

# Religious Studies Knowledge Organiser: Year 7 - What is the meaning of life?

## Keywords

**Vocation** - A calling from God to a particular lifestyle.

**Religious** - someone who follows a religion

**Christian** - a follower of Christ

**Catholic** - A Christian who belongs to the Catholic Church

**Materialist** - someone who believes material possessions are the most important thing

**Existentialist** - someone who believes that life is what you make it

**Nihilist** - someone who does not believe there is a point to life

**Hedonist** - someone who believes life is about having fun

**Sacrifice** - To give up something for the sake of others

**Sacrament** - an outward sign of an inward grace

**Initiation Sacrament** - the sacraments that lead a Catholic to become a full member of the Catholic Church

**Baptism** - A sacrament where promises are made to follow Christ and someone becomes a member of the Church

**Eucharist** - Means thanksgiving

**Confirmation** - A confirming of baptismal promises and when the gifts of the Holy Spirit are received

**Chrism** - Oil, which symbolises the coming of the Holy Spirit.

**People of God** - followers of God, also known as the church

**Church** - The people of God

## Catholics who have found meaning and purpose in their lives

**Mother Teresa** - For 50 years Mother Teresa devoted her life to those she found lying in the gutters - dirty, starving, disease-ridden people, robbed of their dignity by the circumstances of their lives. She became a symbol of hope for the hopeless. She cared passionately and she gave her whole life in the service of the Lord through serving the least of his brothers and sisters.

**Priest** - A priest finds meaning and purpose by accepting God's call to serve to serve him and his Church. He receives a special gift that makes him a preacher of God's word, a leader in worship and minister of the sacraments and a guide for God's people.

## Philosophies of Life

Humanist - **Life is about the needs of people**

A person who thinks that being concerned about peoples needs is the most important thing. Usually humanists would not believe in God.

Materialistic - **Life is about material comforts**

A person who thinks that the point of life is to be materially comfortable (Have a nice house, clothes, cars etc)

Existentialist - **Life is what you make of it**

Someone who thinks there is no purpose in life other than that which a person chooses to create for themselves.

Nihilist - **Life is pointless**

A person who does not believe there is any point to life

Religious - **Life is about loving God and others**

A person who usually believes in God and thinks that the purpose of life is to love God and other people

## Christian teachings on material wealth

### **Rich young man**

Now a very impressive man came to Jesus. This man was young and rich. And he was a ruler. He also wanted to know more about God. He knew something about '\*eternal life' and he wanted it. Jesus looked at him and loved him. 'You need one thing,' he said. 'Go and sell all your possessions. Give the money to poor people. Then you will have real wealth, in \*heaven. Then come! Follow me!' If the young man did this, he would show his love for God. It would be greater than his love for his possessions. This would please God. But this man loved his wealth. And he loved the way that he lived. He was not going to give it up and follow a poor teacher. So, the young man sadly walked away. Then Jesus looked at the disciples and said *"It is easier for a camel to go through the small hole in a needle than for a rich man to join the kingdom of God."*

### **The story of the Rich man and Lazarus**

Jesus told a story about a rich man who had so much money he could buy anything he wanted. The sad part about the story is that he seemed to think that his money would get him into heaven. He was very wrong and ended up far away from God. Money can buy all kinds of good things but it won't get you into heaven.

### **Oscar Romero 'Aspire not to have more but to be more'**

When Oscar Romero became archbishop of El Salvador in 1977, he came to realise the extent of the people's misery. Most of the wealth was held by just a handful of families and the majority of the population lived in extreme poverty. Oscar Romero recognised the corruption and evil of the political regime. He was determined to preach for the rights of the poor, Saying: "The world that the Church must serve is the world of the poor". The authorities were worried and angry that he not only spoke out for the impoverished and persecuted people of El Salvador, but he even broadcast criticism of the government. He was silenced by an assassin's bullet as he celebrated Mass in March 1980.

### **Baptism**

Through Baptism a person first becomes a Christian, receiving the life of God within them. The person is welcomed into the Christian family.

The baby's soul is cleansed from Original Sin and the baby is restored to friendship with God.

A person receives God's Spirit and is 'set apart' by God for his service. The person receives God's grace which is a share in God's own life.

*"I baptise you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"*

### **Confirmation**

Confirmation gives us the gifts of the Holy Spirit and we affirm the promises made at our Baptism. We are given gifts which are not just for ourselves, but for us to use to help others. We are called by God to live more like Jesus and to share in the work of Jesus in the world. This sacrament gives us the strength and gifts to do what God asks of us in our daily life.

### **Eucharist**

When we receive Holy Communion we receive Jesus truly present in the form of bread and wine. His presence in us helps us to grow in our love of God and gives us the strength to help other people.