CHAPTER 6:

DIALOGUE AND ENCOUNTER

Knowledge organiser

Key vocabulary	
Ecclesiam Suam	The Latin phrase for 'His Church'; also Pope St Paul VI's first encyclical, which explored how the Church should bring its message to a changing world.
dialogue	Positive interactions and discussions between different people to encourage mutual understanding and enrichment.
proclamation	In Catholicism, communication of the Gospel message: announcing Jesus to the world and sharing the mystery of salvation offered through him.
Second Vatican Council	A meeting of bishops of the worldwide Church, called by Pope St John XXIII in 1962 and closed by Pope St Paul VI in 1965.
Eastern Catholic Churches	The 23 Catholic Churches which observe the Alexandrian, West Syrian, East Syrian, Armenian and Byzantine rites.
patrimony	Patrimony includes how a Church celebrates its rites, how its churches are decorated, and the art and music used in worship.
liturgical rites	The particular ways a Church conducts and structures its acts of worship, ceremonies and spiritual life.
liturgical traditions	The gestures, actions and expressions associated with a liturgical rite.

The Second Vatican Council

The Second Vatican Council was an **ecumenical council** that was called in 1962 by Pope St John XXIII. It lasted for three years.

The council focused on how the Church could respond to the challenges faced by the modern world, and how the Church could reach out to Christians and non-Christians. It had four key aims:

- To develop a better **understanding** of the Catholic Church.
- To decide what **reforms** were needed within the Church.
- To improve **dialogue** between the Church and the modern world.
- To promote peace, unity and social justice within Christianity and in the world.

Some of the key documents that came from the council made major changes to the Church.

- Lumen Gentium reminds Catholics that they have three roles to play in the Church, as priests, prophets and kings.
- It encourages Catholics to collaborate with people of all faiths, religions and beliefs.
- Gaudium et Spes explores how and why the Church should adapt and develop in order to speak for those without a voice and to contribute to change and reform in the world.

Ecclesiam Suam

Ecclesiam Suam was **Pope St Paul VI's first encyclical** (a letter from a Pope to be shared with all Catholics). Its purpose was to review and guide the work of the Second Vatican Council.

- Pope St Paul VI said that he wanted the Church and the world to 'meet together, and get to know and love one another'.
- He called for: individual Christians to deepen their knowledge of their own faith; renewal within the Church; and dialogue with people of other religions.
- Some of the suggestions made by Pope St Paul VI about the need for dialogue were reflected in documents created by the Second Vatican Council.

Pope St Paul VI used a **concentric circles model of dialogue** as a metaphor to show who the
Church is called into dialogue with.

- The first and biggest circle includes dialogue with all **humans**.
- The second circle includes dialogue with all **monotheistic religions**.
- The third circle includes dialogue with all **Christian denominations**.
- The fourth and smallest circle includes dialogue within the **Catholic Church**.

World

Nonotheistic religions

Christians

Catholic
Church

The Catholic Church: a family of Churches

- There are 24 Catholic Churches.
- The largest is the 'Roman' or Latin Catholic Church, with around 1.3 billion members.
- The other 23 churches are known as **Eastern Catholic Churches** and have around 18 million members combined.
- Each Catholic Church can trace its beginning to **one of the apostles**, such as Peter or Andrew.
- Each Catholic Church follows a rite from **six 'families' of liturgical rites**: the Alexandrian rite, the Armenian rite, the Byzantine rite, the East Syrian rite, the Latin rite and the West Syrian rite.
- The 24 Catholic Churches are unique but united. They each have their own liturgical traditions and rites but still share the same faith.
- The Church teaches that it is important for the Catholic Churches to work
 together as the Body of Christ; for Catholics to understand the rites and traditions
 across all Catholic Churches; and for these different rites and traditions to be respected
 and celebrated.

The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church

The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church is the **largest Eastern Catholic Church** in the world with approximately 4 million members. There are around 13,500 Ukrainian Greek Catholics living in the UK today.

- The **Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in Great Britain** was formally established in 1957.
- Public worship has **many similarities to other Catholic Churches**. For example, it will feature readings, the celebration of the Eucharist and music.
- The **Byzantine rite** is celebrated, which originated in Constantinople.
- Nearly all parts of the Divine Liturgy are sung unaccompanied without instruments.
- The **iconostasis** is an important part of worship. It is a **wall of icons** that **separates the sanctuary from the nave**.
- The icons form a 'visual Gospel' that shows the stages of salvation history.
- At particular points in the service the priest opens and closes the doors
 of the iconostasis to reveal or hide the altar. He also leads a series of
 processions through the doors to bring God to the congregation.

