

Religious Studies Knowledge Organiser: Year 7 - Prayer and Pilgrimage - Christianity

Key terms: Year 7 Prayer and Pilgrimage - Christianity

prayer: the raising of the heart and mind to God

traditional prayer: forms of prayer that have been used by generations of believers

spontaneous prayer: prayer that does not have a set structure, where the words are made up on the spur of the moment

pilgrim: a person on a religious journey, which reflects the journey through life to heaven

Stations of the Cross: a series of 14 images that remind Catholics of Jesus' final journey to the cross

Lent: the 40 days before Easter during which Christians reflect on the suffering of Jesus

dramatised prayer: a form of prayer that includes actions, like moving from one place to another or acting out the intention of the prayer.

Pilgrimage: a journey by a believer to a holy site for religious reasons; an act of worship and devotion.

basilica: a large church that is not a cathedral

Immaculate Conception: a title given to Mary that refers to the belief that Mary was conceived without original sin.

the Body of Christ: (1) the consecrated host (Bread) in the Eucharist (2) a community of believers, the Church.

The Lord's Prayer: the prayer taught to the disciples by Jesus; also known as the 'Our Father'

Types of Prayer

Prayers of petition and intercession - When we ask God for help for ourselves (petition) or for someone else (intercession).

Sorrow - When we say sorry to God for something we have done and ask for forgiveness.

Thanksgiving - When thank God

Praise and Adoration - When we praise and adore God the Creator of all

Places of Pilgrimage

Canterbury - Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury was murdered at royal request as he stood on the steps to the altar in the cathedral.

Lourdes - Lourdes in France is the place where 14 year old Bernadette saw visions of the Virgin Mary.

Fatima - Fatima is one of the most important catholic shrines in the world dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Fatima's Sanctuary welcomes millions of pilgrims and tourists from all over the world. Fatima's fame is due to the Apparitions of Our Lady of the Rosary that appeared to three shepherd children;

Knock - Knock Shrine is a Roman Catholic pilgrimage site and National Shrine in the village of Knock, County Mayo, Ireland, where observers stated that there was an apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph, Saint John the Evangelist, angels, and Jesus Christ in 1879.

Walsingham - Richeldis de Faverches claimed that by she had been requested by 'Our Lady' to build, in Walsingham, a replica of the House of the Annunciation.

Prayer Positions

kneeling: being on both knees as a sign of humanity

genuflecting: going down on one knee as a sign of respect

prostration: lying flat as a sign of total submission

bowing: bending from the waist as a sign of respect

The importance of pilgrimage for Catholics

Pilgrimages are places where God seems especially present. They are an act of thanksgiving to God and pilgrims may be fulfilling a promise made to God or a saint. People may go on a pilgrimage for physical or spiritual healing, as an act of penance for sin or to pray to God for help.

Catholics may want to visit places connected with the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, events in the life of a saint, where a vision has been seen or where healings or miracles have taken place. Pilgrimages may strengthen a person's faith or their relationship within a group of people.

The importance of prayer for Catholics

Prayer is a response to God's call. It is a conversation with God. We need time to listen as well as to speak.

Prayer requires effort. Prayer is raising your heart and mind to God.

Jesus showed us how to pray. He made time for prayer, slipping away to a lonely place to be with his Father. He said how important it was to trust in God when you pray. At important or difficult moments in his life Jesus prayed for strength and guidance.

Jesus taught the disciples how to pray and gave them a special prayer - the 'Our Father', or the Lord's Prayer.

"Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name"

Aids used in prayer

The Rosary

Perhaps the most popular aid to prayer that is used by Christians is the rosary. It is very common in Roman Catholic churches and is a set of beads each of which mark a prayer. The rosary can be a great aid to prayer and meditation.

Candles

We use them, as Christians, as a visual reminder that Jesus is the light of the world. In advent many churches have an Advent wreath with one candle being lit each week until the Midnight Mass when all are alight and represent the light of the world coming into the world., we use them at Easter when we light the huge Paschal candle - symbol of the Risen Christ and we use them in baptisms when we give a lit candle to the newly baptised as a sign of the light of Christ which surrounds them.

Statues

Within Christianity statues, of Jesus and the saints, are used as an aid to prayer. They remind us of people who have lived lives of holiness before us and they help us focus on Jesus

Icons

Eastern Christians in the Orthodox churches were always suspicious of statues but developed, instead, beautiful icons. These are paintings of God the Father, Jesus, the Trinity or saints. They take a long time to paint and are highly stylised. The icon painter spends years learning his or her art and sees the painting as a form of prayer. Each icon is rich in theological symbolism and they are designed to draw us into the life of God through our reflection on the image.