

CHRISTIANITY: PRACTICES

WORSHIP

Christians worship to:

- To praise and thank God
- To ask for forgiveness
- To seek God's help for themselves or others
- To deepen their relationship with God/ strengthen their faith

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- When Jesus' disciples asked him to teach them how to pray, he answered with the Lord's Prayer.
- Christians see it as a model of good prayer, as it combines praise to God with asking for one's needs.
- It reminds Christians to forgive others in order to be forgiven, since prayer is only effective if people's relationships with others are right.
- It reminds Christians that God is the Father of the whole Christian community, and it can create a sense of unity when everyone in the congregation says it together.
- The Lord's Prayer is often used in worship and is nearly always said at Holy Communion, baptisms, marriages and funerals. It is also used in schools and in commemoration services in Britain.

SACRAMENTS: BAPTISM AND HOLY COMMUNION

Sacraments are holy rituals through which believers receive a special gift of grace (free gift of God's love). Some Christian denominations recognise seven sacraments while others acknowledge fewer.

Baptism is the ritual through which a person becomes a member of the Church. It involves the use of water to symbolise the washing away of sin. Infant baptism is for babies and young children. Believers' baptism is for people who are old enough to understand the significance of the ritual.

Holy Communion (also known as the Eucharist) is the sacrament that uses bread and wine to celebrate the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and his resurrection. It recalls the Last Supper of Jesus, using his words and actions. Christians interpret the meaning of Holy Communion in different ways, but all agree that it brings them closer to each other and to God.

For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
1 Corinthians 11:26

A pilgrimage can impact on a Christian's life in a number of ways:

- get a better understanding of their faith
- renew enthusiasm for living a Christian life
- help them to see problems in a new light
- help them to feel cleansed from sin
- help them to feel more connected to the Christian community

Type of worship	What form does it take?	Examples	Why is it important for Christians?
liturgical worship is a church service that follows a set structure or ritual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> takes place in a church priest leads the congregation and may perform symbolic actions formal prayers with set responses Bible passages are read out, there may be a sermon music and hymns 	the Eucharist for Catholic, Orthodox and Anglican Churches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> worldwide set order for service that is familiar to everyone ritual passed down through generations gives a sense of tradition Bible readings follow the Christian calendar and teach Christian history and faith
non-liturgical worship is a service that does not follow a set text or ritual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> takes place in a church often focused on Bible readings followed by a sermon may also have prayers and hymns but there is no set order, the number and type can change from week to week 	services in non-Conformist churches, e.g. Methodist, Baptist, United Reformed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> services can be planned and ordered to suit a certain theme non-Conformist churches place an emphasis on the word of God in the Bible
informal worship is a type of non-liturgical worship that is 'spontaneous' or 'charismatic' in nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> community or house churches meet in private homes and share food Quaker worship is mainly silent, people speak when moved by God to offer their thoughts or read from the Bible 'charismatic' worship may involve dancing, clapping, calling out and speaking in tongues 	community or house churches, Quaker worship, charismatic ('led by the spirit') worship of the Pentecostal Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the style of worship in house churches is similar to the worship of early Christians people can share readings and prayers and can take an active part in church by calling out or speaking without formal training service may have an emotional impact with a feeling of personal revelation from God

Our Father in heaven, hallowed 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.
The Lord's Prayer

Why is prayer important?

encourages reflection in the middle of a busy life

enables Christians to talk and listen to God

helps Christians to keep a close relationship with God

helps Christians to accept God's will even if it means suffering

gives a sense of peace

gives strength in times of trouble

Through baptism a person...

imitates Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist

becomes a member of the Christian Church

receives God's saving grace and the Holy Spirit

becomes a child of God

is cleansed of sin

enters new life with Christ in the Christian community

WHY GO ON PILGRIMAGE?

- grow closer to God
- be forgiven for sin
- reflect on one's life
- pray for something special
- thank God for a blessing
- seek a cure for illness
- help other pilgrims who are disabled or ill
- experience a holy place
- meet others who share the faith

Jesus once told a rich man to sell everything and give to the poor. The parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus. The parable of the Good Samaritan. The parable of the Sheep and Goats.

agape: a word used in the Bible that describes selfless, sacrificial, unconditional love

baptism: the ritual through which people become members of the Church; baptism involves the use of water as a symbol of the washing away of sin

believer's baptism: initiation into the Church, by immersion in water, of people old enough to understand the ceremony

Christmas: the day commemorating the incarnation, the birth of Jesus (25 December in most churches); also, the season of 12 days ending with the Epiphany (when Christians remember the visit of the wise men)

Church: 1. The holy people of God, also called the Body of Christ, among whom Christ is present and active: 2. A building in which Christians worship

convert: someone who has decided to become committed to a religion and change his or her religious faith

Easter: the religious season celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead; it starts on Easter Day and finishes with the feast of Pentecost

ecumenism: the principle or aim of promoting unity among the world's Christian Churches

evangelism: spreading the Christian gospel by public preaching or personal witness

festival: a day or period of celebration for religious reasons

Holy Communion: a service of thanksgiving in which the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus are celebrated using bread and wine; also called Eucharist, Mass, the Lord's Supper, the Breaking of Bread, and the Divine Liturgy

infant baptism: the ritual through which babies / young children become members of the Church, where promises are taken on their behalf by adults; the infant is freed from sin

informal prayer: prayer that is made up by an individual using his or her own words

PILGRIMAGE: a journey made by a believer to a holy site for religious reasons. As well as making a physical journey to a sacred place, the pilgrim also makes a spiritual journey towards God. A pilgrimage gives many opportunities for prayer and worship, and is itself an act of worship and devotion.

Place	Significance	Activities
Lourdes (a town in France)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where Mary is said to have appeared in a number of visions to a young girl called Bernadette. Mary told Bernadette to dig in the ground, and when she did a spring of water appeared. The water is believed to have healing properties, and a number of healing miracles are claimed to have taken place here. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pilgrims go to Lourdes to bathe in the waters of the spring, or to help other pilgrims who are ill or disabled to bathe in the waters. Pilgrims also pray for healing or forgiveness. They may recite the rosary together.
Iona (an island off the coast of Scotland)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where St Columba established a monastic community in the 6th century AD. The community now has an ecumenical centre where pilgrims can stay. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Because it is quiet, peaceful and a place of natural beauty, pilgrims can spend time praying, reading the Bible, and reflecting or meditating. Pilgrims can also attend services in the abbey church, take part in workshops, and visit the island's holy or historic sites.

	Practised by	Reasons why	What happens
	Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican, Methodist, and United Reformed Christians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removes original sin (Catholic and Orthodox belief). Allows the child to be welcomed into the Church as soon as possible. The parents can thank God for their new baby and celebrate with family and friends. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The priest or minister pours blessed water over the baby's head and says, 'I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.' Godparents and parents promise to bring up the child as a Christian. The child is welcomed into the Christian community.
	Baptists, Pentecostals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People should be old enough to consciously make a mature decision about their faith. The decision to live a life dedicated to Jesus is what saves a person, rather than the baptism itself. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The person is fully immersed in a pool which symbolises cleansing from sin and rising to new life in Christ. When asked whether they are willing to change their lives, the person gives a brief testimony of their faith in Jesus. The person is baptised 'in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.'

Charity	Examples of their work
Christian Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports projects to encourage sustainable development. Provides emergency relief, such as food, water, shelter and sanitation. Campaigns to end poverty alongside organisations such as the Fairtrade Foundation, Trade Justice and Stop Climate Chaos.
Tearfund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Works with over 90,000 churches worldwide to help lift people out of poverty. Supplies emergency aid after natural disasters and conflict. Provides long-term aid to help communities become more self-reliant, such as education or new farming equipment. Supported by donations, fundraising events and prayer from churches in the UK.
CAFOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Works with local organisations to train, supply and support communities to work their own way out of poverty. Gives short-term aid such as food, water and shelter during conflicts and disasters. Lobbies UK government and global organisations for decisions that respect the poorest. Encourages Catholic schools and parishes to pray, give money and campaign for justice.

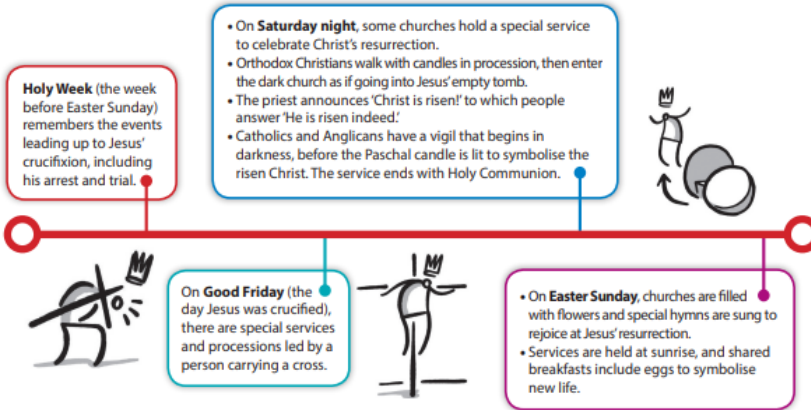
THE CHURCH'S RESPONSE TO WORLD

POVERTY: Christian charities follow the example / teachings of Jesus in working to relieve poverty. Christians believe they should show Jesus to the world through helping the disadvantaged Christians try to help those living in poverty because Jesus taught

CHRISTIANITY: PRACTICES

CELEBRATING FESTIVALS

A festival is a day or period of celebration for religious reasons. Festivals help Christians to remember and celebrate the major events in their religion – particularly the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Christmas commemorates the incarnation and the birth of Jesus. Celebrations begin on 25 December and last 12 days, ending with Epiphany (which recalls the visit of the wise men). Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Celebrations begin before Easter Sunday and finish with the feast of Pentecost.



For many Christians, Communion is at the centre of their lives and worship. It affects individuals, local communities and the wider society in a number of ways:

1 INDIVIDUALS
Christians receive God's grace by joining in the sacrifice of Jesus. This helps to strengthen their faith. They become closer to God

2 COMMUNITIES
Holy Communion brings the community of believers together in unity by sharing the bread and wine. This can provide support and encouragement for those going through a difficult time.

3 WIDER SOCIETY
Holy Communion acts as a call to love others in practical ways. It encourages Christians to work for equality and justice for all. Many churches collect money during the service to help support those in need, such as the poor or homeless.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.
Traditional Orthodox hymn at the Easter Divine Liturgy

God placed all things under Jesus' feet and appointed him to be head over the church, which is his body. **Ephesians**

Orthodox Divine Liturgy	Catholic Mass and Anglican Holy Communion	Holy Communion in the United Reformed Church
<p>Liturgy of the Word:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are hymns, prayers and a Bible reading. The priest comes through the Royal Doors to chant the Gospel. There may be a sermon. <p>Liturgy of the Faithful:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The priest receives wine and bread baked by church members. Prayers are offered for the church, the local community and the world. Behind the iconostasis, the priest says the words of Jesus at the Last Supper. Most of the bread is consecrated as the body and blood of Christ. The priest distributes holy bread and wine on a spoon. Prayers of thanksgiving are said. Unconsecrated pieces of bread are given to people to take home, as a sign of belonging to the Christian community. 	<p>Liturgy of the Word:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are three Bible readings, a psalm and a homily. The Creed is said. Prayers are said for the Church, the local community, the world, and the sick and the dead. <p>Liturgy of the Eucharist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the Anglican Holy Communion, people give a sign of peace to each other. Offerings of bread and wine are brought to the altar. The priest repeats the words of Jesus at the Last Supper over the bread and the wine. People say the Lord's Prayer. In the Catholic Mass, the sign of peace is given at this point. People receive the bread and wine. The priest blesses people and sends them out to live the gospel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The service begins with a hymn and prayer of praise and thanksgiving. Bible readings and a sermon are given. Prayers for the world and the needs of particular people are said. The minister repeats the words and actions of Jesus at the Last Supper. There is an 'open table' so anyone who wishes may receive Holy Communion. Sometimes the bread is cut beforehand, other times it is broken and passed around by the congregation. Wine is sometimes non-alcoholic and is usually distributed in small cups. The service ends with a prayer of thanksgiving, a blessing, and an encouragement to go out and serve God.

Christmas commemorates the incarnation of Jesus. The celebrations reflect Christian beliefs and teachings in the following ways:

lights represent Jesus as the light coming into the world of darkness	Midnight Mass reflects the holiness of the night and the joy Christians feel at Jesus' birth
nativity scenes show baby Jesus born into poverty	Christmas cards and gifts recall the wise men's gifts to Jesus
carol services with Bible readings remind Christians about God's promise of a saviour and the events of Jesus' birth	Christians give to charity in this time of peace and goodwill because God gave humanity the gift of Jesus, his Son.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. **Matthew 28:19-20**

Response	Supporting quote from scripture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For some Christians, persecution can have a positive effect, as it strengthens their faith and conviction. It also allows them to share in the suffering of Jesus. 	<p>“I want to know Christ – yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings” (Philippians 3:10)</p> <p>This quote shows that one way Christians can get to know Jesus is by sharing in his suffering.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Church believes it is important to act against persecution, by supporting persecuted Christians wherever possible and campaigning on their behalf. 	<p>“If one part suffers, every part suffers with it” (1 Corinthians 12:26)</p> <p>This quote refers to the Church. It shows that helping individual Christians also helps the whole Church.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christians are encouraged to show love and forgiveness towards their persecutors. 	<p>“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:21)</p> <p>This quote shows that Christians should respond to evil with love.</p>

Christians believe humans were reconciled to God through Jesus' death and resurrection. Reconciliation is an important part of the Church's work. This might mean trying to restore relationships between individual people, to working for peace between different religious groups or nations at conflict.

CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION The International Society for Human Rights estimates 80% of all acts of religious discrimination today are aimed at Christians. This persecution happens around the world, but particularly in countries such as North Korea, Somalia, Iraq and Syria. It might involve: – being forced to pay extra tax – job discrimination – being forbidden to build churches – attacks on Christian homes, churches and families, including murder.

The **World Council of Churches** works for reconciliation between different Christian denominations and members of other faiths. The **Corrymeela Community** brings together people from different backgrounds, including people of different faiths or political leanings.

Individual churches and the Church as a whole help the local community in many ways....

Individual churches	The Church
educate people about Christianity (e.g. Bible study groups)	supports local projects such as food banks
are meeting places for prayer and worship	campaigns for justice
provide activities for younger people (e.g. youth clubs)	helps those in need
are places where Christians can socialise and obtain spiritual guidance.	provides social services such as schooling and medical care

The Trussell Trust

- A charity running over 400 food banks in the UK.
- These provide emergency food, help and support to people in crisis in the UK.
- Non-perishable food is donated by churches, supermarkets, schools, businesses and individuals.
- Doctors, health visitors and social workers identify people in crisis and issue them with a food voucher.
- Their aim is to bring religious and non-religious people together to help end poverty and hunger.

Street Pastors

- An initiative started in London in 2003, by the Christian charity the Ascension Trust.
- Adult volunteers are trained to patrol the streets in urban areas.
- The main aim originally was to challenge gang culture and knife crime in London.
- The focus then widened to responding to drunkenness, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime.
- Street Pastors work closely with police and local councils.
- They listen to people's problems, advise on where they might get help, and discourage anti-social behaviour.
- A similar group called School Pastors was set up in 2011 to discourage illegal drug use, bullying and anti-social behaviour in schools.

Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. **James 2:17**

CHURCH GROWTH Up to a third of the world's population claim to be Christian (including people who rarely attend church), and around 80,000 people become Christians each day. The Church expects new Christians to help spread the faith as part of their commitment to Jesus. Christ for all Nations is an example of a Christian organisation that promotes evangelism.

MISSION AND EVANGELISM
A mission is a vocation or calling to spread the faith. The Church has a mission to tell nonbelievers that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came into the world as its saviour. Christians spread the faith through evangelism (showing faith in Jesus by example or by telling others). They do this to fulfil Jesus' instructions to the disciples to spread his teachings (the Great Commission).

informal worship: a type of non-liturgical worship, sometimes 'spontaneous' or 'charismatic' in nature

liturgical worship: a church service that follows a set structure or ritual

mission: the vocation or calling of a religious organisation or individual to go out into the world and spread their faith

missionary: a person sent on a religious mission to promote Christianity in a foreign country through preaching or charitable work

non-liturgical worship: a service that does not follow a set text or ritual

persecution: hostility and ill-treatment, especially because of race, or political or religious beliefs

pilgrimage: a journey by a believer to a holy site for religious reasons; pilgrimage is itself an act of worship and devotion

poverty: being without money, food or other basic needs of life (being poor)

prayer: communicating with God

private worship: when a believer praises or honours God on his or her own

reconciliation: a sacrament in the Catholic Church; also, the restoring of harmony after relationships have broken down

sacraments: rites and rituals through which the believer receives a special gift of grace; sacraments are 'outward signs' of 'inward grace'

set prayers: prayers that have been written down and said more than once by more than one person, for example the Lord's Prayer

The Great Commission: Jesus' instruction to his followers that they should spread his teachings to all the nations of the world

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

worship: acts of religious praise, honour or devotion