. Like Matthew he talks about the **Virgin Birth** and the visit of an angel. However, in Luke's Gospel the angel Gabriel appears to Mary and asks if she will be the mother of the '**Son of the Most High**'. Luke is writing for non-Jewish Christians so the name in his Gospel account is 'Jesus' which means '**Saviour**'... Luke is not worried about proving the identity of Jesus to the Jews so he does not worry about quotes and prophecies or compare Jesus to Moses... Luke focuses on Mary as the most important role model in history as she says '**Let it be done to me according to thy word**'

TEACHINGS OF JESUS

15. Jesus refers to himself many times as the '**Son of Man**' in the Gospel accounts... This has different meanings...
16. '**Son of**' can mean '**equal to**' so Jesus may have been speaking of his human nature... Jesus is **equal to us**
17. '**Son of Man**' can also mean one who has been given authority and a kingdom from God (**Daniel's prophecy**)
18. '**Son of Man**' was also used by Jesus whenever he spoke about (or predicted) his own **suffering** and death
19. Jesus is sentenced to death for blasphemy as he revealed his true identity (**I AM**) before the Jewish Sanhedrin...
20. '**I AM WHO AM**' is the name of God (**YHWH**)... Jesus teaches that he is '**Son of God**' as well as '**Son of Man**'

The High Priest asked him 'Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?' Jesus said, I AM; and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of heaven.'
(Mark 14: 61-62)

21. Christians believe that the teachings of Jesus have ultimate authority as he is one with God the Father
22. Jesus teaches people how to live a moral life through his parables and Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)



The Sheep and the Goats (Matthew 25: 31-46)

Jesus teaches in this parable that **people will be judged** for their actions at the end of time. The good will be rewarded and the bad will receive punishment from God...

Jesus asks us to consider...

Do we feed the hungry? Do we clothe the naked? Do we visit those in prison?

Jesus teaches us '**Whatever you do to the least of my people, you do it to me**'



The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)

Jesus explains the Law Moses received on Mount Sinai in greater detail... In the Sermon on the Mount he teaches that we find the Kingdom of God through controlling our thoughts and emotions not only our actions. Jesus said...

'Do not think that I have not come to abolish the law, rather to fulfil it'

Jesus opens his Sermon with the **Beatitudes** (Blessed Truths)...

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

MAGISTERIAL TEACHING

23. In **325CE** the Magisterium met at Nicea in response to **Arianism** (the belief that Jesus was adopted by God)
24. The Council of Nicea agreed the **Nicene Creed** and held Arianism to be a heresy (as it denied the divinity of Jesus)

NICENE CREED

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages. **God from God, Light from Light, true
God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;**

25. The Magisterium today writes many documents to help people understand the Mystery of the Incarnation
26. Dei Verbum (God's Revelation) is a Vatican II document from 1965...
27. **Dei Verbum 4** says that Jesus is the '**eternal Word... Sent as a man to men**'
28. Verbum Domini is an **apostolic exhortation** (a letter of encouragement from the Pope)...
29. **Verbum Domini 12** says that the '**eternal Word became small enough to fit into a manger**'
30. All Magisterial documents stress the dual identity of Jesus Christ i.e. Jesus is fully human and fully God

TRADITION

31. **St Irenaeus** (one of the early saints) described Jesus as the **meeting point between God and humanity**
32. St Irenaeus wrote the book '**against heresies**' to help people understand the true identity of Jesus
33. St Irenaeus explained that we see the glory of God in Jesus (the exemplar) as a human being 'fully alive'
34. Living our lives as Jesus did enables us to be fully alive... '**The glory of God is man fully alive**' (St Irenaeus)

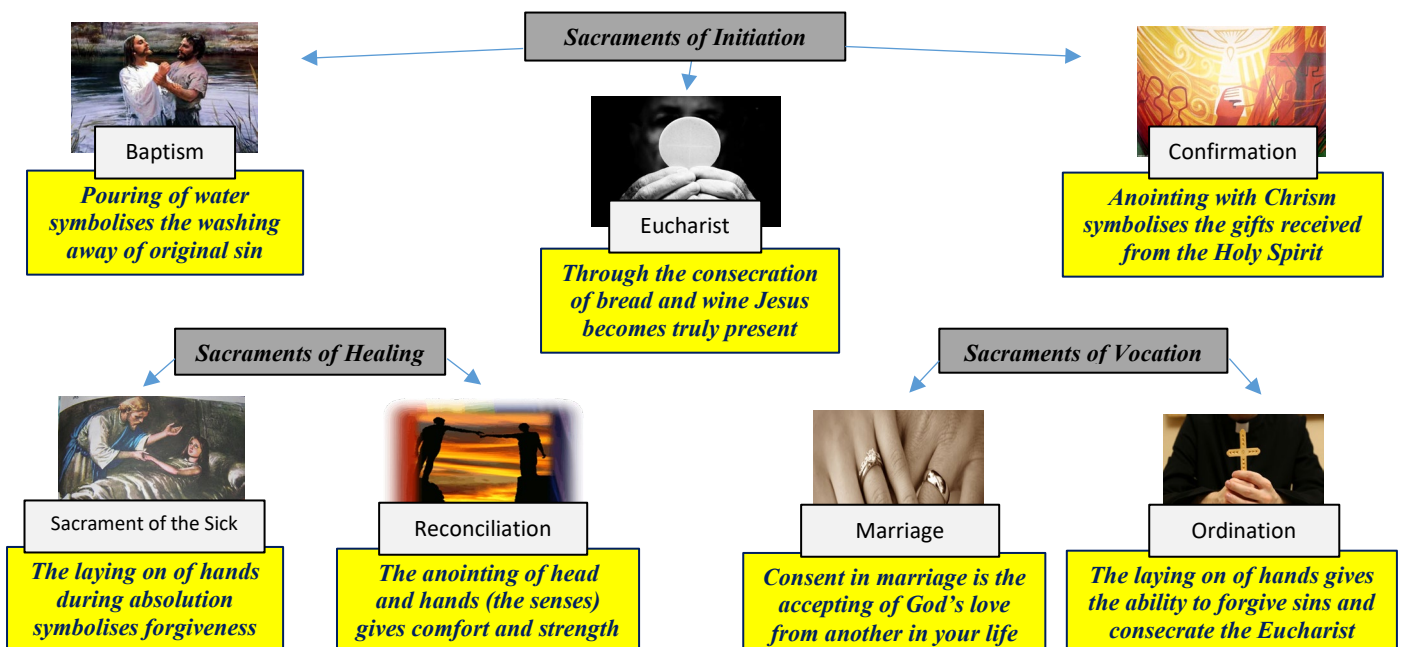
IMAGO DEI

35. Catholics believe that life starts at **conception**... Human life is **sacred** because we are made in the image of God
36. Abortion is '**an unspeakable crime**' (**Gaudium et Spes**) as it takes life ('**Thou shalt not kill**')
37. Abortion Law in the UK continues to provide a defence for mothers up until the 24th week of gestation

*Grace (or '**gratis**' in Latin meaning 'free') is the **free gift of God's love**. It is an invitation to share in the **divine life** of God... Catholics believe that we are all made holy by God's grace*

SACRAMENTS

38. Sacraments are '**outward signs**' of '**inward grace**'... They make the **invisible visible**... God's **grace** is received
39. **Jesus** is the **perfect Sacrament** as he made God's grace visible to us through the mystery of the incarnation
40. Catholics have seven sacraments so that God's grace can be received at important moments in their lives
41. Sacraments **sanctify** the life of believers and help them to become better **witnesses** to the love of God



Key words

Doctrine	Official teaching of the Church
Incarnation	God taking on the human condition of Jesus
Annunciation	When the angel Gabriel asked Mary to become the mother of the Son of God
Angel	A spiritual messenger believed to act as a messenger of God
Grace	God's free gift of his unconditional love to the believer
Genealogy	A list of the generations within a family which shows how people are related
Emmanuel	A Jewish name meaning 'God with us'
Virgin Birth	The belief that Jesus was fully human but did not have a human father
Word of God	The second person of the Trinity, God the Son, who took flesh in Jesus
Eternal	Without beginning or end
Co-exist	Live together in harmony
Dynamic	Full of energy and creativeness
Evangelists	The writers of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John)
Son of Man	A title that could refer to just a human being or a human who is given power by God
Sanhedrin	The Jewish Council that looked after all aspects of Jewish life and religion at the time of Jesus
Ichthus	A symbol of a fish based on a Greek acronym that translates as 'Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour'
Alpha and Omega	A symbol made from the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, which are used to show that God and Jesus are eternal – the beginning and the end of all things
Chi-Rho	A symbol to represent Jesus, made up of the first two letters of his name in Greek
Sacred Heart	A representation of Jesus that focuses on his burning love for everybody
Crucifix	A representation of Jesus on the cross in which he died
Law	The commandments and rules laid down in the Old Testament
Sermon on the Mount	Jesus' teachings found in Matthew 5-7, which give Christians a set of rules and values to apply in their everyday lives
God's Will	The things that God wants people to do
Tradition	That which has been handed on or passed down; things which have value because they have stood the test of time
Heresy	A belief that goes against the accepted teaching of the Church
Magisterium	The teaching authority of the Catholic Church exercised by the Pope and the Bishops
Salvation	Freedom from sin and from the eternal separation from God that is brought about by sin
Apostolic Exhortation	A letter or document from the Pope encouraging Catholics in their religion
The Divine Life	The shared love of the Father and the Son in the Holy Spirit
Sinful	When humans turn away from God and do what they want rather than God's will
Sacraments	Rites and rituals through which the believer receives a special gift of grace, for Catholics, Anglicans and many Protestants, sacraments are 'outward signs' of 'inward grace'
Laying on of Hands	A symbolic gesture that passes on the power of the Holy Spirit
Sanctify	Being made Holy
Witness	When someone shows their faith in their words and actions
Imago Dei	'The image of God', the Latin term used to show that God made humans in his image and likeness
Conception	When the male sperm fertilises the female ovum, seen by Catholics as the start of life
Abortion	The removal of a foetus from the womb to end a pregnancy, usually before the foetus is 24 weeks-old