

Subject specific vocabulary – Component 1:
Catholic Christianity

Altar: Feature of Catholic church where the Eucharist is celebrated.

Apostolic succession: The authority and power of Peter and the apostles passed on to the next generations of popes and bishops.

Anselm: St Anselm of Canterbury, 11th century Christian philosopher and theologian.

Ascension: Going or being taken up; the event forty days after the resurrection when Jesus returned to glory in heaven, understood as the restoration of the cosmic order.

St Augustine: St Augustine of Hippo, 4th century Christian philosopher and theologian.

Baptism: The sacrament of initiation in which a person becomes a child of God and part of the Church.

Beatitudes: Series of blessings taught by Jesus during the Sermon on the Mount.

Creation: Bringing the world into existence; the belief that the world is God's loving creation.

Creator: Understanding of the nature of God, the belief that he created the universe.

Crucifix: Feature of Catholic churches, an image of the cross with Jesus on it (depicting his crucifixion).

Conscience: The voice of God in the heart of a person, guiding him/her to do what is right.

Denominations: Groups/divisions within the Church, eg Anglican, Orthodox.

Dignity: Being worthy of respect and honour; belief that all human beings deserve to be treated with dignity because they are part of God's creation in his image.

Discipleship: Following Jesus.

Divine Word: Another name for God the Son. In the Bible, John 1 describes God creating the world through his eternal Word. This links the eternal Word to Jesus in the statement: "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14).

Duty: Having a responsibility or moral obligation to act in a certain way.

Eschatology: Beliefs about the 'end times', including life after death and judgement.

Eternity: Belief in an endless life after death.

Eucharist: Literally 'thanksgiving'; Mass; one of the seven sacraments in which the death and resurrection of Jesus are celebrated, using bread and wine.

Eucharistic acclamations: Words of praise that are said or sung during Mass.

Euthanasia: Assisting with the ending of life for a person who is terminally ill or has degenerative illness; often known as assisted suicide.

Evangelism: Preaching the gospel (the good news about God) to convert people to the Christian faith.

Four marks of the Church: The four attributes of the Church identified in the Nicene Creed: one, holy, catholic, apostolic.

Free will: Being able to make our own choices; a gift from God which comes with being responsible/accountable for our actions.

Grace: The unconditional and generous love that God shows to people who do not deserve it.

Heaven: Belief that after death Christians can enter a state of being with God for eternity.

Hell: Belief in a place of eternal suffering, or a state after death of being in separation from God.

Hierarchy: A system of authority within an organization, eg the pope and bishops form part of the Catholic hierarchy.

History: One of the literary forms found in the Bible; parts of the scripture that give account of the story of Israel and the early church.

Image of God/Imago Dei: The belief that humans share some of the qualities of God; it is stated in Genesis 1:27 "So God created humankind in his image."

Incarnation/Incarnate Son: Literally 'in flesh', or 'enfleshed'; belief that God took on human form in the person of Jesus.

Irenaeus: St Irenaeus of Lyon, 2nd century Christian theologian and Bishop of Lyon.

Judgement: The belief that God will decide whether each person should receive eternal life or eternal punishment based on their earthly life.

Justice: Fairness in the way people are treated.

Kingdom of God: The reign of God over the earth.

Catherine LaCugna: Twentieth century Catholic theologian whose work included 'God for Us' (1991) about the love of God as shown in the Trinity.

Last rites: Prayers and actions that prepare a dying person for death.

Law: One of the literary forms found in the Bible; rules or commands which must be followed, the law of God is revealed in the Bible.

Lectern: Feature of Catholic churches, platform or stand from which scripture is read.

Liturgy: Acts of public/divine worship.

Lord's Prayer: The prayer taught to the disciples by Jesus; also known as the 'Our Father' and widely said by Christians in both church services and privately.

Magisterium: Teaching and authority of the Catholic church; includes conciliar magisterium where bishops of the church form a council to make decisions about teachings, and pontifical magisterium which is papal infallible teaching.

Mission: Literally 'sent out'; the duty of Christians to spread the gospel (the good news about Jesus).

Natural law: Belief in a natural order to the world, and a natural moral law, given by God.

Nicene Creed: Statement of Christian doctrine agreed by bishops at the Council of Nicaea in 325.

Omnipotent: All-powerful; an attribute of God.

Paschal mystery: Four key ideas about parts of Jesus' life and death and how they led to saving humanity from sin (life, death, resurrection, ascension); important for beliefs about redemption and salvation.

Peace: The opposite of war; harmony between all in society.

Pilgrimage: A religious journey to a holy site/sacred place, it is an act of worship and devotion.

Plainchant: Chants used within liturgy. Traditional, sacred, monastic.

Prayer: The raising of the heart and mind to God (St Augustine); listening and speaking to God.

Priesthood: Being an ordained member of the clergy, a person who has taken holy orders; a vocation and sacrament.

Prophecy: One of the literary forms found in the Bible, messages/revelation from God.

Psalms: Poems from the Old Testament (Bible) which are read or sung during liturgy.

Purgatory: A state of cleansing to remove the effects of sin.

Reconciliation: Bringing people back to a good relationship with God and with one another.

Redemption: Belief that through his atonement for our sins, Jesus secures our salvation; through Jesus humans are redeemed/saved.

Resurrection: The event three days after the crucifixion when God raised Jesus from the dead, restoration through recreation.

Revelation/revealed: When God is revealed, or reveals himself to humans (eg through scripture, the person of Jesus).

Sacramental nature of reality: The grace of God as revealed/present in the physical world.

Seven sacraments: The outward and visible sign of an invisible and spiritual grace; in the Catholic church these are: Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation, Reconciliation, Anointing of the sick, Marriage, Holy orders.

Salvation: The belief that Christians are set free from sin through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Sanctity of life: The belief that all human life is precious and holy/sacred as it is created by God.

Second Vatican Council: Council of leaders of the Catholic Church in 1962-65 which agreed changes to Church practice and doctrine (conciliar magisterium).

Son of God: A title used in the Bible for Jesus, stressing his divinity.

Son of Man: A title that Jesus used for himself, which refers to both his suffering as a human and to the authority given to him by God.

Spontaneous prayer: Informal prayers spoken from the heart which are personal and unique to the person/people at the time.

Stations of the Cross: A series of 14 'stations' (often images, carvings or statues) that depict the Passion of Jesus from his condemnation by Pilate to the tomb. This is an example of popular piety used for prayer and devotion.

Stewardship: The idea that humans have a duty to look after the environment on behalf of God.

Sustainability: Working to develop ways of living that help protect natural resources and ecological balance, often with long-term goals in mind.

Symbol: An image or sign that is used to represent something else, eg Ichthus (fish) symbol.

Tabernacle: A feature of Catholic churches; where the consecrated Eucharist is reserved/stored.

Transcendent: An attribute of God; belief that God is beyond time and space, he is unlimited.

Trinity: Triune God; belief that there are three Persons in one God: Father, Son, Holy Spirit.

Virtues: Good habits/a persons' disposition towards doing good and moral actions, eg kindness, humility.

Vocation: Belief in a calling from God for a particular path in life, eg priesthood or family.

Word of God: Belief that the Bible (holy scripture) is the revealed word of God.

Subject specific vocabulary – Component 2:
Perspectives on faith: Judaism

Abraham: Known as the father of the Jewish people. God made a covenant with him, promising him land and descendants.

The Amidah: The 'standing prayer'. Recited as part of public acts of worship in the synagogue.

Ark (Aron hakodesh): The holiest part of the synagogue containing the Torah scrolls.

Bar Mitzvah: Coming of age ceremony of boys aged 13. Literally "Son of the Commandment".

Bat Mitzvah: Coming of age ceremony for girls aged 12. Literally "Daughter of Commandment".

Brit Milah: The religious rite of circumcision, usually performed eight days after a boy's birth.

Charity: Key moral principle; giving to those in need. Hebrew term 'tzedakah' literally means 'justice' but used to refer to charity (because giving to those in need is part of promoting justice).

The Covenant: A binding promise/agreement; God's agreement to look after his chosen people.

Creator: Part of the understanding of the nature of God; the belief that God created the world from nothing.

Dietary laws: The food laws that were given by God, found in the Torah. These rules relate to what may/may not be eaten, combinations of foods, and the preparation of food.

Divine presence (Shekhinah): Belief that God is beyond human understanding but his presence may be experienced/known.

Ever-burning light (ner tamid): A feature of the synagogue; a light that is above and in front of the aron hakodesh, which burns constantly as a symbol of God's presence.

Free will: Humans are free to choose to do right or to do wrong, this freedom is a gift from God but comes with responsibility.

God as one: Part of the understanding of the nature of God; belief that there is only one God, monotheism. Reflected in the 1st Commandment "You shall have no other Gods before me." (Exodus 20:3)

Healing the world: Key moral principle related to making the world a better place (Hebrew 'tikkun olam').

Judge: Part of the understanding of the nature of God; the belief that God is fair. God's justice incorporates both forgiveness and mercy.

Judgement: Part of beliefs about life after death; a Day of Judgement when God will judge the living and the dead.

Justice: Key moral principle; fairness in the way people are treated.

Kosher: Food that is 'clean' and that meets the requirements of the dietary laws.

Law-Giver: Part of the understanding of the nature of God; refers to God's giving of the Law to Moses on Mount Sinai.

Liberal Judaism: This is a form of progressive Judaism which seems to combine traditional beliefs and practices with modern interpretations.

Merciful: Part of the understanding of the nature of God; God as compassionate.

The Messiah: Literally 'the anointed one'. Orthodox Jews believe that the Messiah will be a human person sent by God to establish justice and peace on the earth. For Reform Jews, the Messiah is a symbolic figure.

Mitzvot: Mitzvot (singular is 'mitzvah') are the 613 Jewish commandments/rules found in the Tenakh.

Moses: The person through whom God set the Israelites free from slavery in Egypt, gave the Ten Commandments and made a covenant with Israel.

Mourning rituals: Refers to set practices that are carried out by Jews as a way of grieving for loved ones who have died.

Orthodox Judaism: Jews who believe God gave the complete Torah to Moses and therefore live according to Jewish laws and traditions.

Oral law (Talmud): Source of authority; the law believed by Orthodox Jews to have been given to Moses but was not written down for many centuries, it was then expanded with rabbinic explanation/commentaries.

Pesach: Festival that celebrates the Jewish Exodus from Egypt, often called Passover.

Prayer: Communicating with God; listening to and speaking to God.

Reading platform (bimah): The reading platform in a synagogue from which the Torah is read.

Reform Judaism: Jews who believe the Torah was inspired by God and was developed through their history – therefore laws may be changed or adapted as modern life changes.

Resurrection: Being raised from the dead; part of beliefs about life after death that in a future age the dead will rise and live again.

Rosh Hashanah: Festival celebrating the Jewish New Year. It is the start of the ten day period of High Holy Days that culminates in Yom Kippur.

Sanctity of human life: Belief that human life is a sacred/special because it is a precious gift from God.

'Saving a life' (Pikuach Nefesh): This principle overrides all other religious laws because saving a human life should be of utmost importance in any situation.

Shabbat: The Sabbath/holy day of the week; beginning at sunset on Friday until sunset on Saturday.

Sinai: The mountain where Moses received the Law and where the covenant between God and Israel was made.

Synagogue: The place of public worship, also used for study and gathering. Literally means 'coming together'.

The Ten Commandments: Source of authority; religious and moral rules that were given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai.

Trefah: Forbidden food – literally means 'torn'. It does not fulfil the Jewish dietary laws/is not kosher.

Written law (Tenakh): Holy book/source of authority; the Jewish scriptures. Includes into three parts: Torah (Law), Nevi'im (prophets) and Ketuvim (writings).

Yom Kippur: The Day of Atonement – a day of repentance and fasting on the tenth day after Rosh Hashanah. The holiest day of the Jewish year.

Subject specific vocabulary – Component 2: perspectives on faith:

Theme A: religion, relationships and families

Adultery: A married person having a sexual relationship with someone other than their spouse.

Artificial Contraception: Precautions taken to prevent pregnancy and to protect against contracting or transmitting STIs (sexually transmitted infections), eg condoms, contraceptive pill.

Annulment: The declaration by the Catholic Church that there was no valid marriage in the first place, so it becomes null and void.

Cohabitation: A couple living together without being married/in civil partnership.

Compassion: Sympathy and concern for the suffering of others.

Discrimination: Actions that come from prejudice attitudes.

Divorce: The legal ending of a marriage.

Equality: Belief that everyone is equal in value and worth.

Gender discrimination: Acting on prejudices against someone because of their gender.

Gender prejudice: Negative thoughts, feelings or beliefs about a person or group based on their gender.

Homosexuality: Being physically/sexually attracted to persons of the same gender.

Marriage: The sacrament in which a couple pledge their love to each other for life by making vows.

Prejudice: Negative thoughts, feelings or beliefs about a person (prejudging them) based on a characteristic they have, eg their sexuality or ethnicity.

Procreation: Having a child; seen as a duty in many religions.

Sanctity: The belief that something is blessed by God and is holy/sacred.

Vows: Promises made during a marriage ceremony.

Subject specific vocabulary – Component 2: perspectives on faith:

Theme B: religion, peace and conflict

Civilian casualties: People who are not part of fighting in a war (i.e. not part of the armed forces) who are killed during the conflict.

Conflict: Dispute between sides, can be between individuals, groups or nations.

Conflict resolution: Two or more parties working to find peaceful solutions to their conflicts.

Forgiveness: Letting go of blame against a person for wrongs they have done; moving on.

Holy war: Fighting for a religious cause or God, to defend the religion and belief. Believed to be sanctioned by God.

Human dignity: Being worthy of respect and honour; belief that all human beings deserve to be treated with dignity because they are part of God's creation in his image.

Injustice: A lack of fairness or justice.

Justice: Bringing fairness back to a situation.

Just War theory: The Christian set of conditions that a war needs to meet before it can be justified.

Martyrdom: A person who is killed for their religious beliefs (martyr), and accepts death rather than renouncing their faith.

Nonviolent resistance: Working to achieve social change/public goals such as the end of conflict without using violence, e.g. protests.

Nuclear deterrence: Having nuclear weapons with the aim of deterring/preventing other states attacking for fear of retaliation and nuclear war (possibly leading to Mutually Assured Destruction).

Nuclear weapons/war: A weapon of mass destruction which causes widespread damage and loss of life. Nuclear war would be a war fought using these weapons.

Pacifism: The belief of people who refuse to take part in war and any other form of violence.

Peace making: Trying to get rid of the causes of tension that lead to conflict; working to bring about peace and reconciliation.

Radicalisation: Adopting extreme views on religious, social or political issues.

Reconciliation: Restoring harmony after relationships have broken down.

Refugee: A person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster.

Righteous anger: Anger that is justified/motivated by worthy cause such as injustice or mistreatment.

Terrorism: Use of violence and threats to intimidate others; used for political purposes to build fear in the ordinary population and to secure demands from Government.

Violent Protest: A statement or action to express disagreement; can be an organised event to demonstrate disagreement with a policy or political action.

War: Armed conflict between two or more sides.

Weapons of Mass Destruction: Weapons which cause widespread, indiscriminate damage (eg nuclear, chemical, biological).