

NAME: _____

RE TEACHER: _____



YEAR 10 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ESCHATOLOGY



Immortality of the Soul...

1. Jesus said to us, '**everyone who lives and believes in me will never die**' (John 11: 26).
2. Jesus overcame the power of death through His resurrection... He showed us that there is more after we die.
3. If we allow Jesus to live in us and we attempt to live in Him then we too can share in eternal life with Him.
4. All Christians believe in 'the four last things'... **Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell.**
5. This is because Jesus refers to these four things in his parables, including in **Matthew 25** and in **Luke 16**.
6. Catholic belief also includes **purgatory**, a state of cleansing, where a person is purified before meeting with God.
7. Many Protestants argue that belief in Jesus is enough to receive eternal life. Jesus alone saves humanity from sin.
8. Catholics believe that salvation is an ongoing process... Jesus makes it possible, but only if we live by his example.
9. Different Christians put different emphasis on salvation as a **past, present or future event...**
10. Are we saved by the **blood sacrifice** at the crucifixion? Is it by choosing the **wood of the cross**? Is it yet to come?

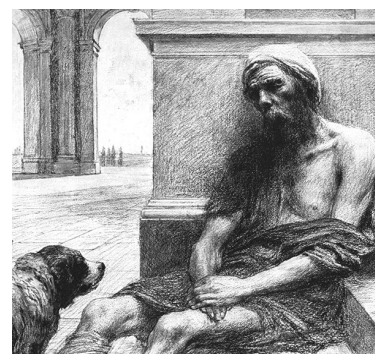
Teachings of Jesus on Life after Death...



Christians begin with the teachings of Jesus when they consider what to believe about life after death. If Jesus really was God in the flesh then it means that **everything Jesus taught us must be true**. This includes everything Jesus taught us about 'eternal life'. Jesus talks about life after death in the **parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus**. (Luke 16: 19-31) He also talks about life after death in the parable of **the Sheep and the Goats**. (Matthew 25: 31-46)

The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16: 19-31)

"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was **carried away by the angels** to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. **In Hades, where he was being tormented**, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for **I am in agony in these flames.**' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us **a great chasm has been fixed**, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, '**If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.**'"



Evidence for Life after Death?

In this parable Abraham says 'A great chasm has been fixed. So that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so.' Does this parable prove to us that purgatory does not exist? Does it prove that we will be judged according to our actions rather than our beliefs? Does it show that judgement happens immediately when we die?



Luke 23: 39-43

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "**Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.**"



The Sheep and the Goats

Do you remember what Jesus said about life after death in this parable? (Matthew 25: 31-45)

11. It would appear to be clear from the **teachings** and from the **resurrection** of Jesus that life after death does exist.
12. Jesus appears to talk about **judgement** which leads to **punishment** for the wicked and **reward** for the worthy.
13. Christians will accept the teachings of Jesus because they believe that Jesus is God (mystery of the incarnation).
14. Even in his lifetime, Jesus began teaching his followers that He would rise from the dead (see Luke 16 above).
15. Jesus said to the Pharisees, '**Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up**' (John 2: 13).

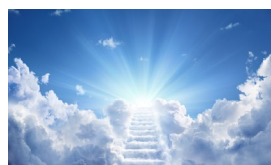
The Four Last Things...



Death



Judgement



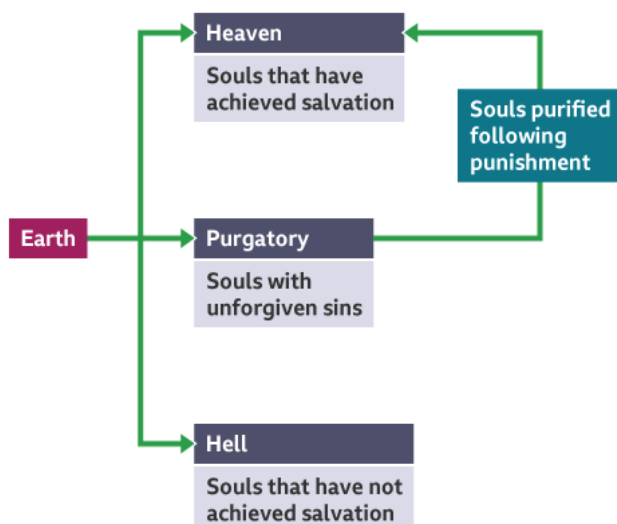
Heaven



Hell

Catholics Believe...

In addition to the four last things, Catholics believe in something called **Purgatory**, this is where sins are punished and where a person's soul undergoes purification before it can go to Heaven. It is a state of spiritual cleansing.



Purgatory is an area of eschatology in which many Christians disagree.

Catholics believe that there must be hope for all people even after they die. Only the saints and martyrs are holy enough to enter God's presence immediately after death. A state of cleansing must exist for all people after death.

Most Protestant Christians disagree. They might point out that Jesus is where we find all of our information about life after death. There is no mention of purgatory in the parables that Jesus gives us. Many Protestant Christians believe in the Bible alone... This is called 'sola scriptura'.

Purgatory appears to fit more closely with the Jewish belief of 'Sheol' which is a state of purification. Jesus will have been familiar with this belief given that He was a Jew.

16. Catholics believe in **two types of judgement** namely, **particular judgement** and **final judgement**.
17. Particular judgement is where an individual is held to account when they die for their actions whilst on Earth.
18. The last judgement or '**Judgement Day**' is also known as the '**Parousia**' or the '**second coming**' of Christ.
19. In this final judgement, God will bring all things to Himself, and the great mysteries of life will be fully revealed.
20. The Nicene Creed concludes, '**I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.**'
21. There is disagreement in Catholicism as to how many will be saved on this day owing to Biblical interpretation...
22. Jesus said, '**In my Father's house there are many rooms.**' (John 14: 2) This might give us cause to be hopeful.
23. However, Jesus also said, '**The only way to the Father is through me**' (John 14: 6) Perhaps it will not be so easy!

The Last Judgement...



Michelangelo finished painting the **Last Judgement** in **1541**. It can be seen to this day on the wall of the **Sistine Chapel**. The painting depicts Judgement Day. The Bible states on this day that many who sleep in the Earth will **awaken**, the angels will sound their **trumpets** and there will be a number of **cosmic events**. The **Earth will quake**, the **sky will turn black**, **stars will give up their light** and the **moon will turn red**. Michelangelo shows **Christ in the centre** raising those on His right up to heaven with his **right hand**. Those on His left appear to be descending to a place of darkness, **fire** and **torment**. Those closest to Christ include **Mary** (the mother of God) and the **saints** and **martyrs**. Many are holding instruments of torture linking to their time of execution. The painting links to **Daniels prophecy** about the **Son of Man**, the **Sheep** and the **Goats** and far more.

- 24. Catholics believe in the '**Resurrection of the body**' meaning judgement of the **whole person**... Body and spirit.
- 25. Catholics believe that the body of a person must be respected, even in death... The body is a **temple** for the soul.
- 26. Traditionally, Catholics prefer to **bury** the dead. **Cremation** eventually became acceptable for practical reasons.
- 27. Catholics believe the Church exists as three... The Church **militant**, the Church **suffering** and Church **triumphant**.
- 28. The Church militant (the living) fight the good fight on Earth as the suffering undergo purification in purgatory.
- 29. The Church triumphant (saints and martyrs) have become united with God through their relationship with Jesus.
- 30. Catholics believe in the **communion of saints**... We can pray for the dead and ask saints in heaven to pray for us.

Memorials for the Dead...



Tombstones are often shaped as crosses or as angels for children

Tombstones mark the location of a grave so it can be treated with respect.



This monument marks the burial place of Saint Pope John Paul II

Monuments sometimes mark the location of an important person or event.



Some have their ashes put into an urn and placed in a Remembrance Garden.

Teachings of St Paul on Life after Death...

The Resurrection Body (1 Corinthians 15: 35-41)

But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. Not all flesh is alike, but there is one flesh for human beings, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. There are both heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one thing, and that of the earthly is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; indeed, star differs from star in glory.



A seed first has to die in order for new life to begin. (Teaching of St Paul)

Writings of Julian of Norwich...



Julian of Norwich wrote '**Revelations of Divine Love**'. This is the oldest surviving work in the English language of any woman. Julian received a vision of the crucified Jesus on her death bed in May 1373. She made a miraculous recovery and went on to write about **16 revelations** of divine love she received from God. Julian of Norwich became mystically connected with God's love. She came to see that God could draw a greater good from anything, even from evil. To be transfigured, all we need do is surrender to this love... '**All shall be well and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.**'

Requiem Mass...

31. When a Catholic dies a **Requiem Mass** ('Mass for the dead') is offered for the deceased person.
32. A Requiem Mass offers thanks and praise to God and is a **celebration of the life** of the deceased person.
33. The words '**Requiescat in pace**' are sometimes written as **R.I.P.** This means '**may (s)he rest in peace.**'
34. The **Paschal Candle** is lit to remind us that death is not the end and that the deceased is now united with Jesus.
35. The Paschal Candle is also known as the **Easter Candle** or the **Christ Candle** ('Paschal' is Latin for 'Passover').
36. The body of the deceased is usually placed in a **coffin** before the **Altar** as the Mass is offered.
37. **Prayers of intercession** are said for the deceased and for those struggling with grief.



Significance of the Paschal Candle

FLAME

Reminds us that Jesus is the light that shines in the darkness.

GRAINS OF INCENSE

Represents the five wounds of Christ on the cross.

ALPHA AND OMEGA

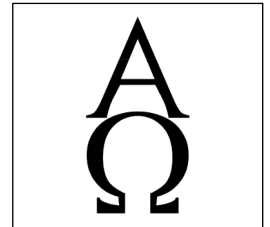
Represents that Jesus is the beginning and the end of all things.

YEAR

Reminds Christians that God is present with us here and now.

CROSS

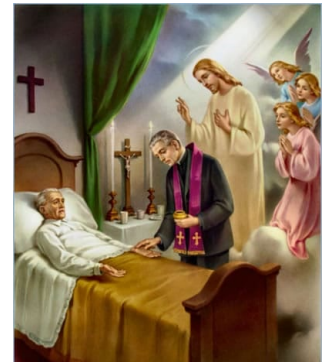
Reminds us that we are saved by the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.



The Alpha and the Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. The Apostle John writes in His letters that Jesus is the 'Alpha and the Omega'.

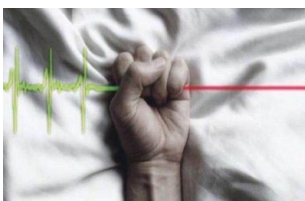
The Anointing of the Sick...

A priest will start this ritual by sprinkling the room and the person receiving the sacrament with **Holy Water** to remind them of their baptism. The priest will offer the sacrament of **Reconciliation** and give **Holy Communion**. The **oil of the sick** is used to anoint the **head** and **hands** of the sick person. Prayers are said as the priest lays hands on the person receiving the sacrament calling down the power and strength of the **Holy Spirit**. The anointing of the sick is a **sacrament of healing**. It provides **strength** and **comfort** for those suffering from doubt and despair. If the person receiving this sacrament is in their final moments before death it is known as the **Last Rites**. The last **Holy Communion** is called '**viaticum**' which means '**with you on the way.**' Many Catholics request the Last Rites when approaching death.



38. Every sacrament makes the invisible love of God visible to us... The sacrament of the sick is no different.
39. **Viaticum** is a very special moment for Christians as they prepare to leave this world with Jesus Christ.
40. Viaticum marks the end of our journeys in this world and the **start of a new journey** in God's eternal presence.
41. During the sacrament, the priest may read from the book of **Psalms** to remind the sick person of their faith.
42. The priest may also recite a **litany of the saints**... This reminds the sick person that they are not alone.

Euthanasia...



Euthanasia means '**happy death**'. It is the process of ending a person's life early to relieve them of pain and suffering. Some Christians believe this might be done as an **act of mercy** to **show love**. Other Christians believe it violates the **sanctity of life** principle and that is against **God's will**. Euthanasia is against the law in the UK. Some charities such as '**Dying with Dignity**' campaign to have this law changed. The Catholic Church position is set out in the '**Declaration on Euthanasia**'... 'We should accept the **hour of our death** with full responsibility and dignity,' In suffering we become more like Christ... '**Imago Dei.**'

Medical Argument

It is not fair to put that level of responsibility onto doctors
See the Hippocratic Oath!

Slippery Slope Argument

Where else could this lead?
Where do we draw the line?
Are we accepting suicide?

Psychological Argument

A person must be able to show that they are of 'sound mind' to make this type of judgement...
The vulnerable are often not 'Compos Mentis'.

Sanctity of Life Argument

All life belongs to God.
It is not for us to take it.
'Thou shalt not kill.'

KEY WORDS

Alpha	The first letter of the Greek alphabet used in the Bible to mean 'beginning'.
Omega	The last letter of the Greek alphabet used in the Bible to mean 'end'.
Eschatology	The study of the last things.
Heaven	Living in the presence of God for all eternity.
Hell	A choice resulting in a state of separation from God's presence.
Judgement	The belief that all people will be held to account for their actions by God.
Purgatory	A state of cleansing after death... Being made ready for the presence of God.
Resurrection	The belief that Jesus Christ rose from the dead on 'the third day.'
Immortality	The belief that the soul lives forever.
Requiem Mass	A Mass that is said for the dead.
Tombstone	A carved stone built over the location of a grave so it can be treated with respect.
Monument	Something which is built upon the location of a special person or event.
Remembrance Garden	A special garden in which ashes are buried to create a feeling of peace.
Paschal Candle	The 'Christ Candle' which is lit at baptisms, funerals and Masses during Easter Tide.
Euthanasia	The painless killing of a person suffering from a terminal disease.
Viaticum	The last communion a Catholic might receive before they die.