

CHAPTER 3:

GALILEE TO JERUSALEM

Knowledge organiser

Key vocabulary	
Kingdom	The spiritual realm over which God reigns as king and the fulfilment of God’s will on earth by humankind, living by the laws and commandments of God.
moral sense of scripture	The understanding that a Christian takes from a scriptural text about how to live a good and holy life.
miracles	Astonishing events that can only be attributed to divine power and reveal something about who God is; the miracles of Jesus were messianic signs of the presence of God’s Kingdom on earth.
parables	Simple stories used to illustrate a spiritual or moral lesson.
Anointing of the Sick	The Sacrament of Healing that provides a Catholic with spiritual strength when they are ill or dying.

OPTIONS	
Ethical	Since Jesus’ time, refugees have been marginalised and met with hostility. The Church encourages Catholics to follow the example of Jesus and welcome refugees.
Artistic expression	The Jesus Table by Fr Sieger Köder is a painting that recreates the Last Supper. Instead of being joined by the twelve apostles, however, Jesus is joined by people representing marginalised groups. Encounter by Daniel Cariola captures the moment in the story Jesus Heals a Woman when the woman reaches out and is healed with a single touch of Jesus’ cloak.
Lived religion	Fr Damien of Molokai was a priest who served a community of people with leprosy in Hawaii during the nineteenth century. He was inspired by Jesus’ actions to help a marginalised group of people, and his selfless actions have allowed him to become an example to all Christians.

The Kingdom of God

The **Kingdom of God** is a time when people live as God wants.

- The Kingdom of God is one of the significant themes of **Mark’s Gospel**.
- Catholics believe Jesus established the Kingdom of God on earth through his **ministry**.
- The Kingdom of God is **open to everyone** and belongs especially to the ‘**poor and lowly**’.
- Catholics believe they have a duty to strive to **make the Kingdom present** in their own lives, by following God’s will. One way they can do this is by practising the **corporal and spiritual works of mercy**.
- One way in which the Church brings about the Kingdom of God is through the **sacraments**.
- The **Anointing of the Sick** is a sacrament which provides spiritual nourishment to a person who is very ill. This follows the example of Jesus.

Jesus’ encounters with those on the margins

People who were on the margins in Jesus’ society were in some way cast aside. This included sinners, the ritually impure, gentiles, women, the neglected (such as widows) and the sick.

- Through his ministry, Jesus **reached out to marginalised groups**, treating them with compassion and as equals. He set an example to Christians to do the same.
- Catholics believe that **reaching out to marginalised groups** and **challenging unfair treatment of them** helps to bring about the Kingdom of God today.

Jesus’ parables

- Parables are **simple stories with a message**.
- Parables (and other biblical texts) often have a **literal sense** (what the human authors wanted to say) and a **spiritual sense** (what God wanted to reveal through their writings).
- The **moral sense** is one of the spiritual senses of scripture. It is the understanding a Christian takes from the text about how to live a good and holy life.
- Jesus used parables to convey **moral messages** to his followers in an accessible way.
- Three themes he spoke about were **Kingdom growth, mercy and eschatology**.

- Jesus told the **parable of the Sower** to teach people how to grow God’s Kingdom on earth.
- Jesus told the **parable of the Prodigal Son** to teach people to show mercy and compassion to others.
- Jesus told the parable of the **Sheep and the Goats** to teach people about how they will be judged by God at the end of time.
- In the parable of the Sheep and the Goats, Jesus explains that God will judge people according to how they have behaved in life towards others.
- Many believe the moral sense of the Sheep and the Goats is that it is important to help others as this is helping Christ, and that acting justly towards others is necessary to enter heaven.

Jesus’ miracles

Jesus performed miracles that showed power over evil, sickness, death and nature.

- The miracles of Jesus **reveal the nature of God’s reign and who Jesus is**.
- For example, through his **healing miracles** – such as healing the paralysed man (Mark 2:1–12) – Jesus placed people on the margins of society at the centre of the Kingdom of God.
- For Christians, Jesus’ miracles show that he is **truly God**, such as when he shows his power to calm the storm. Jesus’ miracles also teach Christians that faith in him is the first step towards salvation.

