

Theme 3 – Life and Death

Intent

After exploring concepts such as Creation, Sanctity of Life, Imago Dei and Incarnation in the Catholic modules studied so far, along with the concepts of Sanctity of Life and Life after Death in the Judaism: Beliefs module, it seems logical to explore fully the Catholic teaching on Life after Death.

This theme is designed to take pupils on a journey which begins at death. It will explore loss of life and the grief associated with it by those left behind as the biggest of big questions.

Since Christianity proclaims that death has been conquered in Jesus, it is important to also consider beliefs about the afterlife and concepts of heaven, hell and judgement. Finally, the module looks at ways in which Catholic Christianity engages with this mystery through music, prayer and rituals of passing and remembrance.



Process

1. Catholic Teaching on the Meaning of Death & Dying Well

In this first topic, we explore the Catholic teaching on death as 'life changed, but not ended' and investigate the belief in eternal life. **1 Corinthians** will be our source of authority for this. There will also be a focus on Catholic belief on dying well and their support of palliative care like hospices.

2. Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide

Because of the beliefs outlined in the first topic, it makes sense to investigate why the **Catholic Church** believes both Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia are wrong and go against the Sanctity of Life argument. The view that suffering brings us closer to God will also be explored.

3. Quality of Life vs Sanctity of Life

Following on from the previous topic, we now move on to explore how the Catholic belief on the **Sanctity of Life** directly contrasts the **Humanist view** that humans have the choice on whether to end their lives based on quality of life. The Christian '**most loving thing to do**' argument will also be focused on.

4. Catholic Belief about Life after Death

Now that we have looked at the Catholic views on Death and Euthanasia, it makes sense to explore the Catholic beliefs on life after death, focusing on **resurrection, soul and St Paul's teaching on bodily resurrection**. **1 Corinthians** will once again be our source of authority.

5. Contrasting Views about the End of Personal Existence

Based on learning from the last topic, we now focus on other popular views about life after death e.g. **immortality of the soul, near death experiences, reincarnation** and the view that death is the end of life.

6. Catholic Teaching on Judgement, Heaven, Hell and Purgatory

After looking at alternative theories on life after death in the last topic, we now re-focus on Catholic teachings on **judgement, heaven, hell and purgatory**. We will explore the parables of the Rich Man, Unforgiving Servant and The Sheep and Goats.

Process

7. The Nature of the Magisterium

Having studied the Catholic teaching on life after death in the previous topics, we now focus on how the Church is a source of authority for belief and teaching. We will explore the **Magisterium (Pope and Bishops)** and how it presents Catholic teaching in a modern world.



8. The Second Vatican Council

Following on from the last topic, we now explore the four key documents that came as a result of **Vatican II**. These documents guide the Church in setting out belief and teaching in response to a changing society.



9. Sarcophagi and Eternal Life

Having focused on Catholic beliefs about life after death, we now explore beliefs about eternal life that are shown in certain artefacts like **Sarcophagi**. We look at how these stone coffins represent Jesus' death and resurrection.



10. Paschal Candle and Resurrection

The next artefact we look at is the **Paschal Candle** which is used in Baptism and at the Easter Vigil. The focus will be on explaining how the candle symbolises Jesus' resurrection as a triumph over death and sin.



11. Different Forms of Music used In Worship to Express Eternal Life.

Following on from artefacts, this topic focuses on music. It explores different forms of music used in **Catholic worship** and how beliefs about eternal life are present in music used in the Mass.




12. The Funeral Rite

Now we have looked at artefacts, the focus of this topic is to focus on practices based on **Catholic beliefs about eternal life**. In this topic, we will investigate the order of the funeral rite and how symbols and prayers are used to express beliefs about eternal life.



Process

12. Prayer in Catholic Communities



The next form of practice is prayer. This topic will focus on **different types of prayer** and examine themes around beliefs about **eternal life** found in different prayers.



Impact

This process will enable the understanding of:

- Catholic teaching on death and dying well.
- Different religious and non-religious attitudes to palliative care, euthanasia and assisted suicide.
- Catholic beliefs about life after death, including resurrection, judgement, Heaven, Hell and Purgatory.
- The different sources of authority for Catholics in the form of the Magisterium and the Second Vatican Council.
- How Christian beliefs about eternal life are portrayed in artefacts like Sarcophagi and the Paschal Candle.
- How Catholic beliefs about eternal life are visible in practices like worship music, the funeral rite and prayer.

Progress will be shown by:

- Formative assessment of past-exam question answers completed in class and at home, and improvements made from feedback.
- Formative assessment through the re-capping of previous modules and knowledge checks.
- Summative assessment through mid-module and end of module assessments based on past exams.