

CHAPTER 2:

PROPHECY AND PROMISE

Knowledge organiser

Key vocabulary	
typology	In Christianity, the study of Old Testament figures, objects, places or events which predict or hint at who or what is to come in the New Testament.
Protoevangelium	The ‘first gospel’; this refers to Genesis 3:15 because it is the first messianic prophecy in the Bible.
Mary	The mother of Jesus.
Mother of God	A title given to Mary, because Jesus is God and she is Jesus’ mother.
Immaculate Conception	A dogma (teaching) of the Catholic Church that states that Mary, the mother of Jesus, did not inherit the stain of Original Sin when she was conceived by her own mother.
Our Lady	A title of particular respect for Mary, reflecting her high status within the Church.
New Eve	Eve is the mother of all humans as the first woman; Mary, as the mother of Jesus, who offers redemption and new life to humanity, becomes the New Eve, or mother, for baptised Catholics.
Magnificat	Mary’s prayer of praise in Luke 1:45–56.
the Rosary	A set of prayers said in honour of Mary during which Catholics will meditate on particular events in the life of Mary and Jesus.

OPTIONS	
Ethical	The Magnificat has inspired Christians through the years as it has a lasting message of social justice . It shows that God is on the side of people who are humble, vulnerable or oppressed , which gives them hope and encourages others to support them and fight against injustice.
Artistic expression	Devotional images of Mary show her importance within the Church. Our Lady of Guadalupe is a shrine dedicated to Mary in Mexico City, showing Mary pregnant with Jesus. Our Lady of Walsingham is the national shrine of Mary for Catholics in England, showing Mary sitting on a throne with baby Jesus. Both shrines use symbols and imagery to show Mary’s importance.
Lived religion	St Josephine Bakhita was a religious sister who was enslaved as a child, and made a saint in 2000. She is seen as a woman of the Magnificat as she embodies the faith and qualities found within in it, such as humility, courage and hope.

Reading the Bible allegorically

- An **allegorical story** in the Bible is one that mirrors or symbolises the events of another time or place.
- **Typology** is part of the allegorical sense of scripture, as it is the study of how people or things in the Old Testament **foreshadow** those yet to come in the New Testament.
- **Adam and Eve** are ‘**types**’ of **Jesus and Mary** because they foreshadow the redemption to come through Christ.

The importance of Hannah

- Hannah’s story is found in **1 Samuel 1–2** in the Old Testament.
- She is unhappy to have no children but **vows to God** that if God will give her a son, she will give her son to God. She **gives birth to her son Samuel**, who goes on to become a priest and prophet.
- Hannah shows **faith and constancy** in God by trusting that God will give her a child, and by gifting her son back to God.
- In giving her a child, God saves Hannah and replaces her sadness and fear with joy and hope. Catholics believe this gives a glimpse of God’s greater plan of salvation through Jesus. In this way, Hannah is seen as **keeping the hope of salvation alive**.
- Hannah’s story is also one of **remarkable reversal** as she experienced a great change in fortune. It is an example of God **lifting up the humble over the powerful**.
- In Hannah’s prayer (1 Samuel 2:1–10), Hannah shows her **praise and gratitude** for God.



Holy women and the hope of salvation

- **Sarah, Rebecca and Rachel** are three women in the Old Testament who helped to **keep alive the hope of salvation**. This means their stories showed that God had not abandoned humanity but was working to bring salvation.
- They are also ‘**types**’ of **Mary** as their sons helped to **prepare the path to salvation** that Mary’s son Jesus then fulfils.
- **Sarah** was the wife of Abraham. She was unable to have children until God blessed her with a son, **Isaac**, as part of God’s covenant with Abraham. She became the mother of the **royal line of King David**, from which Jesus is descended.
- **Rebecca** was Isaac’s wife. She faithfully followed God’s wishes and this led her son **Jacob** to become the ancestor of all the people of Israel, continuing God’s covenant with Abraham.
- **Rachel** was the favourite wife of Jacob. She struggled to have children until God blessed her with a son, **Joseph**. He was chosen to be the leader of the twelve tribes of Israel, from which the Messiah would be born.



The importance of Mary

- The Blessed Virgin Mary is **venerated** in the Church as both the Mother of God and the Mother of the Church. Catholics believe she is the **perfect disciple**.
- Mary was chosen by God to bear Jesus because of her **faith and purity**.
- In the **Magnificat**, Mary **praises and thanks God** for what God has done for her and for others who are vulnerable but show faith and humility.
- In the Magnificat, Mary made a **prophecy** that she would be remembered for many years. One way this prophecy is fulfilled is through her **titles**, such as ‘Our Lady’ and ‘Mother of the Church’.
- The Church has **four Marian Dogmas** which explain the importance of Mary: that she is the **Mother of God**, the **Immaculate Conception**, **Ever Virgin** and that she was **Assumed** into heaven.

