CHAPTER 4:

DESERT TO GARDEN

Knowledge organiser

Key vocabulary	
Sinai covenant	The covenant Moses made with God at Mount Sinai, when he was given the Ten Commandments as part of the Law.
Temple	The Jewish building for religious worship.
sanctuary	A place of great holiness.
Holy of Holies	The most sacred part of the Temple, which originally housed the Ark of the Covenant.
Day of Atonement	Also known as Yom Kippur; the day when Jewish people seek forgiveness for sins.
High Priest	The chief priest in historical Judaism; also a name for Jesus due to his role in the New Covenant.
mystery of redemption	The truth of how God redeems humanity through Jesus' sacrifice, which can never be fully understood.
grace	A gift of love freely given by God to humankind.
redemption	In the Old Testament, the act of saving a person from sin or suffering, or clearing a debt; in the New Testament, the belief that Jesus paid the 'ransom' to free humans from sin by dying on the cross.
atonement	The action of making up for or repairing the damage done as a result of wrong behaviour.
salvation	The process of being saved from sin and returning to God through God's grace.
reparation	The act of making right a wrong by helping to repair something and restoring it to its original condition.
sanctification	The act of making holy.

OPTIONS	
Ethical	The Church teaches that all sins can be forgiven by God if people show genuine repentance. In order to receive forgiveness from God, Catholics take part in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Catholics also try to forgive others because Jesus taught about the importance of this.
Artistic expression	Reconciliation is a sculpture created by Josefina da Vasconcellos as a response to the suffering and separation caused by the Second World War. It shows a couple reaching out to each other in an embrace. Life of Jesus Mafa: The Prodigal Son is a painting that represents the parable Jesus told to remind his followers that God welcomes sinners with open arms when they return to God.
Lived religion	Pax Christi is a Catholic organisation that seeks to spread the peace of Christ around the world. It does this through education and working in communities to bring about peace, justice and reconciliation.

The Temple in Jerusalem

- King Solomon had the first Temple built around 1000 Bc to replace the Tabernacle, which housed the Ark of the Covenant and the Ten Commandments.
- The Temple was a place for Jewish people to **gather as a community** and to **pray**.
- It was also a centre for animal sacrifices, which showed the Jewish people's commitment to the Sinai covenant.
- King Solomon's Temple was destroyed in 586 BC by King Nebuchadnezzar. A second, simpler Temple was built on the same site.
- **King Herod** then rebuilt and enlarged the Second Temple in line with the instructions from the book of Exodus.

Key features of the Temple:

- Holy of Holies: in Solomon's Temple, this contained the Ark of the Covenant. In Herod's Temple, it contained the Foundation Stone to mark the Ark's original location. Jewish people believed this is where God's presence was most powerfully felt.
- **Mercy seat:** where the atonement sacrifice was made.
- **Veil:** to separate the Holy of Holies from the rest of the Temple.
- **The Holy Place:** contained a menorah, the altar of incense and Table of Showbread.
- Courts: there were separate courts for men, women and gentiles, where they could gather, pray or watch sacrifices.



- The **Day of Atonement** is the holiest festival in the Jewish calendar.
- In the Temple, this was observed through **prayer**, **asking for forgiveness** and **animal sacrifice**.
- The **High Priest** would make animal sacrifices and sprinkle the blood from them in the Holy of Holies to make atonement for the sins of the Jewish people.

Jesus as the New Covenant

- Christians believe that Jesus was the sacrifice that brought about forgiveness of sin and offered a new way to salvation.
- In the Agnus Dei and Ecce Agnus Dei in the Mass, Jesus is called the **Lamb of God**. This reflects the belief that he was a perfect and pure sacrifice.
- Christians believe Jesus fulfilled the Old Covenant and became the New and Everlasting Covenant.
- The New Covenant was sealed with Jesus' blood through his death.
- The New Covenant brought in a new priesthood, where
 Jesus is the High Priest because he both offers and is
 the sacrifice.
- As a heavenly sanctuary and the 'true temple of God', Jesus brings a whole new way
 of worship 'in spirit and truth'. This means that worship under the New Covenant is now
 through Jesus, as faith in him leads humans back to God.

the Fall.



Redemption

Catholics believe that Jesus' death was necessary because the Fall brought sin and disharmony into the world. The mystery of redemption:

- forgave sin and restored the broken relationship between God and humans
- restored harmony between people by removing all sin-related divisions
- saved people from death by offering them eternal life.

Belief in **redemption** can be understood in different ways:

- It is an expression of **God's grace**: it shows God's great love and care for humans.
- It is **buying back**: Jesus' sacrifice paid the price for human sin.
- It is **atonement**: Jesus' sacrifice made God and humans 'at one'.
- It is **salvation**: Jesus' sacrifice saves or protects humans from sin.
- It is reparation: Jesus' sacrifice repaired the damage caused by
- It is sanctification: Catholics are made holy through the Church, which is Christ's body.

