



Eschatology - Revision

The Paschal Candle

- This is the most important feature of the Easter Vigil (the service that takes place in the darkness between Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday).
- It symbolises Christ rising from the grave. The light from the candle breaking the darkness.
- It is common for the candle to be decorated with the Alpha and Omega symbols to show that Jesus is eternal. And, inserted are 5 holders containing incense to symbolise the 5 wounds Jesus had during his death.
- During the procession a light is taken from the Paschal Candle and given to every member of the congregation.
- It is also used at every Baptism and Funeral.
- At Baptism this is to symbolise that they have been filled with the light of Christ.
- At a Funeral this is to show that the deceased is joined with Christ in the resurrected life.

Questions:

1. What is Eschatology?
2. Why is the time between Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday so important?

Michelangelo's Last Judgement

- Jesus and Mary- This is at the centre of the painting. Jesus is shown to be

powerful yet, still carrying the wounds from his crucifixion. It shows that he came to glory through his role as judge and obedience and suffering.



world is announced.



- The Saints- Near to Jesus are Saints that are holding the instruments of their own torture and death. E.g. St. Bartholomew is holding a knife. All of their bodies are perfect to show the belief that are bodies are renewed in the resurrection.



- The Faithful- It shows people leaving their grave depicting how all people will be raised on the last day. Jesus' right hand is raised showing his power to both raise people from the dead and his power to raise the faithful to heaven. Michael the Archangel is shown holding the book of the faithful.



- The Condemned- this shows people travelling downwards to hell. Hell is represented by a gaping blackness to show that the light of Christ cannot reach people who have rejected God.

Links to Scripture and Teaching

- Youcat 163- The final judgement will take place at the end of the world, at the second coming of Christ.

Links to Scripture and Teaching

- 1 Corinthians 6: 19- the body is a temple for the Holy Spirit.

Questions:

1. Mary and Jesus were originally painted naked; what does this symbolise?
2. How do the faithful and the condemned link to the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats?
3. Why is the book of the condemned larger than the book of the faithful?

Memorials for the Dead

- As life is given to us by God; life should be treated with respect even after death.
- Tombstones- this indicates the remains of a person that has died. It will contain information about their birth and death, and often, religious messages e.g. Rest in Peace. Many are in the shape of a cross; this shows their belief in Jesus, and that they will be reunited with him after death.
- Monuments- These are erected at the burial place of someone important. Occasionally, the Church allows such people to be buried inside the Church. For example, they have been erected where saints have died which allows people to go to that site on pilgrimage.
- Remembrance Gardens- for those who choose cremation their ashes will be kept in a small container called an urn. These may often be kept in a remembrance garden where their loved ones can visit them.

Eschatology and Life After Death

- The resurrection showed God at work in a new way; beginning of the end of the power of sin and death.
- The early Christians believed that the end times was going to happen very soon after Jesus' ascension. This meant that they had to live the life of the resurrection here on earth today; resisting the temptation of evil and allowing the Holy Spirit to guide them.
- St. Paul's Letters- we will receive new, eternal, spiritual bodies. He compares this to a seed and a plant- the seed and the plant are totally different and their resemblance can be difficult to understand.

Links to scripture and teaching

- Mark 13: 24-25- Before the second coming of Christ there will be cosmic disasters e.g. the sun will darken, the powers in heaven will shake.
- 1 Corinthians 15: 42-45- the comparison of the earthy and resurrected body as a seed and a plant.
- John 14:2-3- Jesus promised that he would take those who were faithful to heaven with him.

Four Last Things

- Death- The earthly body will die but this is not the end as the soul leaves

on. Death is a transition to a new and eternal life.

- Judgement- After death a person is judged by God and they will be held to account for all their failings in life; this judgement will be merciful.
- Heaven- this is a place of eternal happiness where all believers are aware of God's love. God is loving and want all to be in heaven but will only accept those who have chosen to accept God in their lives.
- Hell- This is a state of separation from God. It is for people that have chosen to turn away from God. The pain in hell is caused by frustration and awareness that they have thrown away God's love.

Links to Scripture and Teaching

- Youcat 158- Heaven is the endless moment of love.
- Youcat 161- Hell is an everlasting separation from God and the absolute absence of love.

Questions

1. Why might death be comforting for some?
2. What is the difference between heaven and hell?
3. Is it fair to judge people on their actions?

Purgatory and Judgement

- Purgatory- this is a cleansing process not a place. The process removes the effects of sin so that we can be happy in the full presence of God when we reach heaven. The

sense of pain comes from the removal of sin.

- Particular Judgement- the individual goes before God to be judged for their actions and it is decided whether they go to heaven or hell.
- Final Judgement- Christ comes again at the end time to judge the whole of creation. After this the reign of God will be established.
- Other beliefs- most Christians believe in heaven and resurrection. Some focus on the book of Revelation.
 - Some believe that the judgement after death is the only judgement a person receives and do not believe in purgatory.
 - Others believe that all will wait for the second coming of Christ to be judged.

Links to Scripture and Teaching

- Youcat 159- When Peter betrayed Jesus he wept bitterly- a feeling that is compared to purgatory.

Questions

1. Why would God allow us to suffer in purgatory?
2. What is the book of revelations about?

Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus

- This story warns about the heart-heartedness that can come from wealth and fame destroying people's empathy. It is the lack of care for others that means the rich man goes to hell.

- The suffering in hell is shown by the rich man's pleading for a drop of water to ease his pain.
- Abraham is a symbol of faith and trust in God- those in heaven are sharing in the rewards given to Abraham.
- No movement between heaven and hell can be made- their previous actions have created their future.
- The parable teaches that being aware and responding to the needs of others results in a closeness with God. Not doing this, causes separation from God.

Links to scripture and teaching

- Luke 16:19-31- Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus
- Youcat 162- It is man who refuses God's merciful love depriving himself from being with God.

Questions

1. Retell the parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus.
2. Is this parable easy to understand?
3. What does it teach us about heaven and hell?

Cosmic Reconciliation

- While Genesis 3 is a myth it teaches us a lot about human nature; we choose sin, which caused our relationship with God to break down.
- St. Paul- Jesus helps to restore the relationship between us and God that is damaged by sin. Jesus' death restored the harmony of all creation. Jesus' obedience to God when dying on the cross over turns

the disobedience we show when we sin.

- Julian of Norwich- Sin is needed so that people can make free choices about whether they wish to choose or reject God.

Links to Scripture and Teaching

- Colossians 1:15-20- Jesus made peace with God through his blood on the cross.
- 1 Corinthians 15: 21-28- Jesus makes up for the sins shown through Adam and Eve.

Questions:

1. What is cosmic reconciliation?
2. How was disobedience to God shown in Genesis 3?
3. What led Julian of Norwich to write about cosmic reconciliation?

Church Teachings on End Times

- Church Militant- people on earth who are suffering against the temptations of sin and evil.
- Church Suffering- the souls of the faithful who are in purgatory.
- Church Glorious- the faithful who are enjoying the happiness of heaven.
- All three sections are dependent on each other- we should pray for the needs of each of these parts of the Church.
- We are constantly told to prepare for the end time because we do not know when it will happen. We are not perfect and everyone sins but we should always **try** to be perfect.

- Free Will and Hell-God wants all people to be happy and reach heaven. Because he loves us, he gives us free will; he cannot force people to accept him.

Links to Scripture and Teaching

- Youcat 123- although the Church is not perfect, it is a bit of heaven on earth.
- Lumen Gentium 48- The restoration of creation that we are waiting for already started when Jesus was on earth and continues through the actions of the church.
- CCC 1037- God does not predestine anyone to go to hell.

Questions:

1. What are the end times?
2. How can we prepare for the end times?
3. Is it fair that some people are sent to hell?

The Last Rites

- Anointing of the Sick- this can happen whenever a person is seriously ill, facing an operation or showing the signs of the weakness of old age. The sacrament fills the person with the Holy Spirit to give them strength in facing sickness and death. It also clears them of sin so that they can face the future with a clear mind.
- Commendation of the Dying- This is the last communion that the person will receive. They renew their baptismal vows to remind them of their faith in God. They will pray to

saint to help the person in their judgement.

Links to Scripture and Teaching

- James 5: 14-15- Calls the sick for the elders of the Church to pray over them and save them.

Questions:

1. Research the stages of the sacrament of the sick.
2. How can the sacrament of the sick help someone?
3. How can the Commendation of the Dying help the person?
4. How does the Anointing of the sick link to James 5: 14-15?

Funeral Rite

- Reception of the Body- The body is taken into the Church to represent being presented back to God. At the Church doors, the coffin is sprinkled with holy water.
- Funeral Mass- the whole mass is centred around praying that the deceased may go to heaven, with all their sins forgiven. Readings will focus on the effects of Christ's resurrection.
- The committal- At the end of mass, the priest will ask that any of the sins the deceased committed may be forgiven. The coffin is sprinkled with holy water again.
- At the grave/ crematorium- The 'our father' is said to reflect that the person is a child of God and has be returned to God's loving care.

Links to Scripture and Teaching

- YouCat 278- We die in Christ to celebrate in his resurrection.

Questions:

1. What symbols are used in the funeral ceremony?

Care of the Dying and Euthanasia

- Even those who are ill or dying should be treated with care and be respectful of their dignity. These people should not be made to think that their life is a burden to others.
- The Catholic Church is against euthanasia because it lowers our respect for a person's life.
- We should care for the dying. This includes giving medication, which aims to relieve their pain even where it might shorten a person's life.

Links to Scripture and Teaching

- Declaration on Euthanasia I- everyone must live their life respecting what God has planned for them.
- Declaration on Euthanasia Conclusion- we should accept death with dignity and not try to make it come about quicker. The pain and suffering that comes with death allows us to share in Christ's suffering.
- Youcat 379- It goes against the commandment 'Do not kill'.
- Declaration on Euthanasia IV- where death cannot be stopped we should not continue to give treatments that will prolong their life and make their suffering worse.

Questions:

1. What does euthanasia mean?
2. Which primary precept does euthanasia go against?
3. What is the doctrine of double effect?
4. How can the doctrine of double effect be applied to euthanasia?
5. Why would some people agree with the use of euthanasia?

Exam Practice

1. Define eschatology. (1)
2. Define heaven. (1)
3. Define hell. (1)
4. Define purgatory. (1)
5. Define last rites. (1)
6. Give two examples of last rites. (2)
7. Explain two similarities between St. Paul and Julian of Norwich's teachings about cosmic reconciliation. (4)
8. Explain how the story of Rich Man and Lazarus influences beliefs about life after death.
9. Explain 2 ways in which the resurrection of Jesus has influenced Christian eschatology. (5)
10. Explain two ways in which Michelangelo's painting, 'the last judgement' expresses Catholic beliefs about God's judgement and the afterlife.(5)
11. Explain 2 ways the Paschal Candle expresses beliefs about life after death. (5)
12. Explain two ways prayers and actions in a Catholic funeral express beliefs about life after death. (5)

13. Explain 2 reasons why tombstones/Monuments/Remembrance gardens for are important to Christians. Refer to Christian teaching in your answer. (5)
14. Explain two ways St. Paul expresses the belief of Cosmic Reconciliation. (5)
15. Explain two ways last rites express beliefs about the afterlife. (5)
16. Catholics should be afraid of the four last things: death, judgement, heaven and hell.' *Evaluate this statement (12)*
17. 'Euthanasia is always wrong.' Evaluate this statement. (12)