

## Forthcoming Topics

Oct 11<sup>th</sup>: Revelation  
Oct 18<sup>th</sup>: Fatherhood of God

### Half-Term

Nov 8<sup>th</sup>: The Bible  
Nov 15<sup>th</sup>: Birth of the Church  
Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>: The Kingdom  
Nov 29<sup>th</sup>: Peter and the Church  
Dec 6<sup>th</sup>: Prayer  
Dec 13<sup>th</sup>: Mary

### Christmas

Jan 10<sup>th</sup>: Sacraments & Faith  
Jan 17<sup>th</sup>: Baptism & Confirmation  
Jan 24<sup>th</sup>: Eucharist  
Jan 31<sup>st</sup>: Marriage  
Feb 7<sup>th</sup>: The Sick

### Half Term

Feb 21<sup>st</sup>: Forgiveness  
Feb 28<sup>th</sup>: Priesthood  
Mar 7<sup>th</sup>: The Church: God's People  
Mar 14<sup>th</sup>: Ministry of Every Christian  
Mar 21<sup>st</sup>: Eastern People

## Starting this Wednesday Oct 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Christ the king Church Being Catholic: What Does It Mean?

If you asked a hundred Catholics what it means to be Catholic, you probably wouldn't get a universal answer! If you picked apart their answers, though, you'd find a few things in common.

1. God in Person. Being a Catholic means following Jesus Christ. We trust in Jesus as the "Christ," the Messiah, the one chosen by God to save us. We also believe that Jesus was God come down from heaven who "became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (John 1:14).



2. Sacramental Sense. Catholics have a very sensitive sacramental outlook. We can see just about anything in this world as pointing to God. This stems from our belief that God became human, with all the weaknesses and limitations that entails. So every limited and imperfect thing is a potential sign of God's presence ("grace"). Creation itself is blessed by God from the Big Bang onward, a sign of God's generous love.

3. God Pointers. Because we see things and actions as symbols pointing to God, we tend to have a lot of things and actions in our worship. Among these, seven combinations of "things and actions" are termed Sacraments, with a capital "S"—Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation (Confession), Anointing of the Sick, Matrimony and Holy Orders.



4. God People. We believe that people can also point us to God. Some are the "hall of famers" in heaven, like the Virgin Mary and the saints. Others are ordinary people who help show us the way here on earth. Some people say that Catholics worship these saints and the Virgin Mary, but we just honour them as guides and helpers.

5. God's Family. Christian community is Jesus' own school of divine experience. You find God there in relationship with other people. The best evidence of God still around is loving and being loved by others.



6. God's Wisdom. Christians hold on to the Bible, finding in its stories, dialogues and poems wisdom for all times and places. But Catholics don't believe that the Holy Spirit stopped working when the Bible was complete. The Spirit has always been with the Church, inspiring men and women of faith to speak further about God's plan for human beings. The result is what we call the tradition of the Church. This tradition includes essential teachings such as the Immaculate Conception and a vast wealth of history and practices. Not everything that happened in this history was good. Church leaders also burned witches and sponsored the Inquisition. What we now treasure is only the good things which have survived the test of time.

7. God's Training. So much wisdom about spirituality is found in Catholic tradition. Meditation, finding God in nature, uncovering your own potential, learning not to be afraid of death: All these are found in Catholic tradition. The Church teaches the disciplines of prayer, spiritual reading and sharing the faith.

8. In God's Image. Church teaching calls you to respect and do good to others, both those close to you and strangers. This way, you yourself become the love-filled people God wants you to be.



9. God of Second Chances. God is extraordinarily merciful. The Church has always been a hospital for sinners and not a house of perfect saints.

### **Any Questions?**

*For you, what are the big issues about Catholicism, the things you want to ask or know about?*

*What are the elements about the Catholic Church you like?*

*Are there aspects you do not like or that trouble you?*

*Has tonight's gathering opened your eyes to anything? Was there anything you did not understand?*

*Are there any particular topics coming up on the back of this sheet where you feel there are big gaps in your knowledge or where you have lots of questions?*