

A close-up photograph of two hands clasped together. The hand on the left is larger and has a lighter skin tone, while the hand on the right is smaller and has a darker skin tone. The hands are positioned in the lower half of the frame, with the fingers interlaced. The background is a solid, vibrant green color. The text 'CATHOLIC CATECHISM FOR ALL' is printed in white, serif, all-caps font in the upper right quadrant.

CATHOLIC CATECHISM FOR ALL

FR. DR. JOHN PARANKIMALIL, SDB



Imprimatur;

+ Most Rev. Dr. Dominic Jala Archbishop of Shillong

"Live in the faith and hand it on to your children. Bear witness to it in your life. Love the church as a mother. Live in her and for her. Make room in your hearts for all men. Forgive one another and be peacemakers wherever you are."

(From Breakfast with the Pope, Daily Readings, Pope John Paul II)

About the Author

DR. FR. P.D. JOHNY is a member of the Don Bosco Educational Society, Guwahati Province. He was the former president of AINACS (All India Association of Catholic Schools) and former principal of St. An-thony's Higher Secondary School, Shillong.

Currently he holds a doctorate on education, he conducts workshops and seminars in schools and colleges on Value Education, Personality Development and Christian Faith.

DR. JOHN PARANKIMALIL is also the National Award Winner for teachers in the lifetime achievement category

Copyright © 2006 with the author

ISBN 81-87637-54-4

First Edition 2006, 20,000 copies
Second Edition 2009, 10,000 copies

FOR COPIES

REV. FR. ANTONY PARANKIMALIL VC
THE DIRECTOR

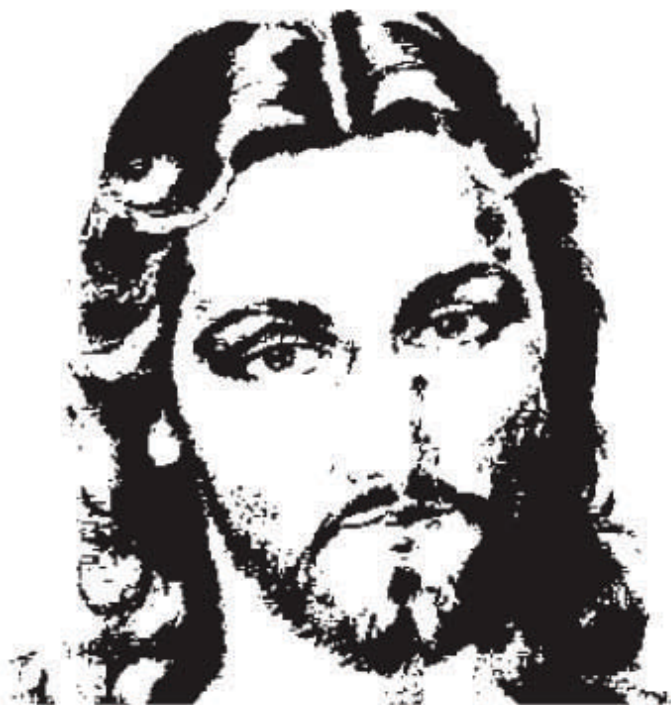
VINCENTIAN PRAYER HOUSE

P.B No: 25158, 00603, Amboseli Rd, Lavington, Nairobi, Kenya.

Phone:+254712000242

Email: vincentianprayerhouse@gmail.com

Web: www.vphnairobi.org



DEDICATION

Dedicated to my First Catechism Teachers,
My beloved parents (Devassy & Thresia) and
Grand parents (Miriam and Thomas Parankimalil)



FOREWORD

Faith formation of young people and adults is one strongly felt need in the Church today. It could be considered the key to other areas of Christian living. We are aware that besides the pulpit, the Church has two other loci of faith education of her children. Jewish parents impart diligent religious instructions to their children at home and the Jewish rabbis in the synagogue. Homes and synagogues were centres of intensive faith education (Deut 6:6-7). For us Catholics as expressed by the Vatican II Document on the Church, *Lumen Gentium* 11, the family is a domestic Church where parents as the first heralds of the faith give initial faith formation to their children. The importance of Christian family education cannot be overlooked. The family's catechetical activity has a special character, which is in a sense irreplaceable. The new General Directory for Catechesis has emphasized the importance of family catechesis when it said, "the family is a place in which the Gospel is transmitted and from which it extends" (GDC 255). In the current domestic scenario, since many parents are incapable of assuming full responsibility for handing down the purity of faith to their children, the teaching of Catechism in our schools assumes a special and vital significance.

Our present day schools and colleges replace, in a sense, the synagogue instructions of the Jewish people. The GDC (259) states, "the Catholic school is the most important locus for human and Christian formation." The task of the Catholic school is to provide this holistic formation to their pupils.

Catechism lessons are more caught than taught. Therefore Catechism teaching in the school cannot be compared to any other subjects for two reasons. First, the instructor or the messenger has to become the message in order to impart it effectively; and secondly, the subject matter - the word of faith - radically affects and influences the student's life for the rest of his/her life, for we impart life-giving message of the Gospel. It means that the teacher and students, the proclaimer and the receiver of the living faith cannot be indifferent to the subject matter in the Catechism. We handle the "word of life" (Phil 2:16). The word of God, which is a double-edged sword, cuts and shapes the hearts of both the instructor and its listener for the rest of their lives. This is how the book of Proverbs puts it: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Pro 22:6).

To train up the children in the faith, we need well-prepared Catechism Books. Such books present in a condensed form the faith we profess, we celebrate and we live in daily life. While they are the fruit of reflection on scripture and tradition, they contain truths that are the guiding light for life. To memorize the



written verses and answers to questions of the catechism can generate faith and strengthen the existing religious foundation, especially if it is motivated by appropriate explanations from the teachers and even form the base for further discussions among students. We note how the Lord instructed Moses, "Write this as a memorial in a book and recite it..."(Ex 17:14).

This book that has been and systematically prepared and composed with dedication by Rev. Fr. RD. Johny, Former President of AINACS (All India Association of Catholic Schools) and Former Principal of St. Anthony's H.S. School, the Creed, the Sacraments, the Commandments, and the Our Lord's Prayer are presented at the level of school students. This Catechism book is a school compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC). It also contains the life and teachings of Christ as contained in the Gospels. I earnestly hope that this endeavour of Fr. RD. Johny would enable the students to enlighten and to defend their faith in the context of the "rapacious wolves devouring Catholic and causing divisions and discord in our communities" (Pope John Paul II). And let me go back to the first Pope's words: "Always be prepared to make a defence to anyone who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence" (1 Pet 3:15).

May this Catholic Catechism for School Children by Fr. RD. Johny and his team achieve the above-mentioned goals. I impart my blessing on all who will use it.

**+ Dominic Jala SDB, DD.
Archbishop of Shillong**



PREFACE

Teaching of Catechism is not like teaching any other subjects, such as medicine and science that have rapid and continual advancements in knowledge. The doctrines of Faith do not change! At most, there are developments of doctrine, but they occur very slowly and, more often than not, have little to do with the basics of the Faith - the Creed, the Sacraments, the Commandments, and Prayer-which are the concerns of this Catholic Catechism.

Memorizing the questions and answers of the catechism provides the opportunity to build a religious foundation. This basic Catholic doctrinal foundation gives children the tools necessary to defend their faith when they are old enough to apply reason and logic, much like memorizing the alphabet before learning to read and analyze literature.

Certainly the Faith would appear boring and useless if they parents do not talk positively about Catholic things in the home and practice it out in their daily lives. Some say that faith is caught, not taught. This statement is true if it is understood properly. Faith first comes, not through a transfer of information, nor an entertaining game, nor an artificial "faith" experience in a classroom, but through the witness and testimony in everyday life of those who already have faith.

Through their earnest attempts to live uprightly, devout parents show their children that certain ways of living and acting are unacceptable. Children "catch" the Faith by the parents exuding an atmosphere of prayer and grace. Once the children catch the Faith, then they can be taught the Faith.

However, if the Faith is not first "caught" through parents' everyday witness and testimony, no amount of teaching, no amount of creative methodology, no amount of slick packaging in colourful audiovisual formats is going to make much difference.

I am grateful to Most Rev. Dr. Dominic Jala, Archbishop of Shillong for approving the publication of this Catechism Book and to Fr. Johny Eapen who painstakingly went through the present volume and made the necessary inclusions and corrections with the hope that it will help ail those who want to deepen their faith, particularly the young. The highest knowledge is to know Jesus Christ, and the greatest delight is to reveal to all people the unfathomable riches of his mystery. It is our earnest wish and prayer, that those who use this book discover the richness of Christ's love.

Fr. P.D. Johny, Sdb
Former Principal
St. Anthony's Hr. Sec. School
Shillong



TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART A: CATHOLIC CATECHISM

Chapter 1

The Christian Faith and Hope 9

Chapter 2

The Christian Prayer..... 31

Chapter 3

Charity - The Ten Commandments 36

Chapter 4

Commandments of the Church 45

Chapter 5

The Seven Sacraments of the Church 50

Chapter 6

Virtues and Vices 70

Chapter 7

Our Personal Plan of Life 75

PART B: DISCOVERING JESUS IN THE BIBLE

I.	The Birth of Jesus	84
II.	The Boy Jesus	87
III.	The Beginning of His Public Ministry	90
IV.	Jesus and His Disciples	93
V.	Jesus Heals the Sick	97
VI.	Power over Evil	100
VII.	Power over Death	103
VIII.	Power Over Nature	106
IX.	Jesus Teaches the People	109
X.	The Heavenly Father	112
XI.	Jesus and the Pharisees	115
XII.	He Kingdom of Heaven	118
XIII.	The Good Shepherd	122



XIV. Love your Neighbour	125
XV. The Father and the Son	128
XVI. Jesus and Lazarus	131
XVII. Jesus Enters Jerusalem	134
XVIII. Signs of the End	137
XIX. The Last Meal	140
XX. Jesus is Arrested	143
XXI. Jesus is Crucified	147
XXII. Jesus is Alive	150
XXIII. Jesus Returns to Heaven	153

PART C: COMMON PRAYERS

1. Morning Prayers	159
2. Night Prayers	164
3. The Sacrament of Reconciliation	165
4. The Holy Rosary	168
5. The Way of the Cross	172
6. The Order of the Mass	179
7. Powerful Prayers	203

PART A

CATHOLIC CATECHISM



**CHAPTER
1**

**THE CHRISTIAN
FAITH AND HOPE**

- 1) **Who made you?**
God made me.
"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them" (Gen 1:27).
- 2) **Who is God?**
God is the Supreme Spirit who alone exists of himself and is infinite in all perfections. "I am God (*El Shaddai*) Almighty" (Gen 17:1).
- 3) **What is man/woman?**
Man/woman is a person consisting of a mortal body and immortal (spiritual) soul. "The dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it" (Qo 12:7).
- 4) **Why did God make you?**
God made me to know Him, to love Him and to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him forever in the next world. (Lk 23;43).
- 5) **In whose image and likeness did God make you?**
God made me to His own image and likeness (Col 3:10).
- 6) **Is this likeness to God in your body or in your soul?**
This likeness to God is chiefly in my soul (1 Cor 11:7).
- 7) **How is your soul like God?**
My soul is like God because it is a spirit. Therefore it is immortal; God has given man dominion over creation. "He granted them authority over the things upon the earth. He en-dowed them with strength like his own, and made them in his own image" (Sir 17:2-3).
- 8) **What do you mean when you say that your soul is immortal?**
When I say my soul is immortal, I mean that my soul can never die: "God created man for incorruption, and made him in the image of his own eternity" (Wis 2:23).
- 9) **Why should you take care of your soul?**
I must take most care of my soul; for Christ has said, "*What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and suffers the loss of his own soul?*" (Mt 16:26).
- 10) **What must you do to save your soul?**
To save my soul I must worship God by Faith, Hope and Charity:



"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household" (Acts 16:31).

11) What is Faith?

Faith is a supernatural gift of God, which enables us to believe without doubting whatever God has revealed. "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Heb 11:1).

12) Why must you believe whatever God has revealed?

I must believe whatever God has revealed because God is the very truth, and can neither deceive nor be deceived. "I am the Truth" (Jn 14:6).

13) How are you to know what God has revealed?

I am to know what God has revealed by the testimony, and teaching authority of the Catholic Church (Jn 5:32).

14) Who gave the Catholic Church divine authority to teach?

Jesus Christ gave the Catholic Church divine authority to teach, when He said, "*Go ;and teach all nations.*" (Mi. 28:19).

THE APOSTLES' CREED

15) What are the chief things, which God has revealed?

The chief things, which God has revealed, are contained in the Apostles' Creed.

I believe in God, the Father Almighty
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
And was born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day He rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting, Amen,



ARTICLE OF THE CREED

"I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth".

ARTICLE 1

16) Why is God called 'Almighty'?

God is called "Almighty" because He can do all things: *"With God all things are possible."* (Mt. 19:26)

17) Why is God called 'Creator of heaven and earth'?

God is called "Creator of heaven and earth" because He made heaven and earth, and all things, out of nothing by his word: "Look at the heaven and the earth and see everything that is in them, and recognize that God did not make them out of things that existed" (2 Mac 7:28).

18) Had God any beginning?

No, God had no beginning; He always was, He is and He always will be (Rev 1:8).

19) Where is God?

God is everywhere (Ps 139:7-10).

20) Does God know and see all things?

God knows and sees all things, even our most secret thoughts (Ps 139:2).

21) Has God any body?

God has no body. He is the Supreme Spirit. God the Son however became man and suffered for us in His body and rose again from the dead and is now seated at the right hand of God the Father in heaven. He is present also in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar (Mt 28:20).

22) Is there only one God?

There is only one God: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord" (Deut 6:4).

23) How many persons are there in one God?

There are three persons in God: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. These three persons are but one God (Mt 28:19).

24) Are these three persons three gods?

These three persons are not three gods; the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are all one and the same God (Jn 14:10).

25) What is the mystery of the three persons in one God called?

The mystery of the three persons in one God is called the mystery of the *Blessed Trinity*.



26) What do you mean by 'mystery'?

A mystery is a truth that we cannot know by ourselves without God telling us. By prayer and meditation we can always understand more and better, though we will never be fully able to penetrate the mind of God and His holy will (Job 40:4-5).

27) Is there any likeness to the Blessed Trinity in your soul?

There is this likeness to the blessed Trinity in my soul: that as in one God there are three persons, so in my soul there are three powers (1 Thes 5:23).

28) What are the three powers of your soul?

The three powers of my soul are my memory, my understanding, and my will (Sir 17:5).

ARTICLE 2

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord

29) Which person of the Blessed Trinity became man for us?

The second person of the Blessed Trinity became man for us (Wis 18:15).

30) Who is Jesus Christ?

Jesus Christ is the second person of the Blessed Trinity (Mt 28:19).

31) Is Jesus Christ truly God?

Yes, Jesus Christ is truly God (Jn 1:18).

32) Why is Jesus Christ truly God?

Jesus Christ is truly God because He has one and the same nature with God the Father (Jn5:18).

33) Was Jesus always God?

Yes, Jesus Christ was always God, born of the Father from all eternity (Jn 17:5).

34) Is Jesus Christ truly man?

Yes, Jesus Christ is truly man (2 Jn 7).

35) Why is Jesus Christ truly man?

Jesus Christ is truly man because He has the nature of man, having a body and soul like ours (Heb2:17).

36) Was Jesus Christ always man?

Jesus Christ was not always man. He became man only from the time of His incarnation (Jnl:14).



37) What do you mean by the Incarnation?

I mean by the *Incarnation* that God the Son, took to Himself the nature of man: "The word was made flesh." (Jn 1:14).

38) Is Jesus at the same time God and man?

Jesus is truly God and truly man at the same time. His actions are the actions of a human being but at the same time they have divine power (Mt 8:27).

39) Is there any person in Jesus Christ?

There is only one Person in Jesus Christ, which is the Person of God the Son.

40) Why did God the Son become man?

God the Father loved us so much that He sent Jesus to redeem us from sin and death and to teach us the way to Salvation (Jn 3:16).

41) What does the holy name *Jesus* mean?

The holy name Jesus means Saviour. (Mt. 1:21) 42)

What does the name Christ mean?

The name Christ mean Anointed (Lk 4:18).

42) Where is Jesus Christ?

As God, Jesus Christ is everywhere. As God-made-man, with His risen body He is in Heaven and in the holy Eucharist (1 Cor 11:29).

ARTICLE 3

"He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and was born of the Virgin Mary."

43) What does the third article mean?

The third article means that God the Son took a body and soul like ours, in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, by the power of the Holy Spirit (Lk 1:35).

44) Had Jesus Christ any father on earth?

In God's plan, St, Joseph had to be the husband of Mary and to look after Jesus like a real father (Lk 2:49).

45) When and where was Jesus born?

Jesus was born on Christmas Day in a stable at Bethlehem (Lk 2:15).



ARTICLE 4

*He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died,
and was buried.”*

- 46) What were the chief sufferings of Christ?**
The chief sufferings of Christ were first, His agony and His sweat of blood in the Garden; secondly, His scourging at the pillar and crowning with thorns; and thirdly, His carrying His cross, His crucifixion, and His death between two thieves (Lk 22:44, 63; 23:26, 33)
- 47) What are the sufferings of Jesus called?**
The sufferings of Jesus are called the *Passion of Jesus Christ* (Mk 8:31).
- 48) Why did Jesus suffer?**
Jesus suffered for our sins and to gain back eternal life for us (Rom 3:23-24).
- 49) Why is Jesus Christ called our Redeemer?**
Jesus Christ is called our Redeemer because by dying He destroyed our death and by rising He restored our life (Rom 10:9-10).
- 50) On what day did Jesus die?**
Jesus died on Good Friday (Jn 19:31).
- 51) Where did Jesus die?**
Jesus died on *Golgotha* or Mount Calvary, outside *Jerusalem* (Jn 19:17).
- 52) Why do we make the sign of the cross?**
We make the sign of the cross - *first*, to remind of the Blessed Trinity; and *secondly* to remind us that God the Son died for us on the Cross (Ezek 4:3).
- 53) In making the sign of the cross how are we reminded of the Blessed Trinity?**
In making the sign of the cross we are reminded of the Blessed Trinity by the words: *“In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit”* (Mt 28:19).
- 54) In making the sign of the cross how are we reminded that Christ died for us on the cross?**
In making the sign of the cross, we are reminded that Christ died for us on the cross by the very form of the cross, which we make upon ourselves.



ARTICLE 5

"He descended to the dead; on third day He rose again."

- 55) **What do you mean by the words, "He descended to the dead"?**
By the words, "He descended to the dead," I mean that Jesus really died, that his body was separated from his soul, and while the body rested in the grave, his soul joined all who had died before him (1 Pet 4:6).
- 56) **What did Jesus do among the souls of the dead?**
Before Jesus' death heaven was closed. Also the people who had died before him had to hear the good news and get the opportunity to accept Jesus as their redeemer, or reject him: "He preached to the spirits in prison" (1 Pet 3:19).
- 57) **What happened to those who accepted or rejected Jesus?**
Those who accepted Jesus joined in his resurrection; for others, hell became permanent (Rev 20:15).
- 58) **What do you mean by the words, "The third day He rose again from the dead"?**
By the words, "The third day He rose again from the dead," I mean that, after Jesus had been dead and buried, God raised His Blessed Body to life again on the third day (Acts 5:30).
- 59) **On what day did Jesus rise from the dead?**
Jesus rose from the dead on *Easter Sunday* (Mt 28:1).

ARTICLE 6

"He ascended into heaven; and is seated at the right hand of the Father."

- 60) **What do you mean by the words, "He ascended into heaven"?**
By the words, "He ascended into heaven," I mean that Jesus went up Body and Soul into heaven on Ascension Day, forty days after His resurrection (Acts 1:9).
- 61) **What do you mean by the words, "He is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty"?**
By the words, "He is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty," I mean that Jesus, as God, is equal to the Father; and as man, is in the highest place in heaven: "He raised him from the dead and made him sit at his right hand in heavenly places" (Eph 1:20).



ARTICLE 7

"He will come again to judge the living and the dead."

62) When will Jesus come again?

Jesus will come again from heaven on the last day, to judge all people (Acts 1:11).

63) What are the things Jesus will judge?

Jesus will judge our thoughts, words, works and omissions (Mt 12:36).

64) What will Jesus say to the wicked?

Jesus will say to the wicked, *"Depart from Me, you cursed, into everlasting fire, which was prepared for the devil and his angels"* (Mt. 25:41).

65) What will Jesus say to the just?

Jesus will say to the just, *"come, you blessed of My Father, possess you the kingdom prepared for you"* (Mt. 25:41).

66) Will every one be judged at death, as well as on the last day?

Every one will be judged at death as well as on the last day: *"It is appointed unto men once to die; and after this, the judgment"* (Heb. 9:27).

ARTICLE 8

"I believe in the Holy Spirit."

67) Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Blessed Trinity (Mt 28:19).

68) From whom does the Holy Spirit proceed?

The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son (Jn 14:16).

69) Is the Holy Spirit equal to the Father and to the Son?

The Holy Spirit is equal to the Father and to the Son, for He is the same Lord and the same God as they are (Jn 14:17).

70) When did the Holy Spirit come down on the Apostles?

The Holy Spirit came down on the Apostles on Pentecost, in the form of "parted tongues, as it were, of fire" (Acts 2:3).

71) Why did the Holy Spirit come down on the Apostles?

The Holy Spirit came down on the Apostles to *confirm* their faith, to *sanctify* them, and to *animate* the Church (Jn 14:26).



72) Which are the 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit?

The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are:

- 1) Wisdom
- 2) Understanding
- 3) Counsel
- 4) Fortitude
- 5) Knowledge
- 6) Piety and
- 7) The Fear of the Lord (Is 11:2-3).

73) Which are the 9 Fruits of the Holy Spirit?

The 12 fruits of the Holy Spirit are:

- 1) Love
- 2) Joy
- 3) Peace
- 4) Patience
- 5) Kindness
- 6) Goodness
- 7) Faithfulness
- 8) Gentleness
- 9) Self-control (Gal 5:22).

74) What are the acts committed against the fruits of the Holy Spirit?

The acts committed against the fruits of the Holy Spirit are: immorality, impurity, shame-lessness, idol worship, magic, hatred, jealousy, violence, anger, greed, division, discord, fractioning, envy, drunkenness and orgy (Gal 5:21-22).

75) Which are the Charisms (varieties of gifts) of the Holy Spirit?

Paul speaks about the different charisms (varieties of gifts) of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 12:4-11).

They are nine and divided into three broad categories.

1) Charisms of the mind:

Wisdom, Knowledge
Discernment of the Spirit.

2) Charisms of Speech:

Prophecy, Speaking in tongues and
Interpretation of the tongues

3) Charisms of Mighty Deeds:

Powerful faith,
Healing and Miracles.

Through the Sacrament of Confirmation we receive the Gifts, Fruits and Charisms of the Holy Spirit. We participate in the Priestly, Kingly and Prophetic functions of Jesus Christ (1 Pet 2:9).

76) Which are the SIX sins against the Holy Spirit?

The six sins against the Holy Spirit are:

- 1) Presumption
- 2) Despair
- 3) Resisting the known truth
- 4) Envy of another's spiritual good
- 5) Obstinacy in sin and
- 6) Final impenitence (Sir 5:4-7).



ARTICLE 9

"The Holy Catholic Church; the Communion of Saints."

77) What is the Catholic Church?

The Catholic Church is the union of all the faithful under one head, Jesus Christ as members of one body (Eph 4:4-5).

78) Who is the Head of the Catholic Church?

The invisible head of the Catholic Church is Jesus Christ our Lord (Eph 1:22).

79) Has the Church a visible Head on Earth?

The Church has a visible Head on earth, the Bishop of Rome, who is the Vicar of Christ (Mt 16:18).

80) Why is the Bishop of Rome the Head of the Church?

The Bishop of Rome is the Head of the Church because he is the successor of St. Peter, whom Christ appointed to be the Head of the Church (Mt 16; 19).

81) How do you know that Christ appointed St. Peter to be the Head of the Church?

I know that Christ appointed St. Peter to be the Head of the Church because Christ said of him: *"You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My Church, and the gates of hell I shall not prevail against it. And to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven"* (Mt. 19:18,19).

82) What is the Bishop of Rome Called?

The Bishop of Rome is called the Pope. (*The Holy Father - il Papa*)

83) Is the Pope the spiritual Father of all Christians?

Yes, the Pope is the Spiritual Father of all Christians (Heb 12:9).

84) Is the Pope the shepherd and teacher of all Christians?

The Pope is the shepherd and teacher of all Christians, because Christ made St. Peter the shepherd of the whole flock when He said: *"Feed My lambs, tend My sheep."* He also prayed that his "faith" might never fail, and commanded him to "confirm" his brethren. (Jn21:15-17:Lk 22:32).

85) Is the Pope infallible?

The Pope is infallible, when he speaks on matters of faith and morals.

86) What do you mean when you say that the Pope is 'infallible'?

When I say that the Pope is *infallible*, I mean that he Pope cannot err when, as Shepherd and Teacher of all Christians, he defines a doctrine concerning faith or morals, to be held by the whole Church (Lk 22:32).



87) Has the Church of Christ any marks by which we may know her?

The Church of Christ has *four marks* by which we may know her: she is One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic, (cfrccc. 811).

88) How is the Roman Catholic Church One?

The Roman Catholic Church is one because always and everywhere she has the same Founder and Shepherd - Jesus Christ and the same Spirit animates the believers with the same teachings and the same Sacraments (cfr. ccc 813 - 822).

89) Is the Roman Catholic Church Holy?

Yes, the Roman Catholic Church is holy because her founder is *Holy*, her doctrine is holy and her sacraments are source of holiness. At all times she has produced men and women outstanding in *holiness of life* (cfr. ccc 823-829).

90) What does the word *Catholic* mean?

The word Catholic means Universal (1 Pet 5:9).

91) How is the Church *Catholic / Universal*?

The Church is Catholic / Universal because her teaching is meant for everyone in the world. The mission of the Church is to proclaim and to establish among all peoples the kingdom of God (LG 5).

92) How is the Roman Catholic Church Apostolic?

The Roman Catholic Church is *Apostolic* because her Doctrine and her Sacraments are those of the *Apostles*. (Rev 21:14). Her leaders are the rightful successors of the Apostles (cfr. ccc857-856).

93) Can the Church err in what she teaches?

The Church cannot err when she teaches us on faith and morals, for she is our infallible guide in both (1 Tim 3:15).

94) How do you know that the Church cannot err in what she teaches?

I know that the Church cannot err in what she teaches because Christ promised that the gates of hell will never prevail against His Church; that the Holy Spirit will teach her all things; and that He Himself will be with her all days, even to the consummation of the world (Mt 28:20).

95) What do you mean by the "communion of Saints"?

By the "Communion of Saints" I mean that all the members of the Church, in heaven, on earth and in purgatory, are in communion with one another, as being one body in Jesus Christ (Eph 4:5).

96) How are the faithful on earth in communion with each other?

The faithful on earth are in communion with each other by professing the



same faith. obeying the same authority, and assisting each other with their prayers and good works (1 Pet 5:9). (My virtue raises the sanctity of the whole Catholic Church. My life of sin dampens the whole body of the Catholic Church and humanity).

97) How are we in communion with the Saints in heaven?

We are in communion with the Saints in heaven, by honouring them as the glorified members of the Church, and also by our praying to them, and by their praying for us (2 Mac 12:44).

98) How are we in communion with the souls in purgatory?

We are in communion with the souls in purgatory by helping them with our prayers and good works. *"It is a holy and wholesome thing to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from their sins"* (2 Mac 12:46).

99) What happens to those who died in God's grace but are not fully purified of their sins?

God, in us goodness gives them a chance of purification after death. (2 Mac 12:46). This purification is called *Purgatory*: "You do the dead no good, and you injure yourself (Sir 38:21b).

100) What are the sufferings of the souls in purgatory?

With death comes the time that our infinite longing for happiness can be fulfilled, but then those souls realize that they have sins to expiate. By God's grace, this painful real-ization is purifying (Heb 11:40).

101) Are the souls in Purgatory happy?

They are happy to expiate their sins and they know that their pains are only temporary; they are sure of their salvation. Besides, we can help them with our prayers, especially by offering Holy sacrifice of the Mass.

102) How do you prove that there is purgatory?

I prove that there is purgatory from the constant teaching of the Church; and from the doctrine of Holy Scriptures, which declare that God will render to every person accord-ing to his/her work; that nothing defiled shall enter heaven; and that some will be saved (Rev 21:27).

ARTICLE 10

"The forgiveness of sins."

103) What do you mean by "The forgiveness of sins"?

By "The forgiveness of sins" I mean that Jesus has left the power of forgiving sins to the apostles of His Church (Jn 20:23).



104) By what means are sins forgiven?

Sins are forgiven principally by the sacrament of Baptism, Penance and Anointing of the Sick(Jas5:15).

105) What is 'sin'?

God gives man the beautiful gift of freedom, so that many may freely love God and his neighbour. Sin is an abuse of this freedom when man says 'No! to God's love (cfr. ccc 386-387).

106) How many kinds of sins are there?

There are two kinds of sins: original sin and actual sin (Rom 5:12).

107) What is original sin?

Our first parents transmitted to their descendants human nature wounded by their first sin and hence deprived of original holiness and justice (Rom 5:18-19). This deprivation is called original sin (cfr. ccc 390, 397, 416-417).

108) What was the sin committed by Adam?

Adam tempted by the devil, let his trust in his creator die in his heart and abusing his freedom, disobeyed God's command (Rom 5:15). This is the sin of Adam (cfr. ccc 397).

109) Has all humankind contracted the guilt and the stain of original sin?

All humankind contracted the guilt and the stain of original sin, except the Blessed Virgin, who through the merits of her Divine son Jesus, was conceived without the least guilt or stain of original sin (Lk 1:27).

110) What is this privilege of the Blessed Virgin called?

This privilege of the Blessed Virgin is called the *Immaculate Conception*. (Feast on Dec 8).

111) What is actual sin?

Actual sin is every sin, which we ourselves commit (Rom 2:5).

112) How is actual sin divided?

Actual sin is divided into *mortal sin* and *venial sin*.

113) What is mortal (*serious*) sin?

Mortal sin is a serious offence against God (Rev 2:11).

For a sin to be mortal, these conditions must together be met:

- a) Serious matter
- b) Full knowledge
- c) Deliberate consent (cfr. ccc 1857).



114) Why is it called 'mortal sin'?

It is called mortal sin because it destroys charity in the heart of man. (cfr. ccc 1395) by a grave violation of God's love (1 Jn 5:16; cfr. ccc 1395),

115) Where will they go who die in mortal sin?

If I am not a friend of God when I die, I cannot enjoy His presence in heaven. I will be forever condemned to hell (Jn 5:29).

116) What is venial sin?

Venial sin is an offence, which does not kill the soul, yet displeases and is dangerous as it may lead to more serious and even mortal sin. (cfr. ccc 1863)

117) Why is it called venial sin?

It is called venial sin because it allows charity to subsist, even though it offends and wounds it (cfr. ccc 1855). One commits venial sin when, in less serious matter, he dis-obeyes the moral law in a serious matter but without full knowledge (Lk 12:48) or without complete consent, (cfr. ccc 1862)

ARTICLE 11

"The resurrection of the body."

118) What do you mean by "The resurrection of the body"?

By "The resurrection of the body" I mean that we shall all rise again with the same bodies on the Day of Judgment. Death is the end of earthly life; Death is the consequence of sin. Christ on the cross transforms our death. Death is the end of man's earthly pilgrimage, To rise with the Christ, we must die with Christ (Col 3:3). I want to see God face to face, and in order to do so, I must undergo a change (1Thes 4:13-17). I do not die. but I am transformed into a new type of life (cfr. ccc 1011).

119) What is rising?

God, in His almighty power, will definitively grant incorruptible life to our bodies by reuniting them with our souls through the power of Jesus' resurrection (Phil 3:21).

120) Who will rise?

All the dead will rise (1 Thes 4:16).

121) How will the dead rise?

It is our Christian belief that we will receive back our own body, However, it will undergo a radical transformation in order to be like the



glorious body of Christ after his resurrection: immortal, and incorruptible. (1 Cor 15:44).

ARTICLE 12

"Life everlasting." Amen.

122) What does "Life everlasting" mean?

"Life everlasting" means that the good shall live forever in the glory and happiness of heaven (Mt 25:34).

123) What is the glory and happiness of heaven?

The glory and happiness of heaven is to see, love and enjoy God forever (1Jn 3:2).

124) What does the Scripture say of the happiness of heaven?

"The eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither has it entered into the heart of man, what things God has prepared for them that love Him" (1 Cor 2:9).

125) Shall not the wicked also live forever?

The wicked also shall live and be punished forever in the fire of hell (Mt 25:46).

126) What is the meaning of the "Amen" at the end of the creed?

(cfr. ccc-1065).

The Hebrew root word Amen expresses *fidelity, firmness* and *trustworthiness* (cfr. Deut 27:15).

When Jesus says: "Amen I say to you" (as in Lk 21:32) he means *you can trust my words*. Isaiah says about "Yahweh the God of truth," which literally means: the God of *Amen*. To believe is to say: Amen, yes to the word of God we conclude all the prayers with *Amen*. Jesus is the *Amen* of the Father, the YES, the fulfillment of all the promises (Rev 3:14; 2Cor 1:17-20). The last word of the Bible is Amen: all this is true, trustworthy and is go-ing to happen. *Amen* (Rev 22:21).

127) Will Faith alone save us?

Faith alone will not save us without good works; we must also have Hope and Charity. "Faith apart from works is barren" (Jas 2:20).

128) What is Hope?

Hope is a theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness. "In this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience" (Rom 8:24).



129) Why must we hope in God?

We must hope in God because He is infinitely good, powerful and faithful to His prom-ises. Hope keeps man from discouragement and despair. Hope sustains man during the time of abandonment. Hope opens his heart in expectation of eternal beatitude. We can hope in the glory of heaven, promised by God to those who love Him and do His will. In hope, the Church prays for 'all men to be saved' (cfr. ccc 1821).

130) Can we do any good work of ourselves towards our salvation?

We can do no good work by ourselves towards our salvation; we need the help of God's grace (Rom 3:23).

131) What is Grace?

Grace is a supernatural gift of God, freely bestowed upon us for our sanctification and salvation (Eph 2:8).

132) How must we obtain God's grace?

We must obtain God's grace chiefly by prayer and the Holy Sacraments. Grace is *the help God gives us to respond to our vocation of becoming His adopted children. It introduces us into the intimacy of the Trinitarian life.* (cfr. ccc 2021).





**CHAPTER
2**

**THE CHRISTIAN
PRAYER**

133) What is prayer?

Prayer is the raising up of the mind and heart to God. It is a loving conversation with God my loving Father, who loves me and I discern His will for me.

134) How do we raise up our mind and heart to God?

We raise up our mind and heart to God by thinking of God; to think God means to think about His spoken words in the Bible. In our effort to pray, Holy Spirit helps us (Rom 8:26).

135) Do they pray well who, at their prayers, think neither of God nor of what they say?

Those who, at their prayers, think neither of God nor of what they say, do not pray well. "They honour me with their lips, but their heart is far from me" (Mt 15:8).

136) Which is the best of all prayers?

The best of all prayers is the "*Our Father*" (Mt 6:9), or the Lord's Prayer, (cfr. ccc 2777-2793).

137) Why do we call it the *Lord's Prayer*?

It is known as the Lord's Prayer because Jesus himself composed it. (Lk 11:2; cfr. ccc 2759).

The Lord's prayer.

Our Father in heaven, holy be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us to day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test but deliver us from evil Amen.

138) In the *Lord's Prayer* who is called "Our Father**"?**

In the Lord's Prayer, God is called "Our Father."

139) Why is God called "Our Father**"?**

God is called "Our Father" because He has created all the peoples of the earth. All Christians become His children through regeneration by the Holy Spirit and water in Baptism (cfr. Jn3:5; 1 Pet 1:23).



- 140) Is God also the Father of all humankind?**
God is also the Father of all humankind because He made them all and loves and pre-serves them all (Wis 11:24-25).
- 141) Why do we pray, "Our Father, and not "My" Father?**
We pray "Our Father," and not "My" Father, because, we are all brothers and sisters in Jesus and so we pray not for ourselves only, but also for others.
- 142) When we pray "Holy be your name," what do we pray for?**
When we pray, "Holy be your name," we pray that God may be known, loved, respected and served by all His creatures, (cfr. ccc 2807 - 2815).
- 143) When we pray, "your kingdom come," what do we pray for?**
When we pray "your kingdom come," we pray that God may come and reign in the hearts of all by His grace. "The kingdom of God is within you" (Lk 17:21).
- 144) When we pray "your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven," what do we pray for?**
When we pray, "your will be done on earth, as it is In heaven," we pray that God may en-able us, by his grace, to do His will in all things, as the saints and the angels do in heaven (cfr. ccc 2822-2827).
- 145) When we pray, "Give us this day our daily bread," what do we pray for?**
When we pray "Give us this day our daily bread," we pray that God may give us daily all that is necessary for a dignified and worthy life (cfr. ccc 2828-2837).
- 146) When we pray, "Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us," what do we pray for?**
When we pray, "forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us," we pray that God may forgive our sins, as we forgive others the injuries they do to us.
- 147) When we pray "Do not bring us to the test" what do we pray for?**
(cfr ccc 2846-2849).
When we pray, "Do not bring us to the test" we pray that God may give us grace not to yield to temptation (1 Cor 10:13).
- 148) When we pray "Deliver us from evil," what do we pray for?**
When we pray, "Deliver us from evil," we pray that God may free us



from all evil: both of soul and body (Eph 6:11-12).

149) Should we ask the Angels and Saints to pray for us?

(cfr. ccc 328-336).

We should ask the Angels and Saints to pray for us, because they are our friends, and because their prayers have great power with God (Heb 12:1).

150) How can we show that the Angels and Saints know what happens on earth?

We can show that the Angels and Saints know what happens on earth from the words of Christ: "There shall be joy before the Angels of God upon sinner doing penance"(Lk. 15:10).

151) What is the chief prayer to the Blessed Virgin which the Church uses?

The chief prayer to the Blessed Virgin which the Church uses is the "**Hail Mary**"

Hail Mary, full of grace; the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death, Amen.

152) Who composed the first part of the Hail Mary?

The archangel Gabriel and St. Elizabeth, inspired by the Holy Spirit composed the first part of the *Hail Mary* (Lk 1:28, 42).

153) Who composed the second part of the *Hail Mary*?

The Catholic Church, guided by the Holy Spirit, composed the second part of the Hail Mary.

154) Why should we frequently pray the *Hail Mary*?

We should frequently pray the Hail Mary to remind us of the Incarnation of the Son. of God; and to fulfill her own prophetic words: "Henceforth all generations will call me Blessed" (Lk 1:48).

155) Have we another reason to pray the Hail Mary often?

"God caused Her name to be celebrated in all the generations" (Ps 45:17). This is another reason to pray the *Hail Mary* often.

156) Why does the Catholic Church show great devotion to the Blessed Virgin?

The Catholic Church shows great devotion to the Blessed Virgin because Jesus Himself has shown great love and affection for Her (Eph 6:1-3).



157) How is the Blessed Virgin Mother of God?

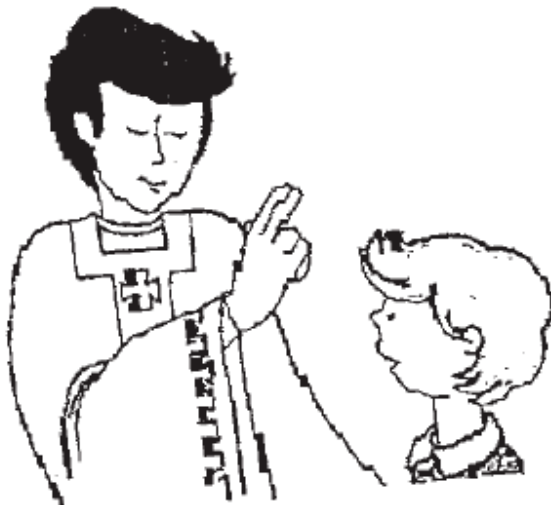
The blessed Virgin is called the Mother of God because Jesus Christ, her son, who was born of her as man, is not only man, but is also truly God. She is the "*mother of my Lord*" (Lk:43).

158) Is the Blessed Virgin our Mother also?

The Blessed Virgin is our Mother also because Jesus, dying on the cross, recommended us to the care of His Mother. "Behold your Mother" (Jn 19:27). Being the brothers and sisters of Jesus, we are "the rest of her offspring" (Rev 12:17; cfr. ccc 508, 2682).

159) What is the devotion to three Hail Mary's?

The devotion to three *Hail Mary's* is a very simple yet most efficacious devotion. Ev-ery day recite three Hail Mary's adding the invocation: "*O Mary my mother, keep me from mortal sin!*" Many people recite three Hail Mary's as part of the morning and night prayers. To practice this devotion in time of danger, stress, or temptation, is a sure means to obtain our heavenly mother's help.





CHAPTER

3

**CHARITY, THE TEN
COMMANDMENTS**

160) What is *charity*?

Charity is a supernatural gift of God, by which we love God above all things, and our neighbors as ourselves for God's sake (Mk 12:30-31).

161) Why should we love God?

We should love God because He is infinitely good in Himself and infinitely good to us (Mk 10:18).

162) How do we show that we love God?

We show that we love God by keeping His commandments: for Christ says, "If you love me, keep My Commandments" (Jn 14:15; Sir 2:15).

163) How many commandments are there?

There are Ten Commandments (Ex 20:2-17). They are

- 1) You shall honour no other God but me.
- 2) You shall not use the name of the Lord God in vain.
- 3) Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.
- 4) Honour your father and your mother.
- 5) You shall not kill.
- 6) You shall not commit adultery.
- 7) You shall not steal.
- 8) You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.
- 9) You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
- 10) You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

164) Who gave the Ten Commandments?

God gave the *Ten Commandments* to Moses in the Old Law, and confirmed them in the new (Ex 34:28).

THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

You shall honour no other God but me.

165) What are we commanded to do by the first Commandment?

By the first Commandment we are commanded to worship the One, true, and living God. "Hear O Israel: The Lord our God is One Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart" (Deut 6:4-5).



166) What are the sins against Faith?

The sins against Faith are all false religions, all superstitious practices, willful doubt, disbelief of God's word, or denial of any article of Faith (Deut 13:6-8).

167) How do we expose ourselves to the danger of losing our Faith?

We expose ourselves to the danger of losing our Faith by neglecting our spiritual duties, reading bad books, going to non-catholic schools, and taking part in the services or prayers of other religions (Rev 9:20-21),

168) What are the sins against Hope?

The sins against Hope are despair and presumption (Sir 5:4-5).

169) What are the Chief sins against Religion?

The Chief sins against Religion are the worship of false gods or idols, and the giving to any creature whatsoever honour that belongs to God alone (Rom 1:21 -23).

170) Does the first Commandment not forbid the making of images?

The first Commandment does not forbid the making of images, but it forbids us to make images to be adored or honoured as gods (Num 21:8-9; Ex 25:22).

171) Does the first Commandment forbid dealing with the devil and superstitious practices?

The first Commandment forbids all dealing with the devil and superstitious practices, such as consulting spiritualists and fortune-tellers, and trusting in charm, omens, dreams, and such evil practices (Deut 12:30-31; 2 Kgs 17:33-35).

172) Are all sins of sacrilege and simony also forbidden by the first Commandment?

All sins of sacrilege and simony are forbidden by the first Commandment (Acts 8:20).

173) Is it forbidden to give divine honour or worship to the Angels and Saints?

It is forbidden to give divine honour or worship to the Angels and Saints, for this belongs to God alone (Acts 10:26; 14:15; Rev 19:10).

174) What honour do we give to God and Angels and Saints?

God alone is honoured by the worship and adoration. Angels and Saints are special friends of God and the honour we give them is called veneration (Jas 2:23).



- 175) What honour should we give to relics, crucifixes, and holy pictures?**
We should give to relics, crucifixes and holy pictures a relative honour, as they relate to Christ and His Saints and are memorials of them (Acts 19:12).
- 176) Do we pray to relics or images?**
We do not pray to relics or images, for they can neither see, nor hear, nor help us.

THE SECOND COMMANDMENT

"You shall not use the name of the Lord God in vain,"

- 177) What are we commanded by the second Commandment?**
By the second Commandment we are commanded to speak with reverence of God and all holy persons and things, and to keep our lawful oaths and vows (Ex 20:7).
- 178) What does the second Commandment forbid?**
The second Commandment forbids all false, rash, unjust, and unnecessary oaths; as also blaspheming, cursing and profane words (Qo 5:4-5).
- 179) Is it ever lawful to swear or to take an oath?**
It is lawful to swear, or take an oath, only when God's honour, or our own, or our neighbour's good requires it (Ex 22:11; Mt 5:33).

THE THIRD COMMANDMENT

"Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day" (Dies Domini).

- 180) What are we commanded by the third Commandment?**
By the third Commandment we are commanded to keep the Sunday holy (Ex 20:8; Hob 10:25).
- 181) How are we to keep the Sunday holy?**
We are to keep the Sunday holy by resting from heavy work, participating in Holy Mass and by doing acts of charity (Ex 23:12; 31:15).

THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT

"Honour your father and your mother."

- 182) What are we commanded by the fourth Commandment?**
By the fourth Commandment we are commanded to love, reverence, and obey our parents as long as they live (Ex 20:12; Eph 6:1-3).



183) Are we commanded to obey our parents only?

We are commanded to respect and obey, not only our parents, but all who in some way share in their authority, for instance our teachers, employers, civil and Church authorities (Rom 13:1; 1 Thes 5:12-13).

184) Are we bound to assist our parents in their wants?

We are bound to assist our parents in their wants, both spiritual and temporal (Sir 3:12).

185) Are we bound in justice to contribute to the support of our pastors?

We are bound in justice to contribute to the support of our pastors. St. Paul says, "The Lord ordained that they who preach the Gospel should live by the Gospel" (1 Cor 9:14).

186) What is the duty of parents towards their children?

The duty of parents towards their children is to provide for them, to instruct and correct them, and to give them a good Catholic education (2 Cor 12:14; Eph 6:4).

187) What is the duty of mistresses, masters and other superiors?

The duty of mistresses, masters, and other superiors is to take proper care of those under their charge, and to empower them to practice their religious duties (1Thes 5:12).

188) What does the fourth Commandment forbid?

The fourth Commandment forbids all contempt, stubbornness, and disobedience to our parents and lawful superiors (Col 3:20).

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

"You shall not kill"

189) What does the fifth Commandment forbid?

The fifth Commandment forbids all willful murder, fighting, quarrelling, and injurious words, and also scandals and bad example (cfr. Mt 5:21-26).

190) Does the fifth Commandment forbid anger?

The fifth Commandment forbids anger, and still more, hatred and revenge (cfr. Mt 5:21-24).

191) Why are scandals and bad examples forbidden by the fifth Commandment?

Scandals and bad examples are forbidden by the fifth Commandment, because they lead to the injury and spiritual death of our neighbour's soul (Mt 18:6).



THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT

"You shall not commit adultery"

192) What does the sixth Commandment forbid?

The sixth Commandment forbids all sins of impurity with another's wife or husband, in looks, words, or actions (Ex 20:14; Mt 19:18).

193) Are immodest plays and dances forbidden by the sixth Commandment?

Immodest plays and dances are forbidden by the sixth Commandment and it is sinful to look at them (Sir 9:5).

194) Does the sixth Commandment forbid immodest songs, books, and pictures?

The sixth Commandment forbids immodest songs, and dress, sexy jokes, books and pictures because they are most dangerous to the soul, and they lead to mortal sin (Deut 22:5; Sir 19:30; 23:13).

THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

"You shall not steal."

195) What does the seventh Commandment forbid?

The seventh Commandment forbids all unjust taking away, or keeping what belongs to another (Ex 20:15).

196) Is all manner of cheating in buying and selling forbidden by the seventh Commandment?

All manner of cheating in buying and selling is forbidden by the seventh Commandment, and also every other way of doing wrong to our neighbour (Lev 19:36; Pro 11:1).

197) Are we bound to restore stolen goods?

We are bound to restore ill-goods if we are able, or else the sin will not be forgiven; we must also pay our debts (Lk 19:8).

198) Is it dishonest in employees to waste their employer's time or property?

It is dishonest in employees to waste their employer's time or property, because it is wasting what is not their own (Eph 5:16).

THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour."

199) What does the eighth Commandment forbid?



The eighth Commandment forbids all false testimony, rash judgment and lies (Ex 20:16).

200) Are calumny and detraction forbidden by the eighth commandment?
Calumny means to mention evil that one has not done (Sir 19:15). Detraction means to speak, without sufficient reason, about the evil one has done. Both are sinful: we do not only have to speak the truth but to speak the truth in charity (Eph 4:15). Everybody has a right to his / her good name (Pro 22:1).

201) If you have injured your neighbour by speaking ill of him / her what are you bound to do?
If I have injured my neighbour by speaking ill of him/her I am bound to make him/her satisfaction by restoring his/her good name as far as I can (Sir 41:13).

THE NINTH COMMANDMENT

"You shall not covet your neighbour's wife."

202) What does the ninth Commandment forbid?
The ninth Commandment forbids all willful consent to impure thoughts and all willful pleasure in the sinful desires of the flesh (Ex 20:17b).

203) What sins commonly lead to the breaking of the sixth and ninth Commandments?
The sins that commonly lead to the breaking of the sixth and ninth Commandment are gluttony, drunkenness and intemperance and also idleness, bad company, and the neglect of prayer (1 Cor 6:9-10).

THE TENTH COMMANDMENT

"You shall not covet your neighbour's good."

204) What does the tenth Commandment forbid?
The tenth Commandment forbids all envious and covetous thoughts and unjust desires of our neighbour's goods and profits (Ex 20:17).





CHAPTER

4

**THE COMMANDMENT
OF THE CHURCH**

205) Are we bound to obey the Church?

We are bound to obey the Church, because Christ has said to the pastors of the Church. *"He that hears you, hears Me: and he that despises you, despises Me"* (Lk 10:16).

206) What are the chief Commandments of the Church?

The chief Commandments of the Church are:

- 1) You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.
- 2) You shall confess your sins at least once a year.
- 3) You shall fervently receive the Lord in the Holy Communion at least during the Easter season.
- 4) You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence.
- 5) You shall not marry within certain degrees of kindred nor to solemnize marriage at the forbidden times.
- 6) You shall contribute to the support of the Church.

THE FIRST COMMANDMENT OF THE CHURCH

You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.

207) Which are the Holy days of Obligation observed in India?

Besides all the Sundays, the Holy days of obligation observed in India are: the Assump-tion of Our Lady, *August 15 and Christmas Day, December 25.*

208) Is it mortal sin to neglect to attend Holy Mass on Sundays and Holy days of obligation?

It is a mortal sin to neglect to participate in the Holy Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.

209) Are parents, masters, and mistresses bound to provide that those under their charge shall attend Mass on Sundays and Holy days of Obligation?

Yes, parents, masters, and mistresses are bound to provide for those under their charge to hear Holy Mass on Sundays and holy days of Obligation (Heb 10:25).



THE SECOND COMMANDMENT OF THE CHURCH

"You shall confess your sins at least once a year."

210) How soon are children bound to go to confession?

Children are bound to go to confession as soon as they have come to the use of reason, and are capable of mortal sin (Sir 5:7).

211) When are children generally supposed to come to the use of reason?

Children are generally supposed to come to the use of reason about the age of seven years.

THE THIRD COMMANDMENT OF THE CHURCH

"You shall fervently receive the Lord in Holy Communion at least during the Easter season."

212) How soon are Christians bound to receive the Blessed Sacrament?

Christians are bound to receive the Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist as soon as they are capable of distinguishing the Body of Christ from any ordinary bread, and are judged to be sufficiently instructed (1 Cor 11:29).

THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT OF THE CHURCH

"You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence"

213) What are fasting days?

Fasting days are days on which we are allowed to take only one full meal.

214) Which are the official fasting days of the Church?

The official fasting days are *Ash Wednesday* and *Good Friday* (Mt 6:16).

215) What are the days of abstinence?

Days of abstinence are days on which we are forbidden to take any meat.

216) Which are the days of abstinence?

Days of abstinence are *Ash Wednesday* and *Good Friday* and all the Fridays in Lent.

217) Why does the Church command us to fast and abstain?

The Church commands us to fast and abstain so that we may mortify the flesh and satisfy God for our sins (Tob 12:8).



FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

"All Christ's faithful are obliged by Divine Law, each in his own way, to do penance. That all may be united in certain practices of penance, common days of penance are prescribed. On these days, the faithful are in a special manner to devote themselves to prayer, to engage in practices of piety and charity and to deny themselves by fulfilling their obligations more faithfully and specially by observing the days of *fast* and *abstinence*" (Can 1249).

FASTING:

- a. The days of fasting are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
- b. The law of fasting binds those who have completed their 18th year till the beginning of the 60th year.
- c. The law of fasting prescribes that only one meal is to be taken for a day.
- d. Those who cannot keep the law of fasting without considerable difficulty of health, work etc. are excused. The faithful are however urged not to excuse themselves too easily from this obligation, but substitute somehow with any other type of fasting (Is 58:3-7). It is fitting that on the two prescribed days of fasting we unite ourselves in a special manner with the Passion and Death of Our Lord by a more intense form of penance.

ABSTINENCE:

- a. The days of abstinence are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday and all Fridays of the year.
- b. The law of abstinence binds those who have completed their 14th year.
- c. The new code of Canon Law has left it to the Episcopal Conference to determine, in place of abstinence, other forms of penance, specially works of charity and exercise of piety; e.g.
 - 1) Missing any one meal: breakfast, lunch or supper.
 - 2) Taking strictly pure vegetarian meals.
 - 3) Abstaining from alcohol and smoking.
 - 4) Avoiding all beverages like tea or coffee or sweet drinks between meals.
 - 5) Avoiding film, television and other forms of recreation on the day of abstinence.
 - 6) Giving 10% of one's daily basic wage in charity on the day of abstinence (Hag 1:6.9-10).
 - 7) Attending Holy Mass, or making the Way of the Cross, or a visit to the Blessed Sacrament; or daily meditative reading of the Bible about the Passion of Our Lord (Aces 17:11).



THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT OF THE CHURCH

You shall not marry within certain degrees of kindred nor to solemnize marriages at the forbidden times.

218) Which are the times in which it is forbidden to marry with solemnity?

The time in which it is forbidden to marry with solemnity without special leave is from the first Sunday of Advent till Christmas Day, and from *Ash Wednesday* till *Easter Sunday*.

THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT OF THE CHURCH

You shall contribute to the support of the Church

219) Is it our duty to contribute to the support of religion?

It is our duty to contribute to the support of our religion according to our means, so that God may be duly honoured and worshiped, and the kingdom of His Church extended (2 Cor 9:7-8).

The Commandments of the Church concern the moral and Christian life, which is united with the liturgy and nourished by it. Christian faithful have the obligation to provide for the needs of the Church so that the Church has available resources for those things which are necessary for divine worship, for apostolic and charitable works and for the worthy support of its ministers (cf CCC, can 222).



**CHAPTER
5**

**THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS
OF THE CHURCH**

Jesus Christ instituted the seven sacraments of the New Law. They are the seven pillars of the Church (Pro 9:1). They touch all stages and all-important moments of Christian life. The Sacrament of Holy Eucharist occupies a unique place as the 'Sacrament of Sacra-ments'.

220) What is a Sacrament?

A Sacrament is an outward sign of inward grace, instituted by Jesus Christ, by which grace is given to us.

221) Do the Sacraments always give grace?

The Sacraments always give grace to those who receive them worthily (1 Cor 11:27).

222) Have the Sacraments the power of imparting grace?

The Sacraments have the power of imparting grace from the merits Christ's Precious Blood, which they apply, to our salvation (Eph 1:7).

223) Ought we to have a great desire to receive the Sacraments?

We ought to have a great desire to receive the Sacraments, because they are the chief" means of our salvation (Col 1:19).

224) Is a character given to the soul by any of the Sacraments?

A character is given to the soul by the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation *and Holy orders*.

225) What is a character?

A character is a mark or seal on the soul, which cannot be effaced, and therefore the Sacrament conferring it may not be repeated (2 Cor 1:22).

226) How many Sacraments are there?

There are seven Sacraments:

- 1) Baptism
- 2) Confirmation
- 3) Holy Eucharist
- 4) Confession
- 5) Anointing of the Sick
- 6) Holy Orders and
- 7) Matrimony

227) What are the sacramental's?

The sacramentals are signs, like the sacraments. They are not instituted by Christ but ap-proved by the Church and therefore they too are signs of grace. (Example: the sign of the cross, candles, and consecration).

a) The Sacrament of Baptism

⇒ Baptism is a free gift of God (Mk 16:16).



- ⇒ It is a sign of the Father's initiative (Acts 9:18).
- ⇒ He chooses and calls us first (Jn 15:16).
- ⇒ It is a new birth to the life of the risen Lord (Rom 6:5).
- ⇒ It opens us to the action of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38).
- ⇒ It liberates us from Original sin (Jn 3:5-6).
- ⇒ It inserts us into the life of the Church (Rom 12:5).
- ⇒ It begins in us a life of union with God (I Cor 6:17).
- ⇒ Baptism makes us all a new creation (2 Cor 5:17).
- ⇒ We belong to the Christian family (Eph 2:19)

228) What is Baptism?

Baptism is a sacrament by which a person is reborn for eternal life through water and the Holy Spirit (Jn 3:5).

229) Does Baptism also forgive actual sins?

Baptism also forgives actual sins, with all punishments due to them, when it is received with proper disposition (Eph 5:26).

230) Who is the ordinary minister of Baptism?

The ordinary minister of Baptism is a priest or a deacon. In case of necessity, any well intentioned person may baptize.

231) How is Baptism given?

Baptism is given by pouring water on the head saying at the same time these words: *"I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit"* (Mt 28:19).

232) What do we promise in Baptism?

We promise in Baptism to renounce the devil and all his works and pomp.

233) Is Baptism necessary for salvation?

Baptism is necessary for salvation, because Christ has said, *"Unless a person be born again of water and the Holy Spirit, he/she cannot enter into the kingdom of God."* (Jn 3:5).

a) To live Baptism I must

Believe firmly and forever (Lk 8:13). Choose every day to follow Christ (Lk 9:23).

Pray with the Bible daily (Acts 17:11). Walk in the Spirit (Gal 5:25). Go for Sunday Mass (Lk 22: 19). Serve God in others (Mt 20:28).



b) **The Sacrament of Confirmation**

Confirmation is NOT... a mere social ritual or a renewal to your childhood or a kind of Christian graduation or a showy family celebration.

But the sacrament of Confirmation IS...

Pentecost of every Christian (Acts 2:1).

The complement of Baptism (Acts 19:2-6).

The seed of Christian growth in the person (1 Pet 1:23).

The mark of God's strength (Eph 1:13).

The challenge of the gifts of the Spirit (Is 11:2).

The call of the person to be active in life of the Church (2 Thes 3:13).

The finishing touch of Christian identity (Jn 13:35).

The effects of the Sacrament of Confirmation:

It roots us more deeply in the divine filiations, which make us cry: *'Abba Father'* (Rom 8:15).

It unites us more firmly to *Jesus Christ* (Jn 15:3),

It increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us (Gal 5:23).

It renders our bond with the Church more perfectly (Eph 2:19).

It gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend our faith by word and action (Lk 21:14-15). ^/To confess the name of Jesus boldly (Acts 5:29).

Never to be ashamed of the cross (Mt 10:32).

To listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit to guide us in our personal life (Acts 16:6-7).

234) What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is a Sacrament by which we receive the Holy Spirit, in order to make us strong and perfect Christians and soldiers of Jesus Christ (2Tim 4:7).

235) Who is the ordinary minister of Confirmation?

The ordinary minister of Confirmation is a Bishop. However, he can delegate a priest to administer it in his place.

236) How does the Bishop administer the Sacrament of Confirmation?

The Bishop administers the Sacrament of Confirmation by praying that the Holy Spirit may come down upon those who are to be confirmed; and by laying his hand on them, and making the sign of the cross with chrism on their foreheads, at the same time pronouncing the words (2 Tim 1:6).

The words in Confirmation are:



Cel. N... be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.
Res. Amen

Cel. Peace be with you.
Res. And also with you.

237) What is the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist?

The Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist is the mysterious presence of Jesus among us under the appearances of bread and wine (Jn 6:55). When the people are hungry (Jn 6:1-15 ccc 1322-1405) the Lord gives them the bread from heaven (Jn 6:51). They said to him: "Lord, give us this bread always" (Jn 6:34) and elsewhere the Lord taught them to pray; "Give us today our daily bread" (Lk 11:3). Both His words and body give us life eternal (Jn 6:63).

The Holy Eucharist: The Lord Jesus' body and blood become our food and drink in (the Eucharist (Jn 6:51-55). Jesus invites us all to the celebration of His great feast. The Holy Eucharist must become the centre and joy of the Lord's Day. Go to the Holy Eucharist with all your being, mind, heart and life. The Holy Eucharist is the revelation of God's love and we profess our faith in it. It is the summit and the source of our spiritual life. In it we express the highest model of all prayers. Eucharist is the assembly of His brothers and sisters. It is the principle of unity and love. It is the highest thanksgiving and prayer. It is the expression of our authentic Christian life and worship. It is the sum and summary of our faith (cfr. ccc 1327). It is an act of thanksgiving to God (cfr. ccc 1.328).

238) Is Jesus really present in the Holy Eucharist?

Jesus is really present in the Holy Eucharist, because He said: "I am the Bread of life" (Jn 6: 51) and we believe His words.

239) When are the bread and wine changed into the Body and Blood of Christ?

The bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ when the words of consecration, are pronounced by the ordained priest in Holy Mass (1 Cor 11:23).

240) Why has Christ given Himself to us in the Holy Eucharist?

Christ has given Himself to us in the Holy Eucharist to be the food and life of our souls. "He who eats me shall live by me. He that eats this bread shall live forever" (Jn 6:58- 59).



241) Why do we prefer communion under both the species of bread and wine?

In Holy Communion we receive the risen Christ. He is entirely present under the form of bread and wine.

242) In order to receive the Holy Eucharist worthily what is required?

In order to receive the Holy Eucharist worthily we must be in a state of grace and keep the prescribed fast.

243) What does it mean to be in a *state of grace*?

To be in a state of grace is to free oneself from any mortal sin, which displeases God (2Sam 11:27).

244) What is the fast required before receiving the Holy Eucharist?

We are asked not to eat and drink one hour before the reception of this sacrament. Water however does not break the fast. The sick need not follow this rule.

245) What is the Holy Mass?

The Holy Mass is the un-bloody renewal of the sacrifice of the cross, the sacrifice of the new covenant (Lk 22:19-20).

246) In what way can we say that the Holy Mass is more than the sacrifice of Calvary?

On Calvary Jesus alone was to offer Himself to the father (Jn 10:18). In the Holy Mass we too join the sacrifice of Jesus.

247) Why does the Church offer the sacrifice of the cross in the Holy Mass?

In obedience to Jesus' command, "*Do this in remembrance of me,*" (1 Cor 11:24), we have the power to re-enact the sacrifice of the cross in the Holy Mass.

248) Why do we preserve the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle?

We preserve the *Blessed Sacrament* in the tabernacle for the dying, the sick and for those who are unable to attend the Holy Mass.

249) Is the Holy Mass one and the same Sacrifice with that of the cross?

Yes, it is the same and one sacrifice of Christ, because the Church does not repeat but re-present what happened at Mount Calvary (Heb 9:12).

250) For what purpose is the Sacrifice of the Holy Mass offered?

The Sacrifice of the Holy Mass is offered for four purposes: First, to give supreme praise and glory to God: "Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God" (Heb 13:15). Secondly, to



thank Him for all benefits: "How can I thank the Lord for all His goodness to me, the cup of salvation I shall raise and call upon His name" (Ps 115:12-13). Thirdly, to propitiate God for our sins and to obtain the grace of repentance: "This is my blood of the new covenant which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins" (Mt 26:28). And fourthly, to obtain all other graces and blessings through Jesus Christ: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth...and from his fullness we all have received, grace upon grace" (Jn . :14, 16).

251) Is the Holy Mass also a memorial of the Passion and Death of our Lord?

The Holy Mass is also a memorial of the Passion and Death of our Lord, for Christ at His last supper said: "**Do this in remembrance of Me**" (Lk 22:19). Thus the Lord has caused his wonderful work to be remembered" (Ps 111:4).

How to live Sunday Mass

1. Never to miss the Sunday Holy Mass: "For as often as you eat this bread or drink the cup you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes" (1 Cor 11:26).
2. Take a friend or two with you: "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord' (Ps 122:1) and never be late for the Holy Mass.
3. Occupy a place from where you can see, hear and participate in it: "And he (Ezra) read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the need of the men and women and those who could understand" (Neb 8:3).
4. Be attentive to the readings of the Sacred Scripture: "Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with all eagerness" (Acts 17:11).
5. Believe that Jesus is at work in all: "God is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure" (Phil 2:13).

Sacrament of Penance

A) Confession of Gratitude

I remember the past and thank God for all that He has done for me.
"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity" (Ps 103:2-3).



B) Confession of Faith

I trust in the God of love and forgiveness: "The Lord, a God merciful and gracious" (Ex 34:6). I believe in the forgiving words of Jesus: "My son/daughter, your sins are forgiven" (Mk 2:5).

C) Grace of Confession

I ask God's pardon and He forgives me because He loves me. Jesus loves me not because I am good, but His unconditional love makes me good and in Him I become "a new creation" (2 Cor 5:17). I share with others the pardon of Jesus: "Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you" (Ps 51:13)

252) What is the Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation)?

Penance is a Sacrament wherein the priest in the name of God and Church, forgives our sins, whether mortal or venial, which we have committed after Baptism, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 Jn 1:9).

253) Is it necessary to confess our sins verbally to a priest, a human-being? Why cannot we confess our sins direct to God?

All the people of Jerusalem, Judea and Jordan flocked to John the Baptist, "confessing their sins" (Mt 3:6). The prodigal son came back to his father and confessed his sins (Lk 15:19). It is God's will that we confess our sins to an ordained priest and receive forgiveness. "They glorified God who had given such authority to men" (Mt 9:8).

254) When did our Lord institute the Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation)?

Our Lord instituted the *Sacrament of Penance* when He breathed His Spirit upon His Apostles and gave them power to forgive sins, saying, "Whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven" (Jn 20:23).

255) How does the priest forgive sins?

The priest forgives sins by the power of God, when he pronounces the words of absolution. Jesus' forgiving and healing ministry continue in the Church.

256) What are the words of absolution?

The words of absolution are: "*God, the Father of mercies through the death and resurrection of His Son, has reconciled the world to Himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins, through the*



ministry of the Church, may God give you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

257) On the part of the penitent are there any conditions required for the forgiveness of sins?

Three conditions are required for the forgiveness of sins on the part of the penitent - Contrition, Confession and Satisfaction.

258) What is Contrition?

Contrition is a heartfelt sorrow for our sins: "I confess my iniquity, and I am sorry for my sin" (Ps 38:18).

259) What is a firm purpose of amendment?

A firm purpose of amendment is a resolution to avoid, by the grace of God, not only sins but also the dangerous occasion of sin, "If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out" (Mt5:29).

260) What consideration concerning God will lead us to sorrow for our sins?

By our sins, we offend an infinitely good and loving God. "Against thee, thee only, have I sinned" (Ps 51:4).

261) What consideration concerning our Saviour will lead us to sorrow for our sins?

This consideration concerning our Saviour will lead us to sorrow for our sins: that our Saviour died for our sins, and that of those who sin grievously "crucify again to themselves the Son of God, making Him a mockery" (Heb 6:6).

262) Is sorrow for sins sufficient, when we go to confession?

Sorrow for our sins is sufficient, when we go to confession. "Godly grief produces repentance that leads to salvation" (2 Cor 7:9).

263) What is *perfect contrition*?

Perfect contrition is sorrow for our sins arising purely from the love of God.

264) What special value has *perfect contrition*?

Perfect *contrition* has this special value: that by it our sins are forgiven immediately, even before we confess them; nevertheless, if they are mortal, we are strictly bound to confess them afterwards.

265) When is *contrition* called imperfect?

Contrition is called imperfect, when we are afraid of God's punishment.



"There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment" (Un 4; 18). Imperfect contrition is sufficient for confession.

266) What is meant by confessing our sins?

Confessing our sins means to speak out our sins to a priest. "He who confesses and for sakes them will obtain mercy" (Pro 28:13). We must confess all mortal sins committed after Baptism. We keep the following factors to make a good confession;

- a) I do not be ashamed to confess my sins (Sir 4:26)
- b) I do not conceal any of my sins (Pro 28:13}
- c) I do not postpone the day of my confession (Sir 5:7)
- d) I will not be self-complacent of my sins (Sir 5:4-6)
- e) I will not accuse or blame God for my sins (Sir 15:20).

267) What happens if a person willfully conceals a mortal sin in confession?

If a person willfully conceals a mortal sin in confession, he is guilty of a great sacrilege, by telling a lie to the Holy Spirit in making a bad confession. "Why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit?" (Acts 5:3).

268) What must I do to make a good confession?

To make a good confession I must:

I ask God for the grace I need to become aware of my sins. (Examination of conscience).

I ask God for the grace to be really sorry for my sins. (Repentance). I promise God to do better and to become a saint. (Resolution). I tell clearly and sincerely my sins to the priest. (Confession). I perform the penance the priest gives (Reparation). I thank God for forgiving me my sins (Thanksgiving).

269) How do I make a good confession?

I make a good confession in this way:

- 1) I make the sign of the cross and say:
"Bless (Forgive) me Father because I have sinned. I made my confession one week / month ago and I performed my penance. My resolution was...I accuse myself of these sins..." (Now confess the sins you have discovered after making the examination of conscience). Your sins against the following persons:
a) God b) Neighbors c) Myself



For all these my sins and those sins, which I do not remember now, I ask pardon, penance and absolution from you, Father.

- 2) I then listen to the advice of the priest and accept the absolution and peace.
- 3) I receive his blessing as the priest forgives, and I say: "O my God I am sorry because I have sinned against you. I am not worthy to be called your child (son/daughter) Sweet Jesus have mercy on me and pardon me."
- 4) I make the sign of the cross and say "Amen" after the priest pronounces the words of absolution,
- 5) I do the given penance (Lk 19:8).
- 6) I thank Jesus for forgiving me my sins (Lk 17:18).

Prayer before Confession

Oh Most Merciful God, I humbly thank You for all your mercies to me. Grant me, I beseech You, perfect contrition for my sins, and help me to discover all those sins which I ought to confess at this time. O my Mother Mary, intercede for me with your son Jesus Christ, and obtain for me full remission of my sins and perfect amendments of life. Amen.

Examination of Conscience

How long is it since my last Sacrament of Reconciliation? Was it incomplete in anyway? Did I receive the Eucharist without proper preparation? Have I remembered God in prayer at the beginning and the close of day? Was my prayer with adequate con-centration or was it too distracted? Have I used any unkind word? Did I observe a day of rest and honour it as a day to the Lord? Have I honoured those in authority? Have I given myself into the bad emotions, such as anger, self-pity and anxiety? Has my interpersonal relationship suffered? Have I actually broken relationship as a result of it? Am I keeping any kind of ill-feeling towards anyone? Is my sexual integrity compromised in any way? Did I watch any blue-film and any immodest pictures? Have I been involved in any kind of gossip, detraction or slander? Has there been any self indulgence in my habits of food and drink? Have I given into any kind of pride? Has that led me to look down on others? Have I been a good influence in society, or have I been a source of disunity? Have I used the time and talent that God has given me to be productive or have I been slothful? Is there anything that leaves me with a feeling a deep sense of



regret? Do I have that same spirit of repentance that was in the prodigal son and the publican in the Gospel? Do I daily join the family prayer in the evening? Do I join the morning and evening prayers with the family or the parish community?

Can I sincerely say,

I thank Jesus for the blessings of the Sacrament of forgiveness, pardon and peace?

Thanksgiving after confession

I thank you Jesus for the blessings of the Sacrament of forgiveness and for your pardon and peace. Mary my Mother, my Guardian Angel and all you Saints, by your powerful intercessions obtain for me the grace never to sin again. Amen.

270) What is *Satisfaction*?

Satisfaction is the performance of the penance given to the penitent by the priest. It is expiation for sins.

"David said to the Gibeonites, 'what shall I do for you? And how shall I make expiation?'" (2 Sam 21:3).

271) Does the penance given by the priest always make full satisfaction for our sins?

The penance given by the priest does not always make full satisfaction for our sins. We should therefore add to it other good works and penances, and try to gain indulgences.

272) What is an indulgence.

An *indulgence* is a remission, granted by the Church, for the temporal punishment, which often remains due to sin after its guilt has been forgiven.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK

What does the Lord tell us about sickness and healing?

"Honour the physician with the honour due him, according to your need of him, for the Lord created him; for healing comes from the Most High"

(Sir 38:1 -2). The doctor treats but the Lord heals the patient.

Should the sick reject medicine and rely only on prayer?

"The Lord created medicine from the earth, and a sensible man will not



despise them" (Sir 38:4). At times the Lord heals the sick through the man-made medicines.

Who is the real Healer of a Christian? And how does he get healed?

"I will put none of the diseases upon you which I put upon the Egyptians; for I am the Lord your Healer" (Ex 15:26). The Lord our God heals us with the power of His words: "Neither herb nor poultice cured them, but it was thy word, O Lord, which heals all men" (Wis16:12).

What should the sick do in the moment of his/her illness?

"My son, when you are sick do not be negligent, but pray to the Lord, and he will heal you. Give up your faults and direct your hands right, and cleanse your heart from all sin" (Sir 38:9-10).

273) What is the Sacrament of the sick?

The sacrament of the sick is the anointing of the sick with oil, accompanied with prayer: "They anointed with oil many that were sick and healed them" (Mk 6:13; Jas 5: 14-15).

274) Who should receive the Sacrament of the anointing of the sick?

Every Christian who has reached the age of reason and is seriously sick, or old people who are weak should receive the sacrament of the anointing of the sick.

275) What are the effects of the anointing of the sick?

The effects of the Sacrament of the anointing of the sick are to comfort and strengthen the soul, to remit sins and even to restore health, when God sees it to be expedient. "He cured those who had need of healing" (Lk 9:11).

276) What does the Scripture say about the anointing of the sick?

St. James says: "Is any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the Church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with the oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he has committed sins. he will be forgiven (Jas 5:14, 15).

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY ORDER

Holy Order is NOT: a right one can claim, "Every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer Gifts and sacrifices for sins.. .And one does not take the honour upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was" (Heb 5:1,4). It is not a temporary voluntary service: "You are a priesr forever after the



order of Melchizedek" (Heb 7:17). It is not a choice of the moment; "In those days, he went out into the hills to pray; and all night he continued in prayer to God. And when it was day, he called his disciples, and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles" (Lk 6:12).

Holy Order IS... a response to a call of God: "He went up into the hills, close up and called to him those whom he desired; and they came to him" (Mk 3:13). It is a total commitment at the disposal of the Holy Spirit: "While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them'" (Acts 13:2).

Holy Order IS: the goal of spiritual maturity: "You must be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Mt 5:48). It is the pledge to be poor, chaste and obedient: "It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are chaste" (Rev 14:4). Provocative Questions?

Do you really know what the life of priest is, his joys, problems, choices and motivations? Do you feel attached to any particular priest? Why? What do you like or dislike in the priest? Who is a priest for you? You ignore him - criticize him - seek him - collaborate with him? What does the priest contribute to our modern society? Did you ever ask yourself: why do I not become a priest? Do you pray for priests in difficult situations? Do you see the priest as the good shepherd in the sacrament of confession?

277) What is the Sacrament of Holy Order?

Holy Order is a Sacrament through which the mission entrusted by Jesus Christ to His apostles continues to be exercised in the Church until the end of time. It is exercised at *three levels*: episcopate, presbyterate and diaconate (cfr. ccc 1536). The Bishops enjoy:-; the fullness of the priesthood. The Priests are the close collaborators of the bishop. The diaconate has the beginning of the priestly powers.

278) Who can confer and receive the Holy Orders?

It is the Bishops who confer the Sacrament of the Holy Orders in the three degrees and only a baptized man validly receive the Holy Orders (cfr. ccc 1577).

279) How is the Sacrament of Holy Orders conferred?

The Sacrament of Holy Orders is conferred by the laying of the hands followed by a sol-emn prayer of consecration asking God to grant the ordained the grace of the Holy Spirit (1 Tim 4:14). The ordination imprints an indelible sacramental character (cfr. ccc 1 597).



280) What is the *indelible* character of Ordination?

By ordination one is enabled to act as a representative of Christ, the head of the Church, in his triple office of priest, prophet and king (cfr. ccc 1581)

281) Can the Ordination be repeated?

The Ordination, like Baptism and Confirmation, confers an indelible spiritual character and cannot be repeated or conferred temporarily (cfr. ccc 1582).

282) How does the ministerial priesthood differ from the common priesthood of the faithful?

The ministerial priesthood differs from the common priesthood of the faithful because it confers a sacred power of service of the faithful. The priests (Ordained ministers) exercise their service for the people of God by teaching them divine worship and through pastoral governance (cfr. ccc 1592).

THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Matrimony is NOT: an aggregate of two persons nor a way to get settled. It is not a private affair between two persons and a trial experience of an old-fashioned institution.

Matrimony IS: a communion of life and love that is faithful, total and fruitful. Each person is a gift of God to the Society and the Church to continue the creative work of the Lord. Thus through its service, it transmits life to the future generations through responsible use of freedom. It emphasizes the primacy of person over things. It is a Sacrament that makes a family of love and communion, which model itself upon the union and love of Christ and His Church (Eph 5:32). It is a vocation of a free and responsible choice in life, celebrating the daily liturgy of life in the domestic Church where the living image of a loving God is reflected. By living out their vocation as couples for Christ, they find fulfillment in life and reach the goal of sanctity.

Matrimony Needs: Just like any other profession, the Sacrament of Matrimony too requires a long and careful preparation through knowledge of self and others. Through a process of active listening and dialogue, the couples make their friendship deep and strong, by overcoming mere emotional outburst of transitory feelings. Partners are empowered to avoid all hurried and quick decisions lest they regret later on.



283) What is the Sacrament of Matrimony?

Matrimony is the Sacrament, which sanctifies the contract of a Christian couple and gives a special grace to those who receive it worthily. Here the Lord is called down to "witness" the covenant of marriage: "The Lord was witness to the covenant between you and she wife" (Mal 2:14).

284) What special grace does the Sacrament of Matrimony give to those who receive it worthily?

The sacrament of Matrimony gives to those who receive it worthily a special grace to enable them to bear the difficulties of their state, to love and be faithful unto death (Rom 7:2-3). It is a sacrilege to contract marriage in mortal sin, or in disobedience to the laws of the Church, and instead of a blessing, the guilty parties draw upon themselves (the displeasure of God).

285) What is a "mixed marriage?"

A "mixed marriage" is a marriage between a Catholic and one who, though baptized does not profess the true Catholic faith. Still others contract marriage with the disparity of cult* (between a Catholic and a non-baptized person) (cfr. ccc 1633*).

286) Has the Church in the past forbidden mixed marriages?

Yes, the Church in the past has forbidden mixed marriages, and considered them unlawful and even detrimental to the faith (Tob 4:12-13).

287) Does the Church now permit mixed marriages?

The Church now permits mixed marriages, by granting a dispensation, for very grave reason, and under special condition of promise that the children should be brought up in Catholic faith (1 Cor 7:14).

288) Can any human power dissolve the bond of marriage?

No human power can dissolve the bond of the marriage, because Christ has said. "What God has joined together, let no man put asunder" (Mt 19:6). For a marriage to be valid there must be present with the Bishop or the Priest or another Priest duly delegated two witnesses.



CHAPTER

6

VIRTUES AND VICES

289) What is a virtue?

A virtue is habitual and firm disposition to do good.

290) Which are the Theological Virtues?

The Theological Virtues are "*Faith, Hope and Charity*".

291) What are the chief mysteries of Faith which every Christian is bound to know?

The chief mysteries of Faith, which every Christian is bound to know, are the Unity and the Holy Trinity, who will judge every person according to his/her works. We ought to know the Incarnation, Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Saviour (Mk 9:31).

292) Which are the Cardinal Virtues?

The Cardinal Virtues are "*Prudence, Justice, Fortitude, and Temperance*" (Wis 8:7).

293) Why are they called Cardinal Virtues?

They are called *Cardinal Virtues* because they are the hinges on which all moral virtues turn (Wis 7:12).

294) Which are they called Cardinal Virtues?

The two great precepts of Charity are:

1. "You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, and with your whole soul, and with your whole mind, and with your whole strength."
2. "You shall love your neighbour as yourself (Mk 12:30-31).

295) Which are the *Seven Corporal Works of Mercy*:

1. To feed the hungry
2. To give drink to the thirsty
3. To cloth the naked
4. To shelter the homeless
5. To visit the sick
6. To visit the imprisoned and
7. To bury the dead (cfr. Mt25:35f; Tob 12:12f).

296) Which are the *Seven Spiritual Works of Mercy*?

The seven Spiritual Works of Mercy are:



1. To convert the sinner (Jas 5:20).
2. To instruct the ignorant (Sir 51:23).
3. To counsel the doubtful (Jas 1:6).
4. To comfort the sorrowful (Mt 5:4).
5. To bear wrongs patiently (Pro 12:16).
6. To forgive injuries (Pro 17:9).
7. To pray for the living and the dead (Sir 7:33).

297) Which are the Eight Beatitudes?

The eight *Beatitudes* are:

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
2. Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the land.
3. Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.
4. Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after justice, for they shall be satisfied.
5. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
6. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
7. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.
8. Blessed are they that suffer persecution for justice's sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven (Mt 5:3-10).

298) Which are the Seven Capital sins and their contrary virtues?

The Seven Capital sins (Gal 5:19-23) and their contrary virtues are:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. Pride | 1) Humility |
| 2. Covetousness | 2) Liberality |
| 3. Lust | 3) Chastity |
| 4. Anger | 4) Meekness |
| 5. Gluttony | 5) Temperance |
| 6. Envy | 6) Brotherliness |
| 7. Sloth | 7) Diligence |

299) Why are they called *capital sins*?

They are called *capital* sins because they are the sources from which all other sins are generated (Ps 7:14).

300) When are we answerable for the sins of others?

We are answerable for sins of others whenever we cause them, or share in them, through our own fault (1 Tim 5:22).



301) How many ways may we cause or share the guilt of another's sin?

Nine ways we may either cause or share the sin another:

- 1) By counsel
- 2) By command
- 3) By consent
- 4) By provocation
- 5) By praise of flattery
- 6) By concealment
- 7) By being a partner in the sin
- 8) By silence and
- 9) By defending the evil done.

302) Which are the three eminent Good Works?

The three eminent Good Works are, Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving (Mt 6:2, 5, 1 6).

303) Which are the Evangelical Counsels?

The Evangelical Counsels are voluntary Poverty, perpetual Chastity and entire Obedience (Mk 10:21; Rev 14:4; Phil 2:8).

304) What are the four last things to be ever remembered?

The four last things to be ever remembered are Death, Judgment, Hell and Heaven (Eccl 8:8).

305) What is Judgment?

All men will have to appeal' before Christ to be judged (Mt 25:32). We distinguish - a 'particular judgment' immediately after death (Heb 9:27), and a 'general (public, last) judgment,' to conclude history and to inaugurate the Messianic age.

A PUBLIC JUDGMENT IS A DEMAND OF JUSTICE:

For Jesus: He dies on the cross, humbled and despised. Justice demands that He be glorified in the sight of all (Phil 2:9-1 1).

For all others: In our earthly life, virtuous persons have not been honored duly and criminals have often been praised (Job 13:3). Justice demands that virtues get public praise and that crime be publicly exposed (Eph 5: 11).

306) What do you know

Heaven is the permanent communion of life with Jesus, with His Mother, the Angels and the Saints. Heaven is not a place but a state of happiness, a new mode of existence. Heaven cannot be imagined on earth. *'No eye has seen, no ear has heard, nor has it ever been conceived in the heart of man, what God has prepared for those who love him* (1 Cor 2:9), still, each one will be perfectly happy - St. Theresa of Child Jesus explained: it is as with different sizes of cups, one has a greater capacity than another,



but all will be so full.

307) Is there Hell?

The Scripture are serious about hell: the Bible mentions hell 70 times. Jesus mentions 25 times the possibility of rejection (Mt 25:41, 46; Lk 16:23). Will there be many in hell? We do not know. But those who die unrepented, refusing the pardon of God and recon-ciliation with their neighbour - such through their own fault exclude themselves forever from the happiness that consists in communion with God and neighbors (Mk 3:29). The Church has canonized saints, but has never proclaimed anybody to be definitely in hell. Hell is not God's creation. It is man who creates a hell for himself. Salvation is offered never imposed.





CHAPTER

7

**OUR PERSONAL
PLAN OF LIFE**

308) What Personal Plan of Life must we follow if we hope to be saved?

If we hope to be saved, we must follow the personal plan of life taught by Jesus Christ, "Let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ" (Phil 1:27).

309) What are we bound to do by the Personal Plan of Life taught by Jesus Christ?

By the personal plan of life taught by Jesus Christ we are bound always to hate sin and to love God above all and our neighbors as we love ourselves (Mk 1 2:29-31!).

310) How must we hate sin?

We must hate sin in all its varied forms and resolve never to commit a willful sin, for "the fear of the Lord is hatred of sin" (Pro 8:13).

311) How must we love God?

We must love God above all things: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength and with all your mind" (Lk10:27).

312) How must we learn to love God?

We must learn to love God by praying: "Lord, we know not what we ought to ask of you (Lk 11:11-13). You only know what we need. You love us better than we know how to love ourselves. Oh Heavenly Father! Give us, your children, that which we ourselves know not how to ask. We would have no other desire than to accomplish your will. Lord, teach us to pray as John taught his disciples (Lk 11:1). Teach us how to love and forgive one another".

313) What will the love of God lead us to do?

The love of God will lead us often to think how good God is; to speak to Him in our hearts and to please Him: "I always do what is pleasing to Him" (Jn 8:29).

314) What is the best prayer to do God's will?

O Holy Spirit, Beloved of my soul, I adore you; enlighten me, guide me, strengthen me and console me. Tell me what I should do. Give me your orders. I submit myself to all that you desire of me and to accept all that you permit to happen to me (Sir 39:5-11). Let me only know your will. Amen.



315) Does Jesus Christ also command us to love one another?

Jesus Christ also commands us to love one another, that is, no one in need to be excluded from our love (Lk 10:27).

316) How are we to love one another?

We are to love one another by wishing well and praying for one another, and by never allowing ourselves any thought, word or deed to the injury of anyone (Mt 5:44-48).

317) Are we also bound to love our enemies?

We are also bound to love our enemies; not only by forgiving them from our hearts, but also by wishing them well and praying for them (Lk 6:27-28; 23:34) When we pray for our enemies ...

- we are drawn closer to God (Mt 5:45)
- we experience a change of heart (Mt 5:9)
- we see God set work in us (Jn 5:17)
- we feel better emotionally and physically (Rom 12:18)
- we become more like Jesus (Lk 23:34).

318) Has Jesus Christ given us another personal plan of life?

Jesus Christ has give us another personal plan of life with the words: *"If any one will come after Me, let him/her deny himself/herself and take up his/her cross daily, and fol-low Me."* (Lk 9:23).

319) How are we to deny ourselves?

We are to deny ourselves by giving up our own old sinful nature: "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamour and slander be put away from you, with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you!" (Eph 4:31-32).

320) Why are we bound to deny ourselves?

We are bound to deny ourselves because our natural inclinations are prone to evil from our very childhood; and, if not corrected by self-denial, they will certainly carry us away from the love of God (Jas 4:8). The more we give in to the body, the more the body will demand. We will not be able to satisfy our body (Rom 8:5).

321) How are we to take up our cross daily?

We are to take up our cross daily by submitting daily with patience to the labours and sufferings of this sort of life, and by bearing them willingly for the love of God (cfr. Lk 9:23).

322) How are we to follow Jesus Christ?

We are to follow Jesus Christ by walking in His footsteps and imitating His virtues (Mt 11:29).



323) What are the principal virtues we have to learn from Jesus?

The principal virtues we have to learn from Jesus are *meekness, humility, fortitude and obedience* (Mt 11:28-30).

324) Which are the enemies we must fight against all the days of our life?

The enemies, which we must fight against all the days of our life, are the *devil*, the world and the *flesh* (1 Jn 2:16-17).

325) What do you mean by devil?

By *devil* I mean *Satan* and all his wicked angels, who are ever seeking to draw us into sin, that we may be damned with them (Rev 12:9).

326) Why do you include the devil and the world among enemies of the soul?

I include the devil and the world among the enemies of the soul because they are always seeking, by temptation and by word or example, to carry us along with them in the broad road that leads to damnation (1 Jn 2:15).

327) What do you mean by the 'world'?

By the 'world' I mean the false teachings of the society of those who love the vanities, riches and pleasures of this world better than God: "Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?" (Jas 4:4).

328) What do you mean by the 'flesh'?

By the flesh I mean our own corrupt inclinations and passion: "To set the mind on the flesh is death" (Rom 8:6).

328) What are the means to lead a pure life?

- 1) Lead a life of work and temperance (2 Thes 3:10-11).
- 2) Practice mortification of senses (Mt 5:29).
- 3) Make prudent use of the means of the mass media (1 Jn 2:16).
- 4) Take care of both the physical and mental health (Sir 30:15).
- 5) "How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word" (Ps 119:9).
- 6) Have a tender devotion to Jesus (Jn 14:21).
- 7) Be submissive to the voice of the Holy Spirit (Eph 4:30).
- 8) Go for confession as frequently as possible (1 Jn 1:9).
- 9) Have a spiritual father/mother (Heb 12:9).
- 10) Have filial devotion to the virgin mother Mary (Lk 1:27).

329) In the warfare against the devil, the world and the flesh, on whom must we depend?

In the warfare against the devil, the world and the flesh, we must depend not on our selves, but on God: "Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might" (Eph 6:10).



330) How should you rise in the morning?

I should rise in the morning diligently, dress modestly and then read the Bible and offer your morning prayers.

331) How should you begin the day?

I should begin the day by making the sign of the cross as soon as I wake up and utter some short prayers such as *O my God, I offer my heart and my soul to you. Praise you Jesus; thank you Jesus. Alleluia! Jesus, I trust in your love for me.*

332) Should you also attend the Holy Mass daily if you have time and opportunity?

I should also attend the Holy Mass daily if I have the time and opportunity, for to participate in the Holy Mass daily would be the best and the most profitable of all devotions.

333) Is it very useful to make daily meditation?

It is very useful to make an hour of daily meditation for such was the request of the Lord: "Could you not watch one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation" (Mk 14:38).

334) On what ought we to meditate?

We ought to meditate especially on the four important things: love of God, the life, the passion of Jesus Christ and the Word of God.

335) Ought we frequently to read good books?

We ought to frequently read the best books, such as the Bible, the Lives of the Saints, *Introduction to devout life*, *Treatise on love of God*, and other spiritual works, which nourish our faith and piety, and warn us against the false maxims of the world.

336) What should you do as to your eating, drinking, sleeping and amusements?

"Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Cor 10:31). "Be the first to stop eating, for the sake of good manners, and do not be insatiable, lest you give offence" (Sir 31:17).

337) How should we sanctify our ordinary actions and employment of the day?

We should sanctify our ordinary words and actions of the day by offering up continually a sacrifice of praise to God and acknowledge Jesus as Lord (Heb 13:15).

338) What should we do when we find ourselves tempted to sin?

When we find ourselves tempted to sin we should make the sign of the



cross, and call on God as earnestly as we can, saying: "Save us Lord: we are perishing" (Mt 8:25). Lord, I believe, increase my faith (Mk 9:24).

339) If we fall into sin what should we do?

If we fall into sin, we repent and then we go to confession.

340) When God sends any cross or sickness or pains what should we pray?

When God sends any cross or sickness or pain we should pray, "*Lord, Your will be done; I accept this for my sins and the sins of all the people*" (Mt 26:39).

341) What ejaculatory prayers should we pray during the day?

We should pray often during the day such short prayers as: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen. O Sacrament most Holy, O Sacrament divine, All praise and all thanksgiving be every moment Thine.

Jesus, have mercy on me (Mk 10:48).

Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me a sinner (Mk 10:47).

Praise you Jesus, Thank you Jesus (Lk 17:16).

Praise you Holy Spirit. Thank you Holy Spirit (Jn 16:14).

Jesus, Master, Have mercy on us (Lk 17:13).

Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make me more like you (Mt 11:29)

Maranatha Come, Lord Jesus! (Rev 22:20).

Mother Mary, Mother of Love, guide me every day (Sir 24:18).

Jesus' mother, help me to do whatever your son Jesus tells me do (In 2:5).

Mary, Mother of all Living, intercede for us (Gen 3:20).

342) How should you finish the day?

We should finish the day by kneeling down and saying our night prayers.

343) What should we do after our night prayers?

After our night prayers we should observe due modesty in going to bed, occupy ourselves with the thoughts of God's word, and endeavor to compose ourselves to rest at the foot of the cross and give our last thoughts to Jesus our friend.

344) What about the Prayer of the Church?

It is a wonderful practice in the Catholic Church to pray the *Prayer of the Church*. (Pray the psalms daily) The psalms are an essential and paramount element of the Prayers of the Church. They are suitable for every one of every conditions and time. (cfr. ccc 2597).



PART B

DISCOVERING JESUS IN

THE BIBLE





I

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

1. Introduction

The land of Israel was ruled by several different empires for four hundred years. The people of Israel did not have their own king because they were governed by foreign rulers. The Israelites believed that God was going to send a great king who would deliver them from their oppressors. Many of the people of Israel waited for the Messiah, the Saviour, who would be sent from God. When the Roman empire was ruling over Israel, the time came for the Saviour to be born. The writings of the New Testament begin with the birth of the Saviour.

2. The Bible Lesson - Luke 1:26-48 and 2: 1-20

3. Why Jesus is called the Son of God?

Jesus Christ is truly the Son of God. His father was not Mary's husband, Joseph. While Mary was still a virgin, she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Mary was the mother of Jesus Christ but God was his father. Jesus Christ was truly Son of the Most High God. Jesus is God's own Son and he was born with the same pure and sinless nature of his heavenly Father.

4. Was Jesus Christ truly a king?

Jesus Christ was truly a king. Mary, the mother of Jesus was a direct descendant of King David. This made Jesus the rightful heir to the throne of Israel. Jesus was a king but he was not born in a palace. Jesus was born in a shed where the animals were kept. His family was not wealthy or important in the Jewish community. Instead, Jesus was born into a family of poor and simple people. Jesus came into the world as a humble king who was born to be a servant to all people.

5. Why did the shepherds glorify and praise God?

The shepherds rejoiced when they heard the good news of the Saviour's birth. They were so excited that they hurried into Bethlehem to find the newborn baby. The shepherds spread the word that the Saviour had been born that night. They glorified and praised God for all that they had heard and seen.

6. Answer the following:

Go through the Bible lesson mentioned above and answer the follow

- a) What message did the angel give to Mary?
- b) What was the child to be called?
- c) What did Mary say to the angel?



- d) Where did Mary go?
- e) Why did Elizabeth say that Mary was blessed?
- f) Why did Mary rejoice?
- g) What happened while Mary and Joseph were in Bethlehem?
- h) Who did the angel say had been born?
- i) How were the shepherds to find the baby?
- j) What did the shepherds do after they saw the baby?

7. Here are names of some people and places from the Bible lesson given above. Find the correct answer from the list given below: *Simeon/ Anna/ Herod/ The Magi/ Nazareth/ Egypt/ Bethlehem/ Jerusalem*

- a) The name of the town where Joseph took his family to live.
.....
- b) They were the wise men from the east
- c) The name of the city where Jesus was born.....
- d) The name of the city where the temple was located.....
- e) He was a righteous and devout man in Jerusalem.....
- f) She was the prophetess who worshiped in the temple.....
- g) The place where Joseph took his family to escape from Herod
- h) The name of the Roman King of Judea.....

8. Questions for Reflection

- a) Who do you think Jesus is?
- b) How does Jesus come to you?
- c) The Shepherds rejoiced when they received the news of Jesus birth. Why should you rejoice and be excited?

Verse from the Bible

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)





II

THE BOY JESUS

1. Introduction

It was the custom in Israel for parents to dedicate every newborn baby boy to the Lord. At the proper time, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple.

2. The Bible Lesson - Luke 2:21-38 and Matthew 2:1-23 and Luke 2:40-52

3. Who had been looking and waiting for the Saviour to come?

Many people in Israel had been waiting a long time for the Christ, or Saviour, to be born. The Holy Spirit revealed to Simeon that Jesus was the one who would bring salvation to all people. Anna knew that Jesus was the child whom God had sent to deliver the people of Israel from their sins. The wise men or Magi from the east had been searching for many years to find the great king about whom the prophets had written.

4. Did God have a plan for the life of Jesus?

God had a plan for the life of his Son, Jesus. Before Jesus was born, God had revealed some parts of that plan to the prophets who wrote in the Old Testament. God had spoken to the prophets and told them that Christ, the Messiah, would be born in Bethlehem, It had also been written that Christ would be called out of Egypt. God had known that Jesus would have to go to Egypt to escape from Herod. God also knew that Jesus would be brought up in the village of Nazareth. God had a perfect plan for the life of his Son, Jesus, and led him in the right way.

5. What kind of boy was Jesus?

In many ways, Jesus was just like any other boy his age. He liked to play games and have fun. Jesus had many friends because he was very kind and gracious. In some ways, Jesus was different from other boys his age. Jesus knew that he had been sent to earth for a special reason,. As he grew older, Jesus wanted to learn more about the Word of God that had been written by the Old Testament prophets. Jesus enjoyed listening to the priests and teachers in the temple. He wanted to learn as much as he could about the work that his Father wanted him to do.

6. Answer these Questions

Find the verses in the Bible Lesson that give the answers to these



questions.

- a) Why did Mary and Joseph take Jesus to Jerusalem?
- b) What had the Holy Spirit revealed to Simeon?
- c) What did Anna say about the child Jesus?
- d) Why did the Magi come to Jerusalem?
- e) How did the Magi find the child Jesus?
- f) What did the Magi do when they saw the child?
- g) What did the angel tell Joseph to do?
- h) What orders did Herod give?
- i) What kind of child was Jesus?
- j) What happened when Jesus was twelve years old?

7. Who said it?

Here are some statements that were said by different people in the Bible lesson. Write (the name of the person who said each statement.

Mary / Jesus / The Prophet / Herod / The Magi / Simeon / Angel of the Lord

- a) "My eyes have seen your salvation."
- b) "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?"
.....
- c) "Go and make a careful search for the child."
- d) "Take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt."
.....
- e) "He will be called a Nazarene."
- f) "Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."
.....
- g) "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"
.....

8. People and places

Here are the names of some people and places that you read about in the Bible lesson. Find the correct answer.



Simeon / Anna / Herod / the Magi / Nazareth / Egypt / Bethlehem / Jerusalem

- a) The name of the town where Joseph took his family to live
.....
- b) They were the wise men from the east.....
- c) The name of the city where Joseph was born.....
- d) The name of the city where the temple was located.....
.....
- e) He was a righteous and devout man in Jerusalem.....
- f) She was the prophetess who worshiped in the temple.....
.....
- g) The place where Joseph took his family to escape from Herod
- h) The name of the Roman king of Judea.....

9. Questions for Reflection:

- a) Have you been looking for the Saviour?
- b) Does the Lord have a plan for your life?
- c) Do you want to be like Jesus?

Verse from the Bible:

"Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and men." (Luke 2:52)



III

**THE BEGINNING OF
HIS PUBLIC MINISTRY**

1. Introduction

Jesus lived in Nazareth with his parents and brothers and sisters. He worked with Joseph in his carpenter's shop and Jesus became a carpenter, too. When he was thirty years old, Jesus left Nazareth. The time had come for him to do the work that God had sent Jesus to do. Jesus had a cousin named John the Baptist who was a prophet. John told the people to prepare their hearts for the coming of the Messiah.

2. The Bible Lesson - Matthew 3:1-6 and John 1:19-31 and Matthew 3:13-17 and Luke 4:mk' 1-29

How did John the Baptist tell the people to prepare for the coming of the Lord? John the Baptist preached to the people so that they would be prepared to receive the Saviour. John told the people to repent and turn away from their evil ways. He told them to confess their sins and seek God's forgiveness. When Jesus came, John knew that he was the Lamb of God. John told the people that Jesus was the one sent to die to take away their sin.

3. Why was God pleased with his Son, Jesus?

God, the Father, was pleased with his Son, Jesus Christ. God loved Jesus and he wanted everyone to know that Jesus was his Son. Jesus had humbled himself and was baptised like all the other people. Jesus did not need to repent and be baptised because he was without any sin in his life. Jesus was pure and holy and perfect. God was pleased with his Son, Jesus, because he was willing to do whatever his Father asked him to do.

4. How did Jesus resist the devil's temptations?

When the devil tempted Jesus to sin, Jesus answered the devil with a verse from God's word. Jesus did not want to disobey the commands of God. When the devil told Jesus to do things that were wrong, Jesus spoke the word of God to the devil. The word of God reminded Jesus of the right things to do. Jesus did not sin because he resisted the devil's temptations by speaking the word of God.

5. Why did the people the Nazareth reject Jesus as the Messiah whom God had sent?

The people of Nazareth would not accept Jesus as the Saviour whom God had sent. The people of his native village thought that Jesus was the son



of Joseph. They did not know the truth about Jesus. The people rejected him and tried to kill Jesus.

6 Answer these Questions

Find the verses in the Bible lesson that give the answers to these questions.

- a) What did John the Baptist say to the people?
- b) Who did John say that Jesus was?
- c) What happened after Jesus was baptised?
- d) What did God say from Heaven?
- e) How long was Jesus tempted by the devil?
- f) Why did the devil tell Jesus to make the stones into bread?
- g) What did Jesus do after he returned to Galilee?
- h) What did Jesus say to the people about the scripture he had read to them?
- i) Why did the people become furious with Jesus?

7. Who was it?

Here are the names of some people that you read about in the Bible lesson. Write the correct name after each statement.

Jesus / the devil / Elijah / Spirit of God / Elisha / John the Baptist

- a) He preached in the desert
- b) He came down like a dove
- c) He tempted Jesus in the desert
- d) He taught in the synagogues
- e) He was sent to the widow of Zarepath
- f) He healed Naaman the Syrian

8. Questions for Reflection:

- a) How can you prepare your heart to receive Jesus Christ as your Saviour?
- b) Is God pleased with you?
- c) How can you keep from doing things that are wrong?

Verse from the Bible:

And a voice from Heaven said, "This is my Son,
Whom I love; with him I am well
pleased." (Matthew 3:17)





IV

**JESUS AND HIS
DISCIPLES**

1. Introduction

There were several men who were disciples of John the Baptist. These men followed him and listened to John's teachings. When Jesus came to be baptized, John told his disciples that Jesus was the Saviour for whom they had been waiting. Two of John's disciples decided to follow Jesus. Later, there were many other people who became disciples of Jesus.

2. The Bible Lesson - John 1: 40 - 50 and Luke 5: 1-11; 27 - 32 and Mark 3:7-19 und 6:6-13

3. What did Andrew and Philip do when they learned that Jesus was the Saviour?

When Andrew and Philip learned that Jesus was the Saviour, they went to tell other people the good news. Andrew went to his brother, Simon Peter, and told him that he had found the Saviour. Philip went to Nathaniel and told him that Jesus was the Saviour for whom they had been waiting. Andrew and Philip were so excited that they could not wait to tell someone else the good news about Jesus.

4. Why did the three fishermen decide to follow Jesus?

Simon Peter, James, and John left everything and followed Jesus. They left all the fish that they had caught. They left their fishing boats and their homes. These men decided to follow Jesus because they knew that he was the Saviour. They wanted to learn from Jesus' teachings and be his students or disciples. Peter, James and John were willing to go wherever Jesus went and they became his true disciples.

5. Why did the Pharisees not think that they were sinners?

The Pharisees could not understand why Jesus ate with people who were known to be sinners in their village. The Pharisees were religious men who thought that they were better than other people. Jesus told the proud Pharisees that only those who are sick go to a doctor to be cured. Those who think that they are holy and righteous do not know that there are really sinners. Jesus said that those who know that they have sinned against God will repent and come to him for forgiveness. Levi was a tax



collector who had taken bribes and cheated the people out of their money. Levi knew that he was a sinner who needed to be forgiven of his sins. Levi left his sinful ways and decided to follow Jesus.

6. Why did Jesus choose certain men to be his apostles?

There were many people who followed Jesus as his disciples. From these many disciples, Jesus appointed twelve men to be special apostles. These twelve men were given the task of preaching the good news to other people. Jesus gave them the authority to cast out de-mons and heal the sick. The apostles became Jesus' closest and dearest companions. For almost three years, they ate and slept and walked with Jesus. They listened to his teachings and saw all the wonderful miracles that he did. Jesus was preparing these twelve men for a very important work that he wanted them to do.

7. Answer these questions.

- a) What did Philip tell Nathaniel?
- b) Why did Nathaniel declare that Jesus was the Son of God?
- c) What happened after Simon did what Jesus told him to do?
- d) What did Jesus say to Simon?
- e) What did the three fishermen do?
- f) What did Levi do after Jesus told him to follow him?
- g) What did Jesus say to the Pharisees?
- h) Why did the people come to see Jesus?
- i) Why did Jesus choose twelve apostles?
- j) What instructions did Jesus give to the twelve apostles?

8. Who said it?

Here are some statements said by different people in the Bible lesson. Write the name of the person who said each statement.
The Pharisees / Nathaniel / Jesus / Andrew / Simon Peter

- a) "We have found the Messiah."
- b) "Follow me."
- c) "You are the Son of God, you are the king of Israel."
- d) "Go away from the, LORD; I am a sinful man."
- e) "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?"
- f) "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."



9. Names of the 12 Apostles

Here are the names of many men that you have read about in all the Bible lessons. Twelve of these names are the names of the apostles that Jesus chose. Find the names of the twelve apostles and underline them.

Bartholomew / David / Matthew / Noah / Solomon / John / Adam / Judas Iscariot / Thom-as / Saul / Moses / Philip / James the son of Alphaeus / Simon Peter / Jacob / Elijah / Andrew / James / Simon the Zeaiot / Samson / Daniel / Cain / Isaiah / Thaddaeus

10. Questions for Reflection

- a) Have you told anyone else the good news about Jesus Christ?
- b) What does it mean to be a true disciple of Jesus Christ?
- c) Do you know that you are a sinner?
- d) How can you become like one of the apostles?

Verse from the Bible

"And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:27





V

JESUS HEALS THE SICK

1. Introduction

Jesus had the power to heal the sick because he was the son of God. When the people heard about the power of Jesus, they came to him to be healed.

2. The Bible Lesson- Matthew 4: 23 - 25 and 8: 1 - 17 and 9: 27 - 31 and Luke 5: 17-26

3. Whom did Jesus heal?

Jesus was willing to heal all the people who came to him. When the leper came to him, Jesus said that he was willing to heal him. Jesus also healed the blind man, the para-lyzed man, and the centurion's servant. Jesus healed all the various diseases of the people who came to him for healing. Jesus did not turn anyone away. All who came to Jesus were healed of their sicknesses and infirmities.

4. Why were the people healed by Jesus?

Jesus was amazed at the faith of the centurion. This Roman soldier had more faith than an Israelite. The centurion's servant was healed because he believed that Jesus has au-thority over disease. The two blind men believed that Jesus was able to heal them. Their sight was restored because they had faith to believe that Jesus could open their eyes. The friends of the paralyzed man proved that they had faith in Jesus. When Jesus saw their faith, he spoke the words that brought healing to the paralyzed man.

5. Why did Jesus reach out and touch some of those people who were healed?

Jesus reached out and touched the man who had leprosy and he was healed. Jesus touched the eyes of the blind men and their sight was restored. Jesus touched the hand of Peter's mother-in-law and the fever left her. The touch of Jesus' had brought healing to many people.

6. Answer these Questions

Find the verses in the Bible lesson that give the answers to these questions:

- a. What kind of diseases did Jesus heal?
- b. How was the leper healed?
- c. How did the centurion show that he had faith in Jesus?



- d. Why was Jesus astonished?
- e. When was the centurion's servant healed?
- f. How was Peter's mother-in-law healed?
- g. How did Jesus fulfill Isaiah's prophecy?
- h. How did the two blind men show that they had faith?
- i. How did the friends of the paralyzed man show that they had faith in Jesus?
- j. How was the paralyzed man healed?

7. Words of Jesus

Here are some statements that Jesus said to different people before he healed them. Write down the name of the person to whom Jesus was speaking.

The leper / The centurion / The paralyzed man / The blind man

- a) "According to your faith, will it be done to you."
- b) "I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith"
- c) "I am willing, Be clean."
- d) "Get up, take your mat and go home."

8. Touched by Jesus

In the Bible lesson you read about several people who were healed by Jesus. Some people were healed when Jesus touched them. Underline the person who were healed when Jesus touched them. The paralyzed man / the centurion's servant / the leper / the two blind men /the demon--possessed man / Peter's mother-in-law.

9. Questions for Reflection

- a. Will Jesus heal you?
- b. How can you be healed?
- c. Can Jesus reach out and touch you?

Verse from the Bible

He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases.

Matthew 8 : 17.





VI

POWER OVER EVIL

1. Introduction

Jesus has power over all the forces of evil in this world because he is the Son of God. Jesus is more powerful than Satan and all of his evil spirits. The demons were afraid of Jesus because they knew he was the Son of God.

2. The Bible Lesson - Luke 4: 31 - 37 and Marks 5: 1 - 20 and 9: 14 - 29

3. What are demons?

Demons are angels who once lived in Heaven with God. They rebelled against God and they were cast out of Heaven. The demons were thrown down to earth and Satan became their ruler. They are called evil spirits because they only do evil things. Demons try to gain control of the minds and the bodies of people on the earth. The wild man of Gerasenes was possessed by a legion of evil spirits. The boy who could not speak was bound by a deaf and dumb spirit. Jesus proved that he has power over Satan and his evil spirit when he cast them out of these people. Jesus has the authority to command the evil spirits and they must obey him.

4. What things are possible if we believe?

The disciples of Jesus were unable to cast the evil spirit out of the boy because they did not believe. The father of the boy did not have enough faith to believe that Jesus could help him. Jesus told the father that everything is possible to him who believes. The father asked Jesus to help him overcome his doubt and unbelief.

5. Why is there evil in the world?

There are two kingdoms that are in the world. There is the Kingdom of light and the Kingdom of darkness. Jesus rules the Kingdom of light which is called the Kingdom of God. Satan rules the Kingdom of darkness which is called the Kingdom of this world. Jesus came to earth to destroy the works of Satan. Jesus came to show us what the Kingdom of God is like. In God's perfect Kingdom there is no sin or disease or evil.

6. Answer these Questions

Find the verses in the Bible that give the answers to these questions.

- a. Why did the demons come out of the man at the synagogue?
- b. Whom did Jesus meet when he got out of the boat?
- c. What did the man do that showed he was demon-possessed?
- d. Why were the pigs drowned in the lake?



- e. What did Jesus tell man to do?
- f. What did the evil spirit do to the boy?
- g. Why was Jesus angry with the disciples?
- h. Why did the evil spirit come out of the boy?
- i. What did the evil spirit do when it came out of the boy?
- j. How does this kind of evil spirit come out?

7. Who Said It?

Here are some statements that were said by different people in the Bible lesson. Write the name of the person from the options given.

The people of Capernaum / Jesus / The boy's father

- a) "With authority and power he gives orders to evil spirits and they come out."
- b) "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you."
- c) "Everything is possible to him who believes."
- d) "I do believe; help me overcome me unbelief"
- e) "This kind can come out only by prayer."

8. The Kingdom of God

Here is a list of things that you can identify with the Kingdom of God or with the King-dom of darkness. Underline the things that belong to the Kingdom of God.

Love / health / sin / hatred / evil / joy / holiness / peace / disease / life / death / darkness / light / wickedness.

9. Questions for Reflection

- a) How can you be protected from demons?
- b) Who can give you more faith to believe in Jesus?
- c) How can you be free from Satan's control?

Verse from the Bible

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the Kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sin. Colossians” 1:13.





VII

POWER OVER DEATH

1. Introduction

God is the giver of life and his Son, Jesus Christ has power over death. Jesus has the power to raise the dead and bring them back to life.

2. The Bible Lesson - Mark 5: 21 - 43 and Luke 7:11-17 and John 5: 19 - 30

3. Why did the dead girl come back to life? How did Jesus bring the widow's son back to life?

Jesus Christ is the Son of God and he can speak the words that bring life to those who are dead. Jesus spoke to the dead girl and told her to get up. When Jesus saw the dead man lying on the funeral pier, he commanded him to get up. The young girls and the man came back to life because Jesus has the power over death. Jesus has the authority to command the dead to come to life again. There is no other God or any other person who has the power to bring the dead back to life.

4. How did Jesus feel when Jairus' daughter died? How did Jesus feel when he saw the widow woman crying?

Jesus felt compassion for Jairus when he learned that his daughter had died. Jesus told Jairus not be afraid, but to believe. When Jesus saw the widow woman crying, his heart was broken for her. Jesus comforted the widow in her time of sorrow. Jesus understood the grief of those people who had lost someone whom they loved.

5. What kind of life does Jesus give?

Jesus said that he could do nothing by his own power. The power that Jesus has comes from his heavenly Father. God, the Father, is the giver of all life and Jesus has the power to give life to whomsoever he pleases. Jesus gives eternal life to those who hear his word and believe in God. Those who believe that Jesus is their Saviour, will pass from death to life. When their physical bodies die, their spirits will go on to live forever in Heaven with God.

6. Answer these Questions

Find the verses in the Bible lesson that give the answers to these questions.

- a) What did Jairus ask Jesus to do?
- b) What did the woman do that showed she had faith in Jesus?
- c) Why did the people laugh at Jesus?



- d) What happened after Jesus spoke to the girl?
- e) How was the dead man brought back to life?
- f) What did the people say about Jesus?
- g) Why can Jesus do nothing by himself?
- h) To whom does the Saviour give life?
- i) Can you honour God without honouring his Son, Jesus?
- j) Who has eternal life?

7. Who is it?

Here are the names of some people that you read in the Bible lesson. Number the correct names.

Jairus / Jairus' daughter / Peter, James, John / The widow / The widow's son

- a) She lived in a town called Nain
- b) He was raised from the dead,
- c) She was twelve years old.
- d) He was a ruler of the synagogue
- e) They went into the house with Jesus

8. Words of Jesus

In the Bible lesson there were several people to whom Jesus spoke. To whom did Jesus say the following:

Jairus / The dead girl / The widow / The dead man / The woman in the crowd / The mourners

- a) "Daughter, your faith has healed you."
- b) "Don't be afraid, just believe,"
- c) "The child is not dead, but asleep."
- d) "Little girl, I say to you, get up."
- e) "Young man, I say to you, get up."



9. Questions for Reflection

- a) Is Jesus able to raise the dead today?
- b) Does Jesus understand how you feel?
- c) How can you receive eternal life?

Verse from the Bible

"For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it." John 5:21.



VIII

POWER OVER NATURE

1. Introduction

God, the Father, is the creator of the universe. His Son, Jesus Christ, was with him when he created the world. Jesus Christ is called the Word because he reveals the Father to us.

2. The Bible Lesson - John 1: 1 -5: 10- 14 and 2: 1 - 10 and Mark 4: 35-41 and 6:30-56

3. Why did Jesus become a man?

Jesus Christ has already existed. Before the world was created, Jesus was with God, his Father in heaven. Jesus came to earth as God's Son to show people who God is and what he is like. Jesus Christ became a man so that he could reveal the Father to people on the earth. The life that Jesus lived here on earth shows us the grace and truth of God, the Father. The love and compassion that Jesus showed to people is the same love that God has for all the people of the world.

4. Why is Jesus able to control the natural forces on the earth?

God spoke and the world was created. Jesus Christ is the Word of God. He was with the Father when he created the world. All things are made through the spoken Word of God, Jesus Christ. Because he is one with God, the creator, Jesus has power over the natural forces on earth. Jesus Christ can create food and wine. He can control the weather and walk on the water. Jesus has power over all the things that he has created.

5. What did the disciples do when they were in the storm?

When the disciples were in the storm, they were very frightened. They called upon Jesus to save them from drowning. Jesus commanded the wind and water to be quiet and they obeyed him. The wind and water became peaceful and calm.

6. Answer these Questions

Find the verses in the Bible lesson that give the answers to these questions.

- a) Who was with God in the beginning?
- b) Who made all things?
- c) In whom is life?
- d) Who has made the Father known to us?
- e) How did the water become wine?



- f) How did the storm on the lake become calm?
- g) How were all the people fed?
- h) What did Jesus do after the people had gone away?
- i) How did Jesus get out to the boat on the lake?
- j) What did the people do when they saw Jesus get out of the boat?

7. Where was Jesus?

Here are some statements that Jesus said at different places. Write the name of the place where Jesus was when he said each of these statements.

- a) "You give them something to eat."
- b) "Fill the jars with water."
- c) "Let us go over to the other side."
- d) "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."
- e) "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

8. Choose the Answer

Here are some questions about what you read in the Bible lesson. Choose the correct answer to each question and put a tick mark against them from the above Bible Lesson.

- a) Where did the wedding take place? Jerusalem / Cana / Nazareth.
- b) Who told Jesus there was no more wine? The bridegroom / his mother / the disciples.
- c) How many gallons did each jar hold? 3 to 5 / 10 to 15 / 20 to 30.
- d) Who gave the food to the people who had not eaten? Jesus / the disciples / the volunteers
- e) How many men ate the bread and fish? 7000 / 2000 / 5000

9. Questions for Reflection

- a) How can we know God?
- b) How can Jesus work miracles today?
- c) What can you do when you need help?



Verse from the Bible

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God John 1:1.



IX

**JESUS TEACHES
THE PEOPLE**

1. Introduction

When the people heard about all the miracles that Jesus was doing, they followed him ev-erywhere. Many times Jesus gathered the crowds together and taught them. Jesus wanted the people to know the right way to live.

2. The Bible Lesson - 5: 1 - 37 and Luke 6: 27 - 42

3. How were the teachings of Jesus different from the teachings of the Pharisees?

Many of the teachings of Jesus were different from the teachings of the Pharisees. The Pharisees were religious leaders who taught the people that they had to obey certain rules and rituals. Jesus taught the people to love one another and do good to other people. Jesus wanted his followers to obey his commands of love. Jesus also expected his disciples to keep the laws of Moses.

4. How can you sin with the words that you speak?

Jesus taught us that the words that we say can cause us to sin. When we are angry with someone, we can sin by calling them bad names. Jesus also taught that the thoughts that we think can be sin. When we think evil thoughts, it is the same as doing that which is evil.

5. Whom did Jesus tell us to love?

Jesus wants his followers to love everyone. He wants us to love our families, our friends, our neighbours, and even our enemies. We are to love those people who hate us and try to harm us. We are not to try to harm our enemies in return.

6. Answer these Questions

Find the verses in the Bible lesson that give the answers to these questions.

- a) Who is Blessed? Why?
- b) When should you rejoice?
- c) How are you like salt and light?
- d) Does Jesus want you to keep the commands in the Bible?
- e) Who is in danger of the fire of hell?



- f) What should you do if someone has something against you?
- g) How can you commit sin in your heart?
- h) Does Jesus want you to swear or make oaths? Why not?
- i) What should you do for your enemies?
- j) What did Jesus say about judging other people?

7. The Blessed

Match those who are blessed with the reward that they will receive. Draw a line to connect those who are blessed with their reward.

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| a) The poor in spirit | They will see God. |
| b) Those who mourn | They will be filled. |
| c) The meek | There is the kingdom of Heaven. |
| d) Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness | They will be shown mercy. |
| e) The merciful | They will be called sons of God. |
| f) The pure in heart | They will inherit the earth. |
| g) The peacemakers | They will be comforted. |
| h) Those who are persecuted for righteousness | There is the kingdom of Heaven. |

8. Questions for Reflection

- a) How does Jesus expect you to live?
- b) How can you sin in your heart and mind?
- c) Why should you love your enemies?

Verse from the Bible

"Do to others as you would have them do to you." Luke 6:31





X

THE HEAVENLY FATHER

1. Introduction

Jesus taught the people that they could pray to God as their Heavenly Father.

2. The Bible Lesson - Matthew 6: 1-15 and Luke 11: 5-13 and Matthew 6: 16-34 and 7:13-29

3. What is a hypocrite?

A hypocrite is someone who wants other people to think that they are very religious. Hypocrites make loud, long prayers in public for everyone to hear. When they give gifts to the poor, they want everyone to see how much they have given. When they fast, they want everyone to know that they have not eaten any food. Hypocrites are proud people who want to be honoured for their religious practices.

4. Does God want to give your good gifts?

Our Father in Heaven wants to give good gifts to his children. If you ask him to give you the Holy Spirit, you will receive Holy Spirit. If you seek to know the truth, you will find the truth. If you knock on the door of Heaven, God will open it for you to enter.

5. How is God like a father to his children?

God is like a father to his children because he provides for all our needs. Just as God feeds the birds and clothes the flowers, he will feed and clothe you because you are his child. Jesus told us not to worry about what we are going to eat and wear. If we desire to love and serve God, he will be like a father to us. He will give us everything that we need in order to live.

6. What are the narrow and wide gates?

Jesus said that there are two gates and two roads. One gate is small and opens to a narrow road that leads to eternal life. The other gate is wide and opens to the broad road that leads to death and destruction. The road to Heaven is narrow because there is only one way to receive salvation. The narrow way is to believe in Jesus Christ as your Saviour. There are not many gates or many ways that lead to heaven. Jesus Christ is the only way to Heaven.

7. Answer these Questions

Find the verses in the Bible lesson that give the answers to these



questions.

- a) How should you give your gifts to the poor?
- b) How should you pray?
- c) Why should you ask, seek and knock?
- d) How can you receive the Holy Spirit from God?
- e) How should you fast?
- f) Why should you store up treasures in Heaven?
- g) Why should you not worry?
- h) Who will enter the kingdom of Heaven?
- i) Who is like a wise man?
- j) Why were the crowds amazed at Jesus?

8. The Commands of Jesus

In the Bible lesson you read about the commands that Jesus gave to his followers. Write the word YES on the line before the sentences that are commands that Jesus wants you to obey. Write NO before the sentences that are not the commands of Jesus.

- a) _____ Pray in a private place.
- b) _____ Pray loud, long prayers that everyone can hear.
- c) _____ Do not forgive other people.
- d) _____ Forgive those who have sinned against you.
- e) _____ Tell everyone how much money you give to the poor.
- f) _____ Give your gifts to the poor secretly.
- g) _____ Try to fill your house with many costly items.
- h) _____ Try to fill your heart with love.
- i) _____ Serve only the LORD as your God.
- j) _____ Serve the god of money and prosperity.
- k) _____ Worry about what is going to happen in the future.
- l) _____ Do not ask God to give you anything.
- m) _____ Ask God to give you anything that you need.
- n) _____ Put into practice everything that Jesus told you to do.

9. Questions for Reflection

- a) How does Jesus want you to pray, give and fast?
- b) Why should you ask, seek and knock?
- c) Why should you not worry or be anxious?
- d) What is the only way that leads to heaven?



Verse from the Bible

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." Luke 11:9



XI

JESUS AND THE PHARISEES

1. Introduction

The Pharisees followed Jesus wherever he went. They watched him closely to see if he was keeping all the laws of Moses. The Pharisees were very strict about keeping the Sabbath day holy. They thought that it was a sin to do any kind of work on the Sabbath day.

2. The Bible Lesson-Mark 2: 23-28 and 3: 1-6 and 7: 1-23 and Luke 7:36- 50 and John 3:1-21

3. What did Jesus say is the most important thing to do?

The Ten Commandments were given to Moses by God. These laws were given so that the people would know the right way to live. The Pharisees had taken God's commandments and made them into strict rules. One of their rules said that a Jewish person could not do any work on the Sabbath day. Jesus said that it was more important to do good deeds of love on the Sabbath than to obey strict rules.

4. Is it better to be clean on the inside or on the outside?

The Pharisees had many religious traditions that they tried to keep. They thought that they could be clean and holy by obeying certain rules and laws. Jesus taught the people that it was more important to have a clean heart than to have a clean body. Obeying certain religious rituals will not make a person clean on the inside. Jesus said that it was not what we do or what we eat that makes us unclean. It is our evil thoughts and desires that make us sinful and unclean in God's sight.

5. Who loved Jesus the most? How much do you love Jesus?

The sinful woman knew that she was a sinner. She knew that she needed to be forgiven of her sin. The woman loved Jesus very much because he had forgiven her of her sin. Simon, the Pharisee, was also a sinner, but he thought that he was good and holy. Simon did not ask Jesus to forgive him of his sin. Simon loved Jesus very little because he thought that he did not need to be forgiven.

6. How did Jesus tell Nicodemus he could enter into the kingdom of God?

Nicodemus wanted to know how to enter into God's kingdom. Jesus told him that he had to be born again by the Spirit before he could enter into



the kingdom of God. Everyone is born into the kingdom of this world by being born as a baby from their mother's womb. You can come into the kingdom of God by being born again by the spirit of God. You are born of the Spirit when you are cleansed from your sin. You can receive forgiveness of your sin by believing in God's son, Jesus Christ.

7. Answer these Questions

Find the verses in the Bible lesson that give the answers to these questions.

- a) Why did Jesus say that he was Lord of the Sabbath?
- b) What did David do when he was hungry?
- c) Why did the Pharisees want to kill Jesus?
- d) Why did the Pharisees say that Jesus' disciples were unclean?
- e) What makes a person unclean?
- f) Why will the teachers of the law be punished severely?
- g) Who loves Jesus the most?
- h) How did Jesus say a person could be born again?
- i) Why did God send his only Son into the world?
- j) Who receives eternal life?

8. Who is it?

Here are the names of some people that you read about in the Bible lesson. Match each name with the sentence that tells about it. Draw a line to connect each name with correct answer.

The Pharisees	He invited Jesus to a dinner.
God	He came to see Jesus at night.
David	She brought ajar of perfume.
The son of Man	He was healed at the synagogue.
Nicodemus	He ate the consecrated bread.
Simon	They wanted to kill Jesus.
The woman	He loves the people of the world.
The man with the shriveled hand	He came from Heaven.



9. Words of Jesus

Write the name of the person or persons to whom Jesus was speaking when he said each of these statements.

(Simon / The disciples / Nicodemus / The woman / The Crowd / The Pharisees)

- a) "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath."
- b) "Nothing outside a man can make him 'unclean' by going into him."
- c) "He who has been forgiven little loves little."
- d) "Your sins are forgiven. Your faith has saved you."
- e) "Unless a man is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."

10. Questions for Reflection

- a) What does Jesus want you to do?
- b) How can you be cleansed from your sin?
- c) How much do you love Jesus?
- d) How can you be born into God's Kingdom?

Verse from the Bible

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.
John 3:16.



XII

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

1. Introduction

Jesus often taught the people using parables or short stories. Each parable had a special meaning that helped explain the lesson that Jesus wanted the people to learn. Jesus told several parables to help explain the kingdom of Heaven.

2. The Bible Lesson - Matthew 13:1-13; 16-30; 36-52 and 25:31-46

3. What does the parable of the sower mean?

Jesus is like the farmer who sowed his seed. The seed that Jesus sows is the message about the kingdom of heaven. The soil is the heart of each person who hears the word of God. The birds are like the evil one, Satan, who tries to take the message out of our hearts. The rocky soil is like the person who hears the word of God but it does not grow in his heart. The thorny soil is like the person who hears the word but it is choked out by the cares of this life. The good soil is the person who hears the word and understands its meaning and the word grows in his heart.

4. What will happen at the end of the age?

The age in which we are living will some day come to an end. At that time, God will judge the people of the earth. The wicked will be separated from the righteous. Those who have done evil all their lives are the sons of the evil one, Satan, They will be thrown into the fires of hell. Those who have believed in Jesus Christ as their Saviour are the sons of the "kingdom. They will enter into the kingdom of God, their Father.

5. Why should we be kind and help other people?

When we are kind to other people, we are actually being kind to Jesus. When we help other people, Jesus says that we are doing it for him. Those who have been kind and helpful to other people will be blessed when they die. They will receive eternal life and be sent to heaven because they have loved Jesus. Those who have not helped others will be cursed when they die. They will receive eternal punishment and be sent to hell because they have not loved Jesus.



6. Answer these Questions

Find the verses in the Bible lesson that give the answers to these questions.

- a) Why did Jesus speak to the people in parables?
- b) What does the parable of the sower mean?
- c) What happened in the parable of the weeds?
- d) What will happen at the end of the age?
- e) How is the kingdom of God like a treasure hidden in a field?
- f) Why did the merchant sell everything and buy the pearl?
- g) How is the kingdom of heaven like a net full of fish?
- h) Why will the people on the right enter the kingdom of heaven?
- i) Why will those who are cursed be thrown into the eternal fire?
- j) Who will receive eternal life?

7. Which Parable?

Identify the parable against each statement.

(The Net / The Sheep and the Goats / The Sower / The Weeds)

- a) "What was sown on good soil is the man who has the word and understands it."
- b) "Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of the Father."
- c) "The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous."
- d) "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

8. Secret Meanings

Go through the parable of the Sower and identify the correct word that tells the meaning of the given words

(Jesus / Word of God / Satan / The hearts of people)

The birds The seed _____

The farmer The soil _____



9. The Weeds

Match the following with the parable of the weeds.

The field	the angels
good soil	the devil
weeds	sons of the kingdom
enemy	sons of the evil one
harvesters	the end of the age
harvest the world	

10. Questions for Reflection

- Is your heart like the good soil?
- What will happen to you at the end of the age?
- Are you kind and helpful to other people?

Verse from the Bible

"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did of one of the least of 'these brothers of mine, you did for me.'" Matthew 25:40





XIII

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1. Introduction

When a sheep wanders away from the shepherd, he is lost. When a person wanders away from God, the Father, he is lost in sin. Jesus is the good shepherd who is looking for any of his sheep who are lost.

2. The Bible Lesson - Luke 15: 1-32 and John 10: 1-18

3. What did the shepherd do when he lost one sheep?

When the shepherd lost one sheep, he searched out for it until he found it. Jesus is like a shepherd who is searching for lost sinners who are willing to repent of their sin. Jesus will keep looking and searching until he finds everyone who will be in his flock. Whenever Jesus finds one person who is lost, there is great rejoicing among angels of God.

4. Why did the lost son return to his father?

The son who was lost had sinned against his father. The son was rebellious and wanted to do things his own way. When he realized that he had sinned, the son returned to his father, the son confessed his sin and asked his father to forgive him. The father gladly welcomed his son and forgave him of his sin.

5. How is Jesus like a shepherd?

Jesus is the good shepherd. Jesus leads the sheep in his flock and they follow him because they know his voice. The good shepherd loves his sheep so much that he is willing to lay down his life and die for his sheep.

6. Answer these Questions

Find the verses in the Bible lesson that give the answers to these questions.

- a) What does the shepherd do when he has lost one sheep?
- b) Why is there rejoicing in heaven?
- c) Why did the lost son return to his father?
- d) What did the father do when he saw his son?
- e) Why did the father have a feast?
- f) Why was the older brother angry?
- g) Why is Jesus the gate of the sheep?
- h) What does the thief do?



- i) Why did Jesus say that he had come?
- j) What does the shepherd do for the sheep?

7. Who Said it?

Write the name of the person who said each statement in the given Bible lesson

The Father / Jesus / the woman / the Pharisees / the lost son

- a) "This man welcomes sinners, and eats with them."
- b) "There is more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent."
- c) Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin."
- d) "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you."
- e) "This son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."
- f) "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me."

8. Who is it?

Match the following

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| The thief | they rejoice in heaven. |
| The older brother | they follow the good shepherd |
| The lost son | he comes to steal and kill. |
| The father | he ran to meet his lost son. |
| The Good Shepherd | he is the gate of the sheep. |
| The angels | he went to a distant country. |
| The sheep | he refused to go to the feast. |

9. Questions for Reflection

- a) Are you like a lost sheep?
- b) What can you do if you sin against God?
- c) Is Jesus ; our Shepherd?



Verse from the Bible

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand." John 10:27-28



XIV

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR

1. Introduction

The greatest person in the kingdom of heaven is the one who is humble like a child. Jesus taught his disciples that they were to be humble and forgive one another. Jesus wants his followers to show mercy to other people and love their neighbours.

2. The Bible Lesson - Matthew 18:1-5; 15:35 and Luke 10:25-37

3. What does it mean to be like a little child?

A little child is gentle and humble and he is not proud. A little child is loving and trusting and he enjoys being helpful and kind. A little child forgives easily and he does not try to take revenge. A little child loves everyone and does not know how to hate other people.

4. What is forgiveness?

Forgiveness means forgetting the wrong that someone has done to you. It means doing good to someone who has harmed you.

Jesus told the parable about a servant who owned a large amount of money to his master, the servant's master had mercy on the servant and cancelled his debt. A fellow servant owned the servant a small amount of money, but the servant refused to cancel his debt. The servant was punished by the master because he did not forgive in the same way that he had been forgiven.

5. Who is your neighbour?

Your neighbour is anyone whom you meet along the pathway of life. The good Samaritan showed that he loved his neighbour by stopping to help him. The Samaritan did not pass by the wounded man because he was of a different caste. The Samaritan was not too proud to be like a servant to the wounded man. The Samaritan was not too selfish to give of his time and money to help his neighbour.

6. Answer these Questions

Find the verses in the Bible lesson that give the answers to these questions.

- a) Who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?
- b) What should you do if someone sins against you?
- c) What happens when two people agree to ask God for something?
- d) How many times should you forgive someone who has sinned



against you?

- e) Why did the master cancel the servants' debt?
- f) Why did the master turn the servant over to the jailers?
- g) How much should you love God?
- h) How much should you love your neighbour?
- i) Why did the priest and the Levite pass by on the other side?
- j) What did the Samaritan do for the wounded man?

7. Who is it?

Match the following from the parable of the good Samaritan.

- | | |
|-----------|--------------------------|
| Levite | they beat the man. |
| Priest | He too pity on the man. |
| Samaritan | He passed by the man. |
| Robbers | He looked after the man. |
| Innkeeper | He passed by the man. |

8. Questions and Answers

In the Bible there were several people who asked questions. Write the name of the person who asked the following questions.

(The master / Jesus / The disciples / Peter / The expert in the law)

- a) "Who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"
- b) "How many times should I forgive my brother when he sins against me?"
- c) "Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant just as I had mercy on you?"
- d) "What must I do to inherit eternal life?"
- e) "Which of these three do think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of" robbers?"



9. Questions for Reflection

- a) Are you like a little child?
- b) Why should you forgive those people who have sinned against you?
- c) How can you show other people that you love them?

Verse from the Bible

"Love your neighbour as yourself." Luke 10:27



XV

THE FATHER AND THE SON

1. Introduction

Many people had seen Jesus do many miracles but they did not know who Jesus was. Some people thought that Jesus was one of the prophets who had come back to life. The Pharisees thought that Jesus was just another man. They did not know that Jesus was the Son of the living God.

2. The Bible Lesson - Matthew 16: 13-27 and 17:1-9 and John 10:22-42

3. How did Peter know that Jesus was the Son of God?

Peter said that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God. God, the Father, had re-vealed this truth to Peter. On the mountain, Peter saw the glory and majesty of the Son of God. God spoke to the disciples and told them that Jesus was his beloved Son.

4. Who is God like?

Jesus and God, the Father, are one. The father is in Jesus, and Jesus is in the Father. Jesus Christ was sent to earth to reveal to us the character of God. When we see the great love that Jesus has for people, we are actually seeing the love of God. When we see the power that Jesus has to perform miracles, we are actually seeing the power of God. God is like Jesus and Jesus is like God, the Father.

5. What does a true follower of Jesus do?

If you are a true disciple of Jesus Christ, you must be willing to deny yourself and follow him. To be a true follower of Jesus you must lose your life for him. You can give your life to Jesus by obeying him instead of doing things your own way. You can take up your cross by denying your own selfish desires.

6. Answer these Questions

Find the verses in the Bible lesson that give the answers to these questions.

- a) Who did some people think that Jesus was?
- b) Why did Jesus say the Peter was blessed?
- c) What promise did Jesus make to Peter?
- d) What did Jesus say was going to happen to him in Jerusalem?
- e) Why did Jesus rebuke Peter?



- f) What happened to Jesus on the mountain?
- g) Why did the disciples fall to the ground?
- h) Why did the Jews not believe in Jesus?
- i) What does Jesus give to his sheep?
- j) Why did the Jews want to stone Jesus?

7. Who are they?

Here are the names of some people you read about in the lesson. Each of these people was either a prophet, a disciple, or a Jewish leader. Write each name under the correct title.

(Elijah / Peter / Chief priests / James / Jeremiah / Elders / John the Baptist / Teachers of the Law / John)

PROPHETS

DISCIPLES

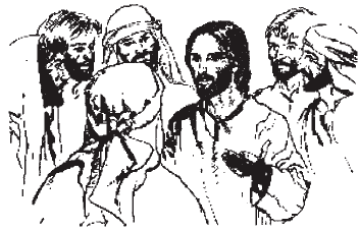
JEWISH LEADERS

8. Who said it?

Write the name of the person who said each statement.

Jesus / God / Peter / the Jews

- a) "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
- b) "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."
- c) "This is my son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"
- d) "If you are the Christ, tell us plainly."
- e) "I and the Father are one."



9. Questions for Reflection

- a) How can you know who Jesus is?
- b) How can you know God, the Father?
- c) How can you be a true follower of Jesus Christ?

Verse from the Bible

"For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it" Matthew 16:25



XVI

JESUS AND THE LAZARUS

1. Introduction

When Jesus visited Jerusalem, he often stayed in the home of a man named Lazarus. Lazarus lived in the village of Bethany with his two sisters, Mary and Martha. Jesus was their good friend and they loved him very much.

2. The Bible Lesson - John 11: 1-57

3. Why did Jesus wait four days before going to Bethany?

Lazarus' sickness and death were for God's glory. Jesus waited until Lazarus had died before he went to Bethany. Jesus wanted to do more than heal Lazarus of his illness. Jesus wanted to raise Lazarus from the dead so that the disciples and other people would believe on him. When the Jews saw that Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead, many of them put their faith in him as the Son of God.

4. Why is Jesus the resurrection and the life?

Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life. He is able to bring the dead back to life because he is the giver of all life. Everyone who believes in Jesus Christ will live forever. When they die, their spirits will be resurrected and given new bodies that will never die.

5. Why did Jesus weep?

Jesus wept when he saw his friend, Mary weeping. Jesus felt compassion for Mary because she was so sad and grieved over her brother's death. Jesus loved Mary and he comforted her in her time of sorrow. Jesus is able to feel all the same feelings that you have felt. When Jesus was on earth, he experienced all the feelings that you have ever felt. Jesus felt sad, lonely, grieved, troubled, angry, and forsaken.

6. Answer these Questions

Find the verses in the Bible lesson that give the answers to these questions.

- a) What did Jesus say when he heard that Lazarus was sick?
- b) Why was Jesus glad that he was not in Bethany before Lazarus died?
- c) What did Martha believe about Jesus?
- d) Why did Jesus weep?
- e) How long had Lazarus been dead?
- f) How was Lazarus raised from the dead?



- g) Why did many of the Jews put their faith in Jesus?
- h) Why did the Pharisees call a meeting of the Sanhedrin?
- i) What did Caiaphas say to the Pharisees?
- j) Why did Jesus withdraw to a village near the desert?

7. People and Places

Here are the names of some people and places that you read about in the Bible lesson. Write the correct name on the line after the sentence that tells about it.

(Mary / Martha / Lazarus / Caiaphas / Thomas / Bethany / Jerusalem)

- a) The name of the village where Mary and Martha and Lazarus lived.
- b) The name of the person who wept at Jesus' feet.
- c) The name of the city that was two miles from Bethany.
- d) The name of the person who was called Didymus.
- e) The name of the person who was the high priest.
- f) The name of the person who came out of the tomb.
- g) The name of the person who went out to meet Jesus.

8. Words of Jesus

Write the name of the person or persons to whom Jesus was speaking when he said each of these statements.

Mary / Martha / The disciples / Lazarus)

- a) "For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe."
- b) "Your brother will rise again."
- c) "Where have you laid him?"
- d) "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"
- e) "Lazarus, come out!"

9. Questions for Reflection

- a) Why do you sometimes have to wait for God to answer your prayers?
- b) How can you live forever?
- c) Does Jesus know how you feel when you are sad?



Verse from the Bible

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."
John 11:25-26



XVII

JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM

1. Introduction

The people of Israel wanted to make Jesus their king. They believed that Jesus was the Messiah sent from God to deliver them from the Romans. The people did not know that Jesus had not come to be an earthly ruler. They did not know that Jesus' kingdom was in Heaven.

2. The Bible Lesson - Luke 19: 28-44 and Mark 11: 11 -25 and 12: 13-44

3. What kind of king is Jesus?

Jesus entered Jerusalem as a king. It was the custom for a conquering king who came in peace to ride into the city on a donkey. Jesus came into Jerusalem that day to bring peace to the world. Jesus came as a humble servant to give his life for his people.

4. Will the dead be raised?

The LORD is the God of living, not the God of the dead. At the end of the age there will be a final resurrection. Everyone who had ever lived will be raised from the dead. Those who have believed in Jesus Christ will go to Heaven to live with him forever. God will give them bodies that will be like the angels.

5. What is the greatest commandment?

The greatest commandment given in the Bible is to love. Jesus said that we are to love the LORD God and we are to love one another. All the teachings of Jesus are centered around loving God and other people. The law of Jesus Christ is love. To love is more important than to obey religious rules and rituals. Love is the law of the kingdom of God.

6. Answer these Questions

Find the verses in the Bible lesson that give the answers to these questions.

- a) How did the people show that they wanted Jesus to be their king?
- b) Why did Jesus overturn the tables in the temple?
- c) Why did the chief priests not kill Jesus at that time?
- d) What happened to the fig tree?
- e) What will happen when we pray and have faith in God?
- f) Should you pay taxes to the government?
- g) Will there be marriage in Heaven?
- h) Why did Jesus tell the man that he was not far from the kingdom of God?



- i) How much money did the widow put into the temple offering?
- j) Why did Jesus say that the widow put in more than the rich people?

7. Who was it?

Write the name of the person or persons that is the answer to each of these questions.

(The chief priests / Peter / The widow / The teacher of the Law / The Sadducees / The crowd of people / The sellers and the money changers)

- a) Who asked Jesus about the resurrection?
- b) Who asked Jesus about the greatest commandment?
- c) Who put all that she had into the temple treasure?
- d) Who asked if they should pay taxes?
- e) Who noticed that the fig tree was withered?
- f) Who was looking for a way to kill Jesus?
- g) Who was buying and selling in the temple?
- h) Who praised God in loud voices?

8. Words of Jesus

Write the name of the people to whom Jesus was speaking when he said each of these statements.

The Pharisees / The disciples / The people of Jerusalem / The Sadducees / The teachers of the Law / The people in the temple

- a) "Go to the village, you will find a colt tied there?"
- b) "I tell you, if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."
- c) "They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls."
- d) "My house will be called a house of prayer."
- e) "Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."
- f) "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's."
- g) "You are not far from the kingdom of God."
- h) "They gave out of their wealth; but she, of her poverty, put in everything."

9. Questions for Reflection

- a) Is Jesus king over your life?
- b) What kind of body will you have in heaven?
- c) How can you obey all the commands given in the Bible?

Verse from the Bible

"Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." Mark 12:30



XVIII

SIGNS OF THE END

1. Introduction

As Jesus and the disciples were leaving the temple, they passed by several beautiful buildings. Jesus was not impressed by these great buildings. He knew that one day they would all be destroyed.

2. The Bible Lesson - Matthew 24: 1-51 and 25: 1-13

3. Will Jesus come back to earth again?

Jesus is coming to earth again. Before Jesus died and rose from the dead, he told disciples the things that were going to happen in the future. Jesus said that he would come back to earth again. Jesus said there were certain signs that would happen before he returned. When we see these things beginning to take place, we will know that Jesus is coming soon.

4. Are there many christs and saviours?

There is only one God and Saviour and he is Jesus Christ. Jesus is the only Saviour and all others are false. There will be many people who will claim to be the Christ or the saviour of the world. They will perform great signs and miracles but their power will not come from God. These christs will be sent by Satan to try to deceive the people and turn them away from Jesus Christ.

5. Who knows when Jesus will come back to earth?

No one knows when Jesus will return to the earth. There is no person who knows the exact day. The angels in heaven do not know the correct time. Jesus, himself, does not know the exact hour. God, the father, is the only one who knows the day and the time when Jesus will return to earth.

6. Answer these Questions

Find the verses in the Bible lesson that give the answers to these questions.

- a) What signs will take place at the end of the age?
- b) How will the disciples be persecuted?
- c) What will happen in Judea?
- d) What will the false prophets say and do?
- e) What will happen to the sun and the moon and the stars?
- f) How will Jesus return to the earth?
- g) How will the time of the end be like the days of Noah?
- h) What will happen to the wicked servant?
- i) What happened to the virgins who were ready to meet the



bridegroom?

- j) What happened to the virgins who were not ready to meet the bridegroom?

7. Signs of the End

Here are some questions about what will happen at the end of the age. Find the answer to each question and write it on the line.

(sun / wars / false prophets / Jesus Christ / moon / stars / heavenly bodies / the whole world / famines and earthquakes)

- a) What will you hear about?
- b) What will there be in various places?
- c) Who will deceive many people?
- d) Where will the Gospel of the kingdom be preached?
- e) Who will perform great signs and miracles?
- f) What will be darkened?
- g) What will not give its light?
- h) What will fall from the sky?
- i) What will be shaken?
- j) Who will come on the clouds?



8. Who is it?

Match the following

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Wicked servant | he will be put in charge of all the master's possessions |
| Wise virgins | he eats and drinks with drunkards |
| Master | he will come on a day when the servants do not expect him |
| Foolish | virgins they did not take any oil with them |
| Bridegroom | they went in to the wedding banquet |
| Faithful servant | he arrived at the midnight hour |

10. Questions for Reflection

- a) How will you know when Jesus is coming?
- b) How will you know which Christ's are false?
- c) What impression Jesus will have about you, if he came to see you?

Verse from the Bible

Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come Matthew 24:42



XIX

THE LAST MEAL

1. Introduction

The Jewish leader hated Jesus. The Pharisees were angry with him because Jesus had spoken against them. The chief priests were jealous of him because many of the Jews were believing in Jesus. The Jewish leaders wanted to kill him and Jesus knew that he would soon be crucified. During the last meal with his disciples, Jesus told them about his coming death.

2. The Bible Lesson - Matthew 26: 1-5; 14-16 and Luke 22:7-23 and John 13:21-38 and 14: 1-21

3. What is the Passover?

The Passover meal was a special holy day for the Jews. It was a time for families to be together and remember God's blessings to them. They remembered how God had brought the people of Israel out of their slavery in Egypt. Each family sacrificed a lamb as an offering for their sins.

Jesus celebrated the Passover with his twelve disciples. He wanted them to remember his death. Jesus knew that his body would soon be broken and his blood poured out on the cross. Jesus knew that he was going to become the Passover Lamb who would be sacrificed for the sins of the world.

4. What is the only way to reach God?

There is only one way to reach God. Jesus said that he was the way, the truth and the life. No one can come to the Father except they believe in Jesus Christ. There is no religion that will help you reach God because Jesus Christ is the only truth. There is no other way for you to receive eternal life because Jesus Christ is the life. The only way for you to know God is to know his Son, Jesus Christ.

5. Where was Jesus going?

The disciples were sad when Jesus told them that he was going away. Jesus told them that he was going back to heaven to be with his Father.



Jesus said that his body would be gone but his spirit would be with his disciples here on the earth. Jesus promised to send his Spirit, the Spirit of truth, to help his disciples. Jesus said that his spirit would never leave them alone.

6. Answer these Questions

Find the verses in the Bible lesson that give the answers to these questions.

- a) Why did the Jewish leader snout want to arrest Jesus during the Feast of the Passover?
- b) Why did Judas betray Jesus?
- c) When did Jesus say he would eat and drink again?
- d) What did Jesus say about the bread?
- e) What did Jesus say about the cup?
- f) What new commandment did Jesus give to his disciples?
- g) What did Jesus say was going to happen before the cock crowed?
- h) How can you do greater things than Jesus did?
- i) How are you to ask for things?
- j) How can you show Jesus that you love him?

7. Who Did it?

Write the correct name that answers each questions from the Bible Lesson.

(Jesus / The chief priest and elders / Judas Iscariot / Peter and John / John (the disciple who Jesus loved)

- a) Who plotted to arrest Jesus?
- b) Who went to the chief priest?
- c) Who made preparation for the Passover meal?
- d) Who reclined next to Jesus at the table?
- e) Who broke the bread?



8. Who Said it?

Write the name of the person who said each statement from the Bible Lesson.

(Peter / Jesus / Thomas / Philip / Judas Iscariot / The chief priests)

- a) "The Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified."
- b) "But not during the Feast, or there may be a riot among the people."
- e) "What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?"
- d) "Do this in remembrance of me."
- e) "I will lay down my life for you."
- f) "Before the cock crows, you will disown me three times."
- g) "Lord, we don't know where you are going."
- h) "I am the way, the truth, and the life."
- i) "Lord, show us the Father."
- j) "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father."

9. Questions for Reflection

- a) Who is your Passover Lamb?
- b) How can you know God?
- c) How can Jesus always be with you?

Verse from the Bible

"I will ask the Father and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever - the spirit of truth. You know him for he lives with you and will be in you." John 14:16-17



XX

JESUS IS ARRESTED

1. Introduction

After Jesus and his disciples had eaten the Passover meal, they sang a hymn and left the house. They walked out of the city to the Mount of Olives where there was a beautiful garden. Jesus had often come to the garden of Gethsemane with his disciples.

2. The Bible Lesson - Matthew 26: 36-75 and John 18: 28-40 and 19:1-16

3. What did Jesus do when he knew he was going to suffer and die?

Jesus prayed in the garden of Gethsemane because he knew he would soon have to suffer and die. Jesus asked his Father, to take away the cup of suffering and death. Jesus was not afraid to die, but he knew that he would have to suffer something greater than physical pain and death. Jesus knew that death meant that he would have to be separated from his loving heavenly Father. Jesus hoped that there was some other way, but there was not. It was God's will for Jesus to suffer and die on the cross. Jesus did not want his own way. Jesus wanted his Father's perfect will to be done.

4. Why was Jesus not afraid of the Jews or the Roman governor?

Jesus was not afraid of anyone because he knew that God, his heavenly Father, was with him. Jesus was not afraid of the people who came to arrest him. He knew that God could send thousands of angels to rescue him from the guards. Jesus was not afraid of the high priest because he knew that he was the Son of God. Jesus was not afraid of Pilate because he knew that Pilate had no power over him. Jesus knew that God was in control of everything that happened to him. Jesus knew that all these events were part of God's plan for his life.

5. Why did the Jews reject Jesus as their Saviour?

The Jewish law said that anyone who claimed to be God must be put to death. The Jew-ish people called out for Jesus to be crucified. The people of Israel rejected Jesus as their Messiah and their Saviour. His own people refused to believe that he was the Son of God. They would not believe that Jesus' power to perform miracles came from God. The Jews did not understand the teachings of Jesus. They would not accept Jesus as



the Saviour sent from God. Because they had rejected him as their Messiah, they could not permit him to continue to live.

6. Answer these Questions

Find the verses in the Bible lesson that give the answers to these questions.

- a) How did Jesus fell when he was in the garden?
- b) What prayer did Jesus pray?
- c) How did Judas betray Jesus?
- d) Why did the chief priests say that Jesus was worthy of death?
- e) Why did Peter weep bitterly?
- f) Why did the Jews take Jesus to Pilate?
- g) Why did Jesus say that he was born?
- h) What did the soldiers do to Jesus?
- I) Why did Jesus say that Pilate had no power over him?
- j) Why did Pilate agree to have Jesus crucified?

7. Who was it?

Match the following the from the Bible lesson.

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Pilate | they slept in the garden. |
| Caiaphas | they were the assembly of Jewish leaders. |
| Peter | he was the Roman governor of Palestine. |
| Barabbas | he betrayed Jesus with a kiss. |
| Judas | he was the Jewish high priest. |
| Peter, James, John | he was the prisoner who was set free. |
| The Sanhedrin | he denied that he knew Jesus, |

8. Words of Jesus

Here are some statements that Jesus said to people in the Bible lesson. Write the name of the person to whom Jesus was speaking when he said each of these statements.

(Pilate / The crowd / God, the Father / The high priest / One of his companions)

- a) "Not as I will, but as you will."
- b) "All who draw the sword, will die by the sword."
- c) "This has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled."



- d) "You will see the Son of man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One."
- e) "My kingdom is not of this world."
- f) "You would have no power over me, if it were not given to you from above."

9. Important Events

Put these important events in the proper order with a serial number from the Bible Lesson.

- _____ Jesus in taken before the high priest.
- _____ Jesus is handed over to be crucified.
- _____ Jesus prayed in the garden.
- _____ Jesus is flogged by the soldiers.
- _____ Jesus is arrested by the Jews.
- _____ Jesus is accused of blasphemy.

10. Questions for Reflection

- a) What should you do when you have a difficult decision to make?
- b) Why do you not need to be afraid of anyone?
- c) Have you accepted or rejected Jesus as your Saviour?

Verse from the Bible

He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. John 1:11-12



XXI

JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

1. Introduction

Pilate handed Jesus over to the Roman soldiers to be tortured and crucified.

2. The Bible Lesson - Matthew 27: 27-31 and Luke 23: 26-43 and Matthew 27: 45-56 and Luke 23: 50-56 and Matthew 27: 62-66

3. Why did Jesus have to suffer and die on the cross?

Jesus Christ suffered agonizing physical pain and torture. He was mocked and terribly beaten by the Roman soldiers. Nails were driven through his hands and feet. For six hours Jesus hung on the cross as his blood poured out from the wounds on his body. Jesus Christ did not deserve to suffer and die. He was perfect and holy and he had never sinned. Jesus Christ suffered and died for the sins of the people in the world.

4. Why did Jesus feel that God his Father had forsaken him?

Jesus was one with God, his Father. For all eternity Jesus and the Father had been together. They had enjoyed a constant, loving relationship. They walked and talked together every day as Father and Son. Because Jesus Christ was perfect and sinless, he had never been separated from his father. There was nothing that could separate Jesus from God except sin. On the cross Jesus took the sins of everyone in the world upon himself. God is holy and he cannot have fellowship with anyone who has sin in his life. When Jesus took our sins upon himself, God separated himself from his own son. God forsook his only son and left him to die all alone on the cross.

5. Answer these Questions

Find the verses in the Bible lesson that give the answers to these questions.

- a) What did the governor's soldiers do to Jesus?
- b) Why did Jesus tell the women not to weep for him?
- c) What notice was written above the cross?
- d) Why did Jesus tell one of the criminals that he would be with him in paradise?
- e) How long was there darkness over all the land?
- f) What happened after Jesus died?
- g) Why were the guards terrified?



- h) Who had followed Jesus from Galilee?
- i) Who was Joseph of Arimathea?
- j) Why did Pilate put a guard at the tomb?

6. Who did it?

Match the following

Joseph of Arimathea	they were crucified on either side of Jesus.
The Governor's soldiers	they sneered at Jesus as he hung on the cross.
Mary Magdalene	asked for the body of Jesus.
Simon of Cyrene	she watched Jesus from a distance.
The criminals	they mocked and beat Jesus.
The Jewish rulers	he carried the cross for Jesus.

7. Who Said it?

Write the name of the person who said each statement.

(The centurion / The Jewish rulers / The governor's soldiers / The criminal / The other criminal)

- a) "Hail, king of the Jews!"
- b) "Let him save himself if he is the Christ of God."
- c) "Save yourself and us."
- d) "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."
- e) "Surely he was the son of God."

8. Words of Jesus

As Jesus hung on the cross, he said several statements. Write the words that Jesus said in each of these incidents.

- a) What did Jesus ask his Father to do after the soldiers had crucified him?
- b) What did Jesus say at the ninth hour?

9. Questions for Reflection

- a) Was Jesus punished for your sin?



Verse from the Bible

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. Isaiah 53:5



XXII

JESUS IS ALIVE

1. Introduction

After Jesus died and was buried in the tomb, his disciples did not know what to do. They were very confused and afraid. They did not understand why Jesus had allowed himself to be killed. The disciples had thought that Jesus was going to set up a great kingdom in Israel. All their hopes and dreams were destroyed when Jesus was crucified like a common criminal. The disciples were afraid that the Jewish leaders were going to arrest them because they had been followers of Jesus. The disciples hid themselves in a house and locked the doors. The women who had followed Jesus were not afraid of the Jews. One the third day after his death, the women went to the tomb to mourn for their loving master.

2. The Bible Lesson - Matthew 28: 1-10 and John 20: 3-9 and Luke 24: 13- 49 and John 20:24-31

3. What kind of body did Jesus have after he was raised from the dead?

After Jesus was raised from the dead, he had a new body. His new body was not limited by physical barriers. Jesus could appear and disappear wherever he pleased. His new body was not like the body of a ghost or a spirit. The new body of Jesus had flesh and bones and he was able to eat food. Jesus still looked the same, but he was different.

4. Why did Thomas not believe that Jesus was alive?

Thomas refused to believe that Jesus was alive because he had not seen Jesus for himself, Thomas had heard the other disciples tell about seeing Jesus. Thomas knew that the body of Jesus was not in the tomb. He knew that the angels had said that Jesus had risen from the dead. Thomas had heard about the burial clothes that had been found in the empty tomb. Thomas had heard all the evidence, but still he refused to believe until he saw Jesus.

5. Why should you believe that Jesus is alive?

The followers of Jesus have written about how Jesus was raised from the dead. They have testified to seeing him after he was alive again. Jesus is the only person who has ever lived and died and been raised to life never to die again. Jesus is alive today in heaven with his Father. Jesus proved



that he is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

6. Answer these Questions

Find the verses in the Bible lesson that give the answers to these questions.

- a) How was the stone rolled away from the tomb.
- b) Why were the women afraid yet filled with joy after they left the tomb?
- c) What did Jesus tell the women to do?
- d) What did Peter and John find in the tomb?
- e) Why did Jesus say that Cleopas and his companion were slow of heart to believe?
- f) When did Cleopas and his companion recognize Jesus?
- g) How did Jesus prove to the disciples that he was not a ghost?
- h) What did Jesus explain to the disciples from the Scriptures?
- i) When did Thomas believe that Jesus was alive?
- j) Who is blessed?

7. Who is it?

Match each name with the sentence that tells about it.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Thomas | they were walking to Emmaus. |
| Mary Magdalene
and the other Mary | they ran to the tomb. |
| Peter and John | they went to look at the tomb. |
| The guards | he rolled back the stone. |
| The angel | he refused to believe. |
| Cleopas and his friend | they became like dead men. |

8. Who said it?

Write the name of the person who said each statement.

(Thomas / The angel / Cleopas / The disciples)

- a) "He is not here; he has risen,"
- b) "We had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel."
- c) "It is true! The Lord has risen."
- d) "My Lord and my God."



9. Words of Jesus

Write the name of the person or persons to whom Jesus was speaking when he said each of these statements.

(The disciples / Thomas / Mary Magdalene and the other Mary / Cleopas and his friend)

- a) "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers."
- b) "Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?"
- c) "Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Proph-ets, and the Psalms."
- d) "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

10. Questions for Reflection

- a) What kind of body will you have when you go to heaven?
- b) Do you believe that Jesus is alive today?
- c) How can you live forever?

Verse from the Bible

"But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of Got, and that by believing you may have life in his name." John 20:31.



XXIII

JESUS RETURNS TO HEAVEN

1. Introduction

After Jesus was raised from the dead, he remained on the earth for forty days. Jesus appeared to his disciples and to many other people during that time. When the time came for him to return to Heaven, Jesus gathered all of his disciples together.

2. The Bible Lesson - Matthew 28: 16-20 and Mark 16: (5-18 and Acts 1:3-26

3. What did Jesus tell his disciples to do before he returned to Heaven?

Before Jesus returned to Heaven, he commanded his disciples to do certain things. He told them to go to other nations of the world. Jesus told them to preach the good news of salvation to all people. Jesus told his disciples to baptize everyone who believed in him as their Saviour. The disciples were commanded to teach these new believers to obey all the commands of Jesus.

4. What special gift did Jesus promise to give to his disciples?

The words that Jesus spoke to his disciples before he returned to heaven were very important. Jesus told them that he would always be with them. Jesus said that he would never leave them alone. Jesus promised to give his disciples a special gift. He promised to send the Holy Spirit to help them. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would give them the power they would need to be his witnesses to all people. The disciples would never be alone because the Spirit of God would be living within them.

5. How did Jesus return to Heaven?

The disciples stood looking up into the sky as Jesus was taken up into Heaven. Jesus was lifted off the earth and he rose high up into the clouds. He passed through the clouds and entered into Heaven. When he arrived in Heaven, Jesus was given a beautiful throne at the right hand of God, the Father. Jesus was crowned with great glory and honour. God gave Jesus the position of Prince and Saviour of his glorious kingdom. All the angels fell down and worshipped Jesus as the great Lord and king of Heaven.

6. Answer these Questions

Find the verses in the Bible lesson that give the answers to these



questions.

- a) What did the eleven disciples do when they saw Jesus on the mountain?
- b) What did Jesus tell his disciples to do?
- c) Whom did Jesus say would be saved?
- d) What signs will accompany those who believe?
- e) What gift did Jesus promise to give his disciples?
- f) How would the disciples receive power to be witnesses to Jesus?
- g) What did the angels say to the disciples?
- h) What did the disciples do after they returned to Jerusalem?
- i) What happened to Judas?
- j) Why was Matthias added to the eleven apostles?

7. Find the Answer

Choose the correct words that answer each question.

- a) Where would the disciples be witnesses? (Jerusalem / Judea / Samaria / The whole world / Heaven)
- b) Who were the two men dressed in white? (Disciples / angels / soldiers)
- c) Where were the disciples standing when Jesus was taken up into heaven? Olives / Jerusalem / Galilee)
- d) Where were the disciples staying? (Samaria / Galilee / Jerusalem)
- e) How many believers were in the upstairs room? (12/210/ 120/200)
- f) What was the name of the place where Judas died? (Place of Death / Field of Blood)
- g) Who was chosen to be the twelfth apostles? (Judas / Matthias / Bamabbas)
- h) Who was in the upstairs room? (The apostles / Jesus' mother / Jesus' brothers Pharisees / some women / Jesus)
- i) Who stood up among the believers? (Andrew / John / Matthias / Peter / James)
- j) From what book of the Bible did Peter quote? (Genesis / Proverbs / Psalms)

8. The Life of Jesus

Here is a list of important events that happened in the life of Jesus. Put these events in the proper order. The first one has been done for you.



- _____ Jesus teaches the people.
- _____ Jesus is crucified.
- _____ Jesus grows up in Nazareth.
- _____ Jesus calms the storm.
- _____ Jesus is born in Bethlehem
- _____ Jesus is baptized by John,
- _____ Jesus enters Jerusalem
- _____ Jesus is arrested.
- _____ Jesus fasts for forty days.
- _____ Jesus is raised from the dead.
- _____ Jesus heals the sick.
- _____ Jesus returns to Heaven.
- _____ Jesus choose the twelve apostles
- _____ Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.

9. Questions for Reflection

- a) What doe Jesus want you to do?
- b) What special gift will Jesus give to you?
- c) Why should your worship Jesus as your God?

Verse from the Bible

Jesus Christ, who has gone into Heaven and is at God's right hand — with angels, authorities, and powers in submission to him. 1 Peter 3:22





PART C

COMMON PRAYERS



MORNING PRAYERS

Every Christian must the day with the morning prayers. As we wake up each morning, our thoughts must be directed towards God. We need to thank God for keeping us safe all night and for giving us a brand new day to live. Here are some prayers you can say in the morning. You can also use your own prayers.

The Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

A Morning Offering

(Many Catholics each morning offer everything they do to be joined together with all the prayers and masses throughout the world. They dedicate their thoughts and actions to the Heart of Jesus and Mary.)

Jesus, I offer you everything that

I will do, think, or say today.

Help me to spend this day as you would.

I ask pardon for the times

I have not loved you enough.

Please bless my family, friends,
teachers, and classmates.

Bring everyone to heaven with you.

I join my prayers to those of Mary, your mother,
who is my mother, too. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, holy be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil, Amen

The Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace,

Blessed are you among women

And blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus

Holy Mary, Mother of God,



Pray for us sinners,
Now and at the hour of our death. Amen

The Angel

L: The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

R: And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.
Hail Mary...

L: Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R: Be it done to me according to your word.
Hail Mary...

L: And the Word was made flesh.

R: And dwelt among us.

L: Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R: That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let Us Pray

Pour forth, we beseech you,
O Lord, your grace into our hearts,
that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ
your Son, was made known
by the message of an angel,
may, by his passion and cross,
be brought to the glory
of his resurrection.
Through the same Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen



The Queen of Heaven

(To be said during Easter season instead of the Angelus)

- L: Queen of heaven, rejoice! Alleluia.
R: For he whom you did merit to bear, Alleluia.
L: Has risen as he said, Alleluia.
R: Pray for us to God, Alleluia.
L: Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, Alleluia.
R: Because the Lord is truly risen, Alleluia.

Let Us Pray

O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, grant that we may obtain, through his Virgin Mother, Mary, the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord, Amen.

Glory be to the Father...

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty
Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
And born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy spirit
The holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen



Act of Faith

My God,

I believe in you,
And in all your Church teaches,
Because you have said it
And your Word is true.

Act of Hope

My God,

I hope in you.
I am confident
that you will always give me your grace
and bring me the heaven,
because of your promises,
your love and your power.

Act of Love

My God,

I love you, because you are so good.
I want to do your will in order to please you.
For your sake, I love all others as myself
and I will do all I can to help them.

Act of Contrition

O my God,

I am sorry and beg pardon
for all my sins
for having offended you,
and I detest all my sins,
because of your just punishments,
but most of all
because they offend you, my God,
who are all good
and deserving of all my love.
I firmly resolve,
with the help of your grace, to sin no more



and to avoid the occasions of sin. Amen.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, O Holy Spirit,

fill the hearts of your faithful

and kindle in them the fire of your love.

L: Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created

R: And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Let Us Pray

O God, who has taught the hearts

of the faithful by the light

of the Holy Spirit,

grant that in the same Spirit,

we may be always truly wise

and ever rejoice in his consolation.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hail, Holy Queen

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy,

hail, our life, our sweetness and our hope!

To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve;

to you do we send up our sighs,

mourning and weeping in this valley of tears!

turn then, most gracious advocate,

your eyes of mercy towards us;

and after this our exile,

show unto us the Blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus.

O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.



Prayer to the Guardian Angel

O my good angel,
whom God has appointed
To be my guardian,
enlighten and protect,
direct and govern me,
who have been entrusted to you
by the divine mercy. Amen.

NIGHT PRAYERS

Before you we to sleep, we thank God for the day and ask God to watch over us while we asleep.

Say the Our Father, the Hail Mary, the Glory Be and the Angelus. Here I am before you, O my God, to thank you for having kept me safe today- Help me to make a good

Examination of conscience:

Have I thought or done anything today that I know was wrong?
Have I said my prayer properly at home, in Church, and in school?
Have I been disobedient to my parents and teachers?
Have I been untruthful, angry, greedy, lazy, and naughty in any way.

Act of Contrition

O my Lord, I am really sorry for the wrong things I've done.
You are so good to me.
When I do wrong, I turn away from your love. I commit a sin.
I promise to do my best,
and with your help, never to sin again. Jesus, you suffered and died for us. Jesus, have mercy on me.

Prayer to the Holy Family

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
I give you my heart and my soul.
Jesus, Mary and Joseph,



assist me in my last agony.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,

may I breath forth my soul in peace with you.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

As a Catholic you have a special privilege in being able to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, whenever you may need to.

And it is a beautiful sacrament, because if you have offended God, or others, or yourself, then things need to be set right again. That's what reconciliation means - putting our hearts back together again in love. And that's something worth celebrating!

Reconciliation happens in the sacrament through God's forgiveness conveyed by the words of the priest.

Prayer before Confession

O loving Father,

My God and my Creator, you made me and you love me.

I want to make a good confession.

Help me find out my sins

and to be truly sorry for them.

I can do nothing without your help,

so please help me now.

My dear Jesus,

help me to get rid of all my faults.

Holy Spirit, bring all my sins

to my memory.

My dear Mother Mary, pray for me.

My good angel, pray for me.

When you celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, there are four important steps to follow:

1. Think about the times when you didn't show love for God and others.
2. Be sorry for your sins. Promise Jesus you will try your best, with



his help, not to sin again.

3. Tell (confess) your sins to the priest.
4. Do the penance (a prayer, a good work) that the priest gives you.

Examination of Conscience I must love God:

Do I think of God and pray to Him every day?

Do I attend Sunday Mass regularly?

Do I receive Holy Communion devoutly whenever I go for Mass?

Do I say my morning and night prayers?

Do I do my best in my catechism class so that I can come to know God better?

I must love everyone around me:

Do I pray for my parents?

Do I help my parents?

Do I tell my parents the truth even when I might be punished?

Do I ask my parents to forgive me when I hurt them?

Am I kind to everyone else?

Do I try to make everyone at home and at school happy?

Do I cheat on those who are younger than I?

Do I make up after a quarrel?

Do I try to bring peace where there is fighting?

Do I use bad words in anger?

Do I take what is not mine: money, books, toys, etc...?

Confession of Sins

Begin your confession by saying:

'Bless me, father, for I have sinned. My last confession was... ago (or, this is my first confession); and these are my sins; Tell your sins to the priest.

Then conclude saying: '*For these and for all the sins of my past life, especially... (here name some sins which you find easier to feel sorry for) I ask pardon of God, and absolu-tion of you.*'

Listen attentively to the advice and the penance, and when the priest gives the prayer of absolution you may say an act of contrition. Give below is the absolution prayer:



God, the Father of mercies, through the death and the resurrection of his Son, has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church may God give you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit.

R: Amen.

Prayer after Confession

My God,

I am very, very grateful to you

for taking away my sins

and making my soul white and pure again.

You have filled me with new grace and strength

and I thank you with all my heart.

I am very happy now and will try to love

and serve you more every day.

Dear Mother Mary, please help me,

your little child, to do all God wants me to do.

My Guardian Angel,

help me to keep my promises.

THE HOLY ROSARY

The devotion of the Holy Rosary has been treasured in the Church for centuries. It calls to mind the most important events in the lives of Jesus and Mary. These events are called mysteries and are divided into four groups. They are: the five joyful, the five luminous, the five sorrowful, and the five glorious mysteries.

How to say the Rosary (See the Annexe)

1. Make the sign of the Cross and say the Apostles' Creed.
2. Pray the Our Father
3. Pray three Hail Marys
4. Pray the Glory be
5. Read the first mystery ; then pray the Our Father, ten Hail Marys and the



Glory be. The same pattern is followed for all the mysteries.

6. Praise for ever -be the most holy names of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.
7. End the Rosary with the 'Hail Holy Queen.

THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES

(Prayed on Monday, Saturdays and Sundays in Advent)

1. In the first joyful mystery, let us contemplate the Annunciation of the Angel to the Blessed Virgin Mary. (Lk 1:26-38)
(Our Father, ten Hail Marys, Glory be, and Praised for ever)
2. In the second mystery, let us contemplate the Visit of our Blessed Lady to Saint Elizabeth. (Lk 1:30-45)
3. In the third mystery, let us contemplate the Birth of Jesus in a stable at Bethlehem. (Lk 2:4-7)
4. In the fourth mystery, let us contemplate the Presentation of the Child Jesus in the temple. (Lk 2:27-33).
5. In the fifth mystery, let us contemplate the Finding of the Boy Jesus amidst the doctors in the temple. (Lk 2:41-52).

THE LUMINOUS MYSTERIES

(Prayed on Thursdays)

1. The first luminous mystery, the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan (Mt 3:13).
Hail Mary... Jesus who was baptised in the Jordan. Holy Mary...
2. The second luminous mystery, Jesus at the wedding at Cana (Jn 2:1-12).
Hail Mary ... Jesus who changed water into wine. Holy Mary...
3. The third luminous mystery, Jesus proclaims the Kingdom of God and call to conversion. (Mt 1,15). Hail Mary ... Jesus who preached the word of God with the call to conversion. Holy Mary...
4. The fourth luminous mystery, the Transfiguration of Jesus.
(Lk 9:35). Hail Mary ... Jesus who was transfigured. Holy Mary...
5. The fifth luminous mystery, the Institution of the Holy Eucharist
(Jn 13,1). Hail Mary... Jesus who instituted the Holy Eucharist. Holy Mary...



THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

(Prayed on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays in Lent)

1. In the first sorrowful mystery, let us contemplate the Agony of our Lord Jesus Christ in the garden. (Lk 22:33-44)
2. In the second mystery, let us contemplate the Scourging of our Lord at the Pillar. (Mk 15:15).
3. In the third mystery, let us contemplate the Crowning of our Lord with thorns. (Mt 27:27-30).
4. In the fourth mystery, let us contemplate the Journey of our Lord carrying his cross to Calvary. (Lk 23: 22-28).
5. In the fifth mystery, let us contemplate the Crucifixion and Death of Our Lord Jesus Christ. (Jn 19: 17-18,25-30).

THE GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

(Prayed on Wednesdays and Sundays.)

1. In the first glorious mystery, let us contemplate the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ (Mt 28: 1-9).
2. In the second mystery, let us contemplate the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ into heaven. (Act 1: 9-11)
3. In the third mystery, let us contemplate the Descent of the Holy Spirit upon our Blessed Lady and the apostles. (Act 2: 1-4)
4. In the fourth mystery, let us contemplate the Assumption of our Blessed Lady into heaven. (1 Thes4: 14, 17).
5. In the fifth mystery, let us contemplate the Coronation of our Blessed Lady and the glory of the angels and saints. (Rev 12:1)

ANNEXE

1. *In the name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*
2. The Apostles' Creed: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He



will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

3. Our Father in heaven, holy be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the test, but deliver us from evil, Amen,
4. Hail Mary, full of grace, blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.
5. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
6. (At the end of the Rosary) Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, hail, our life, our sweet-ness and our hope! To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to you do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears! Turn then, most gracious ad-vocate, your eyes of mercy towards us; and after this our exile, show unto us the Blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.
7. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

The Way of the Cross is a devotion in which we meditate on Christ's passion and death in order to put their meaning into our lives. This devotion should lead us to do in our lives what Jesus did - we must give our lives in the service of others.

The Way of the Cross has 14 stations or stopping places. These are moments that help us understand the deep love Jesus has for us.

Before each station is repeated:

L: We adore you, O Christ and we bless you.

All: Because by your cross you have redeemed the world.



After each station:

L: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

All: Have mercy on us.

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father,

grant that we who meditate

on the passion and death

of your Son, Jesus Christ,

may imitate in our lives

His love and self-giving

to you and to others.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

1st Station:

Jesus is Condemned (Condemned for a goal).

The first station presents to us the Pretorium of Pilate, where our Divine Redeemer is condemned to death.

Biblical Text: Mk 8: 27-30

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, I am afraid to commit my life to anyone, to stake my name for a cause. I pre-fer to drift through life with responsibilities to none giving nothing of myself to other. Give me the courage to be like you, to have a goal for which I will be ready even to stand condemned.

2nd Station:

Jesus carries his Cross (Making all things new).

The second station recalls to our minds how Jesus was loaded with the heavy weight of the cross.

Biblical Text: Mt 11:28-30

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, every difficulty, each bitter experience leave me fat, discouraged. I am un-able to see the thousand opportunities for growth and good hidden in even the most hope-less of situations

Enable me like you to actualise the opportunities in every situation to make all things new.



3rd Station:

Jesus falls the first time (The Pain of falling).

The third station represents to us how Jesus fell the first time beneath the weight of the cross.

Biblical Text: Lk 11:46

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, at times I feel like giving it all up. I fail so often and in so many things that I just don't have the will to carry on.

Teach me to be patient with myself. Assist me to accept humbly my failings, defects, weaknesses and limitations. Make me courageous enough to struggle after you, with all my limitations.

4th Station:

Jesus meets his mother (The Presence of the Mother).

The fourth station represents to us the sorrowful meeting between the Blessed Virgin and her Divine Son. Biblical Text: Mk 6: 1-3

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, I thank you for giving me your Mother. I thank you for not leaving me alone in my struggles to grow integrally, to study diligently, to work conscientiously, to love purely, to share justly and live honourably. May T always have faith in her presence and in her assistance.

5th Station:

Simon help Jesus (Barriers are broken).

The fifth station represents to us how Simon of Cyrene was compelled to carry the Cross after Jesus.

Biblical Text; Lk 10:26-37

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, I am good - good at erecting barriers but not tearing them down. I erect ail types of barriers through my attitudes and my behaviour to keep people away, little real-izing that cut off from others I will only die.

Assist me to break down the barriers that I have created and accept each one as my sister and brother.



6th Station:

Veronica wipes the face of Jesus (See - Judge - Act)).

The sixth station represents to us Veronica as she wiped the face of Jesus.

Biblical Text: Mk 12: 41-44

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, I realize that what people need is not just compassion in thought alone but action, action prompted by compassion. But I am afraid, of what others will say, of what others will do, of the inconveniences I have to face, of the adverse consequences for my future. And so I remain a silent spectator and you plod along unassisted.

Help me so that I may have the courage of my convictions; the courage to act without counting the cost.

7th Station:

Jesus falls the second time (Rise to conquer).

The seventh station represents to us the second fall of Jesus, which increased his torture and ignominy.

Biblical Text: Mt 5: 3-12

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, my entire self is an ocean of desires, cravings, wants and needs. I feel pulled in all directions. I find it difficult to walk the right road and I fall, at times grievously. When I am on the ground under the weight of my own sins, you, who rose up, guard me from despair and stretch out your hands so that I too may rise and conquer my sins with your strength.

8th Station:

Jesus consoles with women (Know Thyself).

The eight station represents to us our Blessed Lord when he met the pious women who were weeping over his sufferings.

Biblical Text: Mk 14:3-9

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, the journey inwards is really difficult. I prefer to do anything else but that Empower me to look into myself, to know myself to see my good and bad qualities, to accept myself as I am and then to promote that is good in me and to change in me what needs to be changed.



9th Station:

Jesus falls the third time (Shattered Dreams).

The ninth station represents to us the third falls of Jesus bringing his fresh wounds and further sufferings.

Biblical Text: Mt 4: 11

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, help me to be a realist in my dreams. Help me to dream dreams that can be realized with your help.

And, when failures come my way, when my dreams are shattered, give me the serenity to be able to pick up the fragments and start building again.

10th Station:

Jesus is stripped of his clothes (teaches us how to live).

The tenth station represents to us how Jesus, as soon as he reached Mount Calvary, was stripped of his clothes and given bitter gall to drink.

Biblical Text: Jn 19: 17-24

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, death teaches me that on the final journey, which could begin any day the degrees I work for, the riches that I wish to amass, to power that I build up, the bodily figure that I painstakingly cultivate and the many things I adore today will be of little value.

Give me the wisdom not to waste my life in search of good that perish, but to live my life in pursuit of values that are ever meaningful.

11th Station:

Jesus is Crucified (Attitude to Pain).

The eleventh station represents to us how Jesus was nailed to the Cross in the presence of his most affected Mother.

Biblical Text: Mk 15:34

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, help me to have a right attitude to pain: neither to run away from it like a coward nor to welcome it for its own sake like some misguided people. May I never inflict pain on others, and always strive to alleviate pain.



In my own life give me the strength to endure serenely the pain that cannot be avoided and to accept willingly the pain that produces growth.

12th Station:

Jesus dies (God' love meets total openness).

The twelfth station represents to us the death of Jesus on the Cross.
Biblical Text: Lk 23: 44-46

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, help me to surrender to you all that I am and ail that I have and let you be the master of my life.

Thus, guided by you, and filed with your Spirit may I live my life in joy, peace and hope.

13th Station:

Jesus is taken down from the Cross (Love Endures).

The thirteenth station represents to us how the most sacred body of Christ was taken down from the Cross, and laid in the arms of the Blessed Mother.

Biblical Text: Jn 12:23-26.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, you know the thrill, the struggle, the longing, the confusion and the chaos within me as I learn to love.

And in this very painful and rewarding process of learning to love genuinely I make many mistakes. Enlighten me so that I may learn from my mistakes. Guide me so that I may not overstep the boundaries. Encourage me so that I may feel affirmed in the little steps I take in love. Lead me so that I may grow in true love.

14th Station:

Jesus is buried (Death is not a dead-end).

The fourteenth station represents to us the burial of our Divine Redeemer.

Biblical Text: Rev 21: 1-4

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, my mind is full of questions. Who am I? Where am I going? What does it all mean? Why suffering? Why death? I hear so many



voices, I hear so many answers; one different from the other.

Often nothing is clear. I am confused. Guide me, Lord, guide me in my quest for answers, for meaning, for certainty, in my quest for you.

15th Station:

Jesus is Risen

The fifteenth station represents the rising of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Biblical Text: Luke 24:1-12

Prayer

My Jesus, forgive me for weeping many times without knowing that you are risen and alive to take away all my sorrows. Let me look at your healed wounds and be consoled. comforted and continue to serve you and to suffer for you until my death. Amen

Concluding Prayer:

Heavenly Father, you delivered your Son to the death of the Cross to save us from evil.

Grant us the grace of the resurrection. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

One Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be for the intentions of the Holy Father.

HOLY MASS

The Mass is a sacrifice. A sacrifice is something offered to God to show that He is the master of all things.

Jesus offered himself to God on the cross at Calvary. Therefore the Mass is a memorial of the supreme sacrifice of Christ on Calvary. In offering the Mass we adore Him, thank Him, and beg pardon of Him for all our sins. We also ask for our daily needs.

Going to Mass is our way of telling the world how important God is in our life.

At Mass we meet others who believe in Jesus. At Church we greet them, encourage them, and wish them the peace of Christ.

At Mass we join our heart and voice in prayer with those who love God.



THE ORDER OF MASS

THE INTRODUCTORY RITE

Entrance Song

The Mass begins with an entrance procession of the ministers to the sanctuary, during which a hymn is sung or the entrance antiphon of the day is recited.

Greeting

The celebrant greets all present. His greeting proclaims the presence of the Lord with the community gathered.

Cel: In the name of the Father and of the Son,
+ and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Cel: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.
The celebrant may briefly introduce the Mass of the day.

THE PENITENTIAL RITE

At the beginning of every Eucharist we celebrate, the priest invites us to recall all the various occasions on which we have said 'No' to God, and to ask His pardon.

Cel: My brothers and sisters,
to prepare ourselves
to celebrate the sacred mysteries,
let us call to mind our sins.
After a brief silence all say:

All: I confess to almighty God,
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have sinned through my own fault
(All strike their breast)
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done,
and in what I have failed to do;
and I ask Blessed Mary, ever virgin,



all the angels and saints, and you,
my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Absolution

Cel: May almighty God have mercy
on us, forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life. All: Amen.

A Plea for Mercy

Cel: Lord, have mercy.
All: Lord, have mercy.
Cell: Christ, have mercy.
All: Christ, have mercy.
Cel: Lord, have mercy.
All: Lord, have mercy.

The Gloria

This triumphant hymn of praise is sung or said on Sundays outside of the seasons of Advent and Lent, on solemnities and feasts, and on some other occasions of special importance.

All: Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you,
we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of
the Father, receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,



with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

The celebrant and the people pray silently for a while. Then the celebrant says the opening prayer.

Cel: Let us pray...

At the end of the prayer, the people make it their own by responding: All: Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

It is generally taken from the Old Testament. Here we are told how God loved us and promised to send us a Saviour.

At the end of the reading the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsible Psalm

The Psalm is a reflection of the first reading. It is sung or recited.

Second Reading

It is taken from the New Testament. Its content is the experience of the first Christians -how to live the Leaching or Christ.

At the end of the reading the reader says: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia

In order to welcome the word of Jesus into our hearts a verse of welcome is sung or said.

Proclamation of the Gospel

Cel: (or deacon)The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you

Cel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to N,

All: Glory to you, Lord.

At the end of the Gospel the deacon (celebrant) says:



Cel: (or deacon) This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

God's word is spoken again in the homily. The Holy Spirit speaking through the lips of the preacher explains the day's biblical readings and applies them to the needs of the particular congregation. He calls us to respond to Christ through the life we lead.

The Profession of Faith

As the people of God we express our acceptance of God's message in the Scriptures and the homily. We profess our faith by proclaiming a creed handed down from the early Church.

The Creed is sung or recited on Sundays and on solemnities.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,

And born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy spirit

The holy Catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen

The Prayer of the Faithful

As a priestly people we unite with one another to pray for the needs of the Church and the world.

After the celebrant gives the introduction the reader sings or says the invocations.



All: Lord, hear our prayer.

(or the response, according to local custom).

At the end the celebrant says the concluding prayer:

All: Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Made ready by reflection on God's word, we enter now into the Eucharistic sacrifice of the Mass itself, the Supper of the Lord. We celebrate the memorial which the Lord instituted at His Last Supper. We are God's new people, the redeemed brothers and sisters of the Christ, gathered around His table. We are here to praise God and receive the gift of Jesus' body and blood so that our faith and life may be transformed.

The Offertory

The bread and the wine for the Eucharist, with our gifts for the Church and the poor, are gathered and brought to the altar. We prepare our hearts by singing or in silence as the Lord's table is being set.

Cel: Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.

Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made.

It will become for us the bread of life. All: Blessed be God for ever.

Cel: (quietly) By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity.

Cel: Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.

Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink. All: Blessed be God for ever.

Cel: (quietly) Lord God, we ask you to receive us and be pleased with the sacrifice we offer you with humble and contrite hearts.

The celebrant washes his hands saying:

Cel: Lord, wash away my iniquity; cleanse me from my sin. Invitation to Prayer

Cel: Pray, brethren, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father. All: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his Church.



Prayer over the Gifts

The celebrant, speaking in our name, says the prayer over the gifts, asking the Father to bless and accept them. All: Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER I

We begin the Eucharistic Prayer, the centre of the entire celebration, the central prayer of worship. At the celebrant's invitation we lift our hearts to God and unite with him in the words he addresses to the Father through Jesus Christ. Together we join Christ in his sacrifice, celebrating his memorial in the holy meal and acknowledging with him the wonderful works of God in our lives.

Introductory Dialogue

Cel: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Cel: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Cel: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Preface

In the name of the entire people of God, the celebrant gives thanks and praise to the Fa-ther for the works of salvation or for some particular aspect of it, in keeping with the day, feast or season. At the end of the Preface all may sing or say:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER II

Invocation of the Holy Spirit

Lord, you are holy indeed,
the fountain of all holiness
Let you Spirit come upon these gift to make them holy
so that they may become for us
the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

The Lord's Supper

Before he was given up to death,
a death he freely accepted,
he took bread and gave you thanks.
He broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:

Take this, all of you, and eat it;
this is my body which will be given up for you.

When supper was ended, he took the cup.
Again he gave you thanks and praise,
gave the cup to his disciples, and said:

Take this, all of you, and drink from it:
This is the cup of my blood,
the blood of the new and everlasting covenant.
it will be shed for you and for all
so that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in memory of me.

Memorial Acclamation of the People

Cel: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
All say one of the following acclamations.

- All:
1. Christ has died, Christ is risen
Christ will come again.
 2. Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.
 3. When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death,



Lord Jesus, Until you come in glory.

4. Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free. You are the Saviour of the world.

The Memorial Prayer

In memory of his death and resurrection,
We offer you, Father, this life-giving bread,
This saving cup.

We thank you for counting us worthy
To stand in your presence and serve you.
May all of us who share in the body and blood of Christ
Be brought together in unity by the Holy Spirit.

Intercessions for the Church

Lord, remember your Church through out the world;
Make us grow in love,
Together with N. our Pope,
N. our bishop, and all the clergy.

(In Masses for the Dead the following may be added.
Remember N., whom you have called from this life.
In baptism he/she) died with Christ:
May he (she) also share in his resurrection.)

Remember our brothers and sisters
Who have gone to their rest
In the hope of rising again;
Bring them all the departed
Into the light of your presence.

In communion with the saints

Have mercy on us all;
make us worthy to share eternal life
with Mary, the Virgin Mother of God,
with the apostles, and with all the saints
who have done your will throughout the ages.
May we praise you in union with them,
and give you glory



through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Final Doxology: in praise of God

Through him,
with him,
in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honour is yours,
almighty Father,
for ever and ever.
Amen

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER III

Praise to the Father

Father, you are holy indeed,
and all creation rightly gives you praise.
All life, all holiness comes from you
Through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
by the working of the Holy Spirit.
From age to age you gather
a people to yourself,
so that from east to west
a perfect offering may be made
to the glory of your name.

Invocation of the Holy Spirit

And so, Father, we bring you these gifts.
We ask you to make them holy
by the power of the your spirit,
that they may become
the body and blood
of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
at whose command we celebrate
this Eucharist.



The Lord's Supper

On the night he was betrayed,
he took bread and gave you
thanks and praise.

He broke the bread, give it to his
disciples, and said:

**Take this, all of you, and eat it:
this is my body which will be
given up for you.**

When supper ended,

he took the cup,

**Again he gave you thanks and praise,
gave the cup to his disciples, and said:**

**Take this, all of you, and drink
from it: this is the cup of my blood,
the blood of the new and
everlasting covenant.**

**It will be shed for you and for all
so that sins may be forgiven.**

Do this in memory of me.

Memorial Acclamation of the People

Cel: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

All say one of the following acclamations.

- All: 1. Christ has died,
Christ is risen
Christ will come again.
2. Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.
3. When we eat this bread and
drink this cup,
we proclaim your death,
Lord Jesus,
Until you come in glory.
4. Lord, by your cross



and resurrection you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.

The Memorial Prayer

Father, calling to mind the death your
Son endured for our salvation,
his glorious resurrection and ascension into heaven,
and ready to greet him when he comes again,
we offer you in thanksgiving this holy
and living sacrifice.
Look with favour on your
Church's offering,
and see the Victim whose death has
reconciled us to yourself.
Grant that we, who are nourished by
His body and blood,
May be filled with his Holy Spirit,
and become one body,
one spirit in Christ.

In Communion with the Saints

May he make us an everlasting gift to you
and enable us to share in the inheritance of your saints,
with Mary, the virgin Mother of God;
with the apostles, the martyrs,
(Saint N., the saint of the day or patron saint)
and all your saints,
on whose constant intercession
we rely for help.

Intercessions for the Church

Lord, may this sacrifice,
which has made our peace with you,
advance the peace and salvation of all the world.
Strengthen in faith and love your pilgrim
Church on earth;
Your servant, Pope N., our bishop N.,



and all the bishops,
with the clergy and the entire people your
Son has gained for you.
Father, hear the prayers of the family
You have gathered here before you.
In mercy and love unite all your children
Wherever they may be.*

For the Dead

Welcome into your kingdom our
Departed brothers and sisters,
and all who have left this world
in your friendship.
We hope to enjoy for ever the vision of your glory,
through Christ our Lord, from
whom all good things come.

***When this Eucharist prayer is used in Masses for the dead, the following may be said:**

Remember N.,
In baptism he (she) died with Christ: may he (she) also share his
resurrection, when Christ will raise our mortal bodies and make them like
his own in glory.
Welcome into your kingdom our departed
Brothers and sisters,
and all who have left this world
in your friendship.
There we hope to share in your glory
when every tear will be wiped away.
On that day we shall see you,
our God, as you are.
We shall become like you
and praise you for ever through Christ our Lord,
from whom all good things come.



Final Doxology: in Praise of God

Through him,
with him,
in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honour is yours,
almighty Father,
for ever and ever.
All: Amen.

THE COMMUNION RITE

To prepare to welcome the Lord in Holy Communion, we pray for forgiveness and ex-change a sign of peace.

The celebrant asks the people to join him in the Lord's Prayer. Cel:
Let us pray with confidence to the father

in the words our Saviour gave us.

All: Our Father in heaven,
Holy be your name
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
Forgive us our sins,
As we forgive those who sin against us
Do not bring us to the test,
But deliver us from evil.

Cel: Deliver us, Lord, from every evil,
and grant us peace in our day.
In your mercy keep us free from sin
and protect us from all anxiety
as we wait in joyful hope
for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.



All: For the kingdom, the power, and
the glory are yours, now and forever.
The celebrant says the prayer of peace.

Cel: Lord Jesus Christ,
you said to your apostles:
I leave you peace,
my peace I give you.
Look not on our sins,
but on the faith of your Church,
and grant us the peace
and unity of your kingdom
where you live for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Cel: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you. Cel: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.
All make an appropriate sign of peace according to local custom.

Breaking of the Bread

The priest breaks the host and places a small piece in the chalice saying quietly:

May this mingling of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it.

During the breaking of the bread the Lamb of God is either sung or said:

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb
of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Preparation for Communion

The priest prepares privately for communion:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, by the will of the Father and the work of the Holy Spirit your death brought life to the world. By your holy body and blood free me from all my sins and from every evil. Keep me faithful to your teaching, and never let me be parted from you.



Reception of Communion

The priest invites the people to share communion.

Cel: This is the Lamb of God who takes
away the sins of the world.

Happy are those who
Are called to his supper.

All: Lord, I am not worthy
to receive you,
but only say the word
and I shall be healed.

While the celebrant is receiving the body of Christ, the communion song
may be sung.

The celebrant goes to the communicant and gives the sacred host saying:

Cel: The body of Christ.

The communicant answers:

Amen,

**After the communion there may be a period of silence, or a song of
praise may be sung.**

Prayer after Communion

The celebrant prays in our name that we may live the life of faith since
we have been strengthened by Christ himself. Our Amen makes this
prayer our own.

Cel: Let us pray...

All: Amen.

The Concluding Rite

Cel: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Blessing

Cel: May almighty God bless you,
The Father, and the Son,
+ and the Holy Spirit,

All: Amen.



Dismissal

We have received Jesus in the Eucharist. Now we are ready to leave the Church. Jesus will be with us wherever we go. Bring his love to: Your family, your friends, your home and your neighbours.

Cel: The Mass is ended, go in peace.

or

Cel: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

POWERFUL PRAYERS

Prayer before Meals

Bless us, O Lord, and these your gifts which we are about to receive from your bounty.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer after Meals

We give you thanks, almighty God, for all your benefits which we have received from your bounty. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Success in Examination

O God, the source of all wisdom, help me to retain in the memory what I have studied and face my exams courageously. May your Holy Spirit be my light, strength and guide. Amen.

Prayer for my Country

O God, you guide everything in wisdom and love. Accept the prayers I offer for my country. May harmony and justice be secured and may there be lasting peace and prosperity. Amen.

Prayer for the Departed

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



Anima Christi (soul of Christ)

Soul of Christ sanctify me;
Body of Christ save me;
Blood of Christ inebriate me;
Water from the side of Christ wash me;
Passion of Christ strengthen me.
O good Jesus hear me;
Within Your wounds hide me;
Never permit me to be separated from You;
From the evil one protect me,
At the hour of my death call me,
And bid me come to You
That with Your saints
I may praise you forever. Amen.

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be
loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that
we are pardoned, and it is in dy-ing that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.

The Divine Praises

Blessed be God.
Blessed be His Holy Name.
Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true man.
Blessed be the Name of Jesus.
Blessed be His Most Sacred Heart.
Blessed be His Most Precious Blood.
Blessed be Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.
Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.
Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.
Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.



Blessed be her glorious Assumption.
Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.
Blessed be St, Joseph, her most chaste spouse.
Blessed be God in His angels and in His Saints.

Prayer to St. Joseph

To you, blessed Joseph, we come with confidence in this our hour of need, trusting in your powerful protection, your loving service to the immaculate Virgin Mother of God and your fatherly affection for the Child Jesus. Inspire us with faith in the power of your intercession before the throne of God.

We pray, first of all, for the Church; that it may be free from error and corruption and be a shining light of universal love of justice.

Prayer to St. Anthony

White lily of purity, sublime example of poverty, true mirror of humility, resplendent star of sanctity. O glorious St. Anthony, who did enjoy the sweet privilege of receiving into thy arms the infant Jesus, I beseech thee to take me under thy powerful protection. Thou, in whom the power of working miracles shines forth among the other gifts of God, have pity upon me and come to my aid in this my great need.

Cleanse my heart from every disorderly affection, obtain for me a true contrition for my sins and a great love of God and of my neighbour that serving God faithfully in this life,

I may come to praise, enjoy and bless Him eternally with thee in paradise. Amen.

Prayer to St. John Bosco

O merciful God, in your loving providence you have given us in St. John Bosco, a father and teacher of youth, who, with the help of the Virgin Mary, worked with tireless zeal for the good of the Church. Enkindle in us the same fame of love that impel us to work for the salvation of souls and to serve you alone. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer to St. Dominic Savio

O Saint Dominic Savio, who learnt, at the school of Don Bosco, to pass in holiness the days of your youth, help us to follow you in your love for



Jesus, in your devotion to Mary and in your zeal for souls. Grant that, resolving to die rather than offend God, we may attain everlasting happiness. Amen

A Birthday Prayer

O God, I thank you for giving me another year of life. Thank you for all the people who have remembered me today, and who have sent me cards, letters, good wishes, e-mails and presents. I thank you for everything, which I have been enabled by you to do and to be in the past year. I thank you for all the experiences of the past year; for times of success in which will always be happy memories; for times of failure which reminded me of my own weakness and of my need of you; for times of joy when the sun was shining; for times of sorrow which drove me to you.

Forgive me for the hours I have wasted; for the chances I failed to take; for the opportunities I missed in the past year. Forgive me that I have not made of life all that I might have made of it and could have made of it; and help me in the days which lie ahead to make this the best year yet. and in it to bring credit to myself, happiness to my loved ones and joy to you. This prayer we ask of you through Christ our Lord. Amen, (adapted from William Barclay)



FR. DR. JOHN PARANKIMALIL SDB is a member of the Don Bosco Educational Society, Guwahati Province. He was the former president of AINACS (All India Association of Catholic Schools) and former principal of St. Anthony's Higher Secondary School, Shillong. Currently he holds a doctorate in education, he conducts workshops and seminars in schools and colleges on Value Education, Personality Development and Christian Faith.

DR. JOHN PARANKIMALIL is also the National Award Winner for "Teachers in the lifetime achievement category".

Catholic Catechism for All, prepared by Rev. Fr. Dr. John Parankimalil SDB, is an important tool for faith formation for kids, teens, children, youth and the adults alike. It is written in such a simple interesting language. Reading this book is like eating a delicious dessert as it flows like honey, however its contents build up its readers physically, emotionally and spiritually healthy. For anyone who would like to grow spiritually they should continue to feed their faith with authentic Catholic teachings. This book by Rev Fr. P.D. John helps the non-Christians and Christians alike. For believers it strengthens their faith and for the unbelievers it transmits faith in God. Since Catholic Catechism is rooted in Holy Scripture and in Holy Tradition it works as an authentic tower of light to show its readers an authoritative way to eternal life. I take this opportunity to highly appreciate the hard work of Rev. Fr. John Parankimalil SDB, who is also my elder brother-priest who instilled the seeds of faith in me from childhood.

FR. DR. JOHN PARANKIMALIL SDB
Director
Don Bosco Institute of Management (DBIM)
Joypur, Kharghuli, Guwahati - 781004, Assam.
Ph. +919436730717, +918794747899.