

CHAPTER 1:


CREATION AND COVENANT
Knowledge organiser

Key vocabulary	
<i>imago Dei</i>	A Latin phrase meaning ‘in the image of God’, the idea that humans reflect God’s nature.
inalienable dignity	A state of value attached to human life that cannot be challenged or removed.
human person	For Catholics, a living being possessing both a physical body and spiritual soul.
relational	Concerning the way in which two or more people are connected; in Catholicism this is the relationship between humans, and between humans and God.
rational	Based on reason or logic.
volitional	Based on free choice or free will.
sanctity of life	The idea that human life is a holy gift from God.
marriage	In Catholicism, a binding lifelong relationship in which a man and a woman live by promises made to each other and to God.
Sacrament of Matrimony	The Sacrament at the Service of Communion in which a man and woman make the lasting commitment of marriage.

OPTIONS	
Ethical	In vitro fertilisation (IVF) is a method used to fertilise an egg outside of the woman’s body. This technique is typically used when a couple cannot conceive naturally. The use of IVF raises serious ethical implications for Catholics because it replaces the act of sex in marriage , and because the procedure may bring about selective abortion or the destruction of fertilised embryos . Catholics believe this goes against the sanctity of life .
Artistic expression	The Catechism teaches that art is used by humans to express their relationship with God , and that it bears a likeness to God’s creation because it is also inspired by truth and love. The Sulawesi cave painting shows animals being hunted by beings that are part human and part animal. This leads some people to think the artists had a sense of something greater than themselves. Cueva de las Manos is a cave painting of handprints the size of a teenager’s hand. It might have been created as a rite of passage or a reminder of the gathering of a community.
Lived religion	Hospices are places that provide palliative care for people who are approaching death or have life-limiting illnesses. Christians often support hospices because they believe hospices recognise the dignity and value of human life by providing personalised care to vulnerable people. The hospice movement was founded by Dame Cecily Saunders . She believed that suffering could be physical, spiritual, psychological and social – hospices are places that respond to this.

Genesis 1, creation *imago Dei* and the sanctity of life


- In **Genesis 1**, God creates humans *imago Dei*.
- Humans are given the responsibility to care for God’s creation and to reproduce to continue God’s creation.
- Catholics believe that being created *imago Dei* means every person has **dignity and value**. It also means that every person is:
 - **someone, not something** (we are unique individuals)
 - **relational** (we need others)
 - **volitional** (we have free choice)
 - **rational** (we can think logically).
- Catholics believe that **human life is sacred** as it is created *imago Dei* and is blessed and holy.
- Catholics believe that **life begins at conception** and so **abortion is always wrong** because it ends a life created by God.



Genesis 2, relationships and morality

- In **Genesis 2**, man is made first from the dust of the earth and given life with God’s breath. Woman is then created from man’s rib. They are made to be in **relationship** with each other.
- The Church teaches that men and women are **created equally** and have **equal dignity**. Nothing can remove a person’s dignity.
- Catholics believe **sexual relationships** should be **respected and valued** as a **gift from God**.
- Their purpose is to be an **expression of love between a married couple** and to **create new life**.

- The Church teaches that humans have the **freedom and responsibility** to make good moral choices.
- Moral actions have a ‘**communal dimension**’: they have an impact on others and the wider community.
- The Catechism teaches that we can know what is moral by examining the:
 - **chosen object** (the act being carried out and the result of it)
 - **end view or intention** (the motivation behind the act)
 - **circumstances of the action** (the situation in which the decision is made).



The Sacrament of Matrimony

For Catholics, the **Genesis creation stories** show that marriage has always been God’s plan for humans. It is a **gift from God to unite a man and woman**. Marriage is:

- **Exclusive**: the couple must be faithful to each other.
- **Life-giving**: the couple give their lives to each other and promise to try to have children.
- **Permanent**: a lifelong commitment until death.
- **A sacrament**: an outward sign of God’s sacred love.
- **A Service of Communion**: Jesus becomes part of the relationship between husband and wife, helping them to live closely to him.

- Marriage was described as a sacrament by **St Augustine** in the fourth century AD.
- The Sacrament of Matrimony can happen in a **Nuptial Mass** or as a separate **wedding ceremony**.
- **Questions before the consent** ask the couple to confirm that they are freely choosing to get married; they will love and honour each other for the rest of their lives; and they will accept children from God and bring them up in the Church.
- In the **civil declaration of freedom** the couple confirm they are lawfully able to marry.
- In the **consent** the couple promise to love and care for each other no matter what challenges life may bring.
- The **blessing and giving of rings** is a sign of the couple’s never-ending love.

