

TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH


Knowledge organiser

Key vocabulary	
Church	Faithful Christians on earth, in heaven and in purgatory who form a community that can be understood in three ways: as the People of God; as the Body of Christ; as the Temple of the Holy Spirit.
communion of saints	All Christians on earth, in heaven and in purgatory; together they are united as the Church.
Church on earth	Catholics on earth today.
Church in heaven	Catholics who have died and whose souls live as saints with the angels in God’s presence in heaven.
Church being purified	Catholics who have died and whose souls are in purgatory being prepared for heaven.
saints	People who are officially recognised by the Catholic Church as being very holy because of the way they lived or died; also, anyone who is already in heaven, whether recognised or not.
angels	Pure, intelligent, spiritual beings created by God as servants and messengers; they live with God in heaven.
archangels	Angels of particular importance who are named in the Bible and given key tasks to perform by God.
purgatory	The condition a soul enters when in need of purification before entering the presence of God.

OPTIONS	
Ethical	One way Catholics venerate saints and angels is by visiting shrines associated with them, which sometimes contain relics . Catholics do not agree that the veneration of saints and angels is the same practice as worship, but many Protestants believe it elevates saints and angels to a level that should be reserved for God.
Artistic expression	The communion of saints is a key theme in Catholic art. <i>Cloud of Witnesses</i> by Guisto de’ Menabuoi shows Jesus surrounded by a circle of saints, with Mary larger than the rest of the saints to show her importance. <i>The Church Militant and the Church Triumphant</i> by Andrea di Bonaiuto da Firenze shows the close relationship between the Church in heaven and the Church on earth, with the Church on earth guiding people towards the Church in heaven.
Lived religion	Mary is venerated by Catholics around the world in different ways. For example, at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes in France, Catholics may take part in the daily procession and pray the Rosary. In Poland, they may go on a pilgrimage to the Marian shrine in Czestochowa.

The Church and its beginnings

- For Catholics, the Church is the **community of Christians** on earth, in heaven and in purgatory.
- People become members of the Catholic Church through **Baptism**.
- The Church teaches that all its members are called to be **holy** and to be a **saint**. The **communion of saints** can support Catholics in this.
- From the **early Church**, Catholics have been **united with each other and God through**:
 - shared faith in the word of God and the teachings of the apostles
 - the Sacrament of Eucharist
 - the shared practice of prayer and devotion.
- Christians today can learn about the early Church from the description of the **Church in Corinth** in 1 Corinthians in the New Testament. This was a community of believers in Greece made up of people from many different backgrounds.
- The Church in Corinth also faced **challenges and internal disagreements** over practices and beliefs, such as which local traditions were acceptable or what happened after death.
- In one of his letters to the Corinth Church, **St Paul** taught that although the Church is made of many members, they are united as one **Body of Christ**.



The Church on earth

- The Church on earth is made up of two key groups: the **laity** (baptised Catholics who serve God in their daily lives) and the **clergy** (those ordained by God to lead, teach and distribute the sacraments).
- Catholics believe that **Jesus is the head of the Church**. The Church on earth is led by the **Pope and bishops** in communion with him.
- Catholics believe the Church on earth is **holy** as it is established and guided by God, but it also **needs to be purified** because its members are imperfect and sinful.
- The Church on earth is described as the **universal Sacrament of Salvation**: it is the visible sign of God’s grace and salvation for all.

The Church in heaven	The Church in purgatory
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Church in heaven consists of saints (Christians who have died and entered heaven) and angels (spiritual beings created by God).Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael are the three named angels celebrated by the Catholic Church.Guardian angels watch over Christians on earth.Catholics believe that saints and angels offer prayers of intercession on behalf of the Church on earth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Church in purgatory is made up of Catholics who are being purified so they will be able to enter heaven.Catholics believe that members of the Church on earth can offer prayers of intercession for those in purgatory to support them and lessen their suffering.



Devotion to saints and angels

- Catholics show **devotion** to saints and angels in their **liturgical worship** and **individual prayers**.
- The **sanctoral cycle** marks many days of the year with a **feast or memorial** to a particular saint or angel, during which their intercessory prayers will be called upon.
- The Church on earth is united with saints and angels in a **shared worship of God** during each Mass, for example in the Sanctus prayer.
- Catholics also offer devotion to saints and angels through prayers like the **Litany of the Saints** and the **Angelus**.

