

CHAPTER 4:

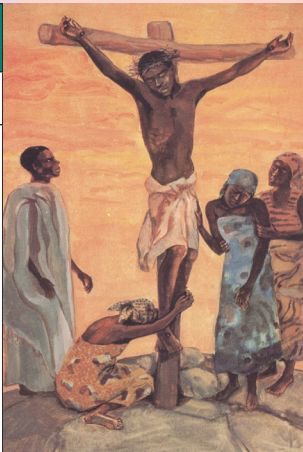
DESERT TO GARDEN
Knowledge organiser

Key vocabulary	
suffering servant	A servant of God, prophesied by Isaiah, who is sent to save humankind and will face hardship and pain on behalf of them.
Passion	The suffering Jesus faced during his trial and death on the cross.
suffering	Negative experiences such as pain or loss that harm human beings and come from the presence of evil or the absence of good in the world.
Lent	A season in the liturgical year beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on Holy Thursday; it is a time of repentance in the 40-day period leading to Easter.
fasting, almsgiving and prayer	The three ways many Catholics prepare for Easter, during Lent – by going without something, by giving to help others and by communicating with God.
Triduum	The three days beginning on the evening of Holy Thursday when the Last Supper was celebrated, and including Jesus’ suffering and crucifixion on Good Friday, and resurrection on Easter Sunday.
Sacrament of Reconciliation	The Sacrament of Healing in which a person confesses and is forgiven of their sins, receiving spiritual healing; also known as the Sacrament of Penance, or Confession.
problem of evil	Why there is evil and suffering in the world if God is good.

OPTIONS	
Ethical	Evil and suffering can be a challenge to the existence of God, but the theodicies of St Augustine and St Irenaeus respond to this. St Augustine taught that all evil and suffering is a response to the sin of Adam and Eve, and that God shows love and mercy by giving all people the chance of salvation. St Irenaeus taught that suffering helps people to develop good qualities which bring them closer to God.
Artistic expression	Images of Jesus’ crucifixion explore ideas about suffering and Christ’s death. For example, in an image from a French missal (c. 1270), Adam is collecting Jesus’ blood to show that Jesus’ death obtained forgiveness for the sins of Adam and Eve. Michael Rothenstein’s The Crucifixion links Jesus’ suffering to the suffering of innocent people under the Nazi regime.
Lived religion	Margaret and Barry Mizen suffered the death of their son Jimmy in 2008 when he was 16 years old. They have been inspired by their Catholic faith to devote their lives to working for peace and forgiveness.

Suffering	
Suffering can challenge some people’s faith in God , though Catholics believe that a good God still exists, despite evil and suffering.	
What is suffering?	Why is there suffering?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Physical evil is suffering caused by natural events, such as a flood.● Moral evil is suffering caused by a person choosing to inflict suffering, such as theft.● Physical suffering is suffering of our body that we can physically feel, such as an injury.● Moral suffering is suffering we cannot see but is still real, such as fear.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The Church teaches that suffering comes from human sin as this disordered all of God’s good creation.● St Augustine suggested that all suffering is either sin or punishment for sin.● The story of Job reminds Christians that suffering is mysterious and they will never fully understand God.● Suffering might call people to conversion, such as King David’s conversion following his adultery with Bathsheba.● Suffering can redeem others. Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would suffer to bring new life.

Jesus and suffering	
Christians believe that Jesus’ suffering helps them to understand the purpose of suffering .	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Isaiah spoke about the Messiah as the ‘suffering servant’.● Christians believe this refers to Jesus because he experienced great physical and moral suffering during his trial, torture and death for the sake of humanity.● Christians believe that God allowed Jesus to suffer to rescue humans from sin and death (salvation).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Humans needed salvation since their sinfulness had separated them from God and weakened their chance of eternal life.● Christians believe that Jesus’ suffering can teach them to trust in God and to see their suffering as a mission from God.



Lent	Easter Triduum
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● During Lent, Catholics prepare for Easter through fasting, almsgiving and prayer.● These practices help Catholics to repent and turn to God.● They remind Catholics of the time of temptation that Jesus spent in the wilderness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Holy Thursday is when Jesus had his Last Supper and gave his disciples the commandment to love one another. Catholics go to Mass in the evening to remember this important meal.● Good Friday is when Jesus was crucified. Catholics attend a solemn liturgy where they venerate the cross to show their great love and respect for Jesus.● Easter Sunday is the day of Jesus’ resurrection. The first celebration of this is on Holy Saturday at the Easter Vigil, where the symbolism of light overcoming darkness is used to show the power of Jesus over sin and death.



The Sacrament of Reconciliation	
The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a Sacrament of Healing that originates from Jesus’ own behaviour and his emphasis on forgiveness.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Even though Jesus died to bring forgiveness of sins, Catholics believe they have a responsibility to ask God to forgive them for their sins.● In this sacrament, a person will confess their sins. The priest then absolves the person of their sins and gives them a penance.● The sacrament can help a person move on from guilt, give them the ability to repair the damage their sin has done, and help them to feel closer to God.● Catholics make a special effort to receive the sacrament in Lent.	