

Christian Denominations: Roman Catholic

Learning Objectives:

All (L8-L4): will know what is meant by the Roman Catholic Church

Most (L8-L5): will be able to explain some things about the Roman Catholic Church

Some (L8-L6): will be able to analyse and evaluate aspects of the Roman Catholic Church



Key words

- Denomination
- Roman Catholic
- Pope
- Vatican
- Priest

Copy these key words into your books

Starter: find someone who



- You need to write the definitions for the keywords below.
- Go around the class and find someone whose definition matches yours.

- Church
- Catholic
- Roman



Answers: find someone who



- The 'called-out ones' means all Christians when it is being used to translate the Greek word 'ekklesia', this is the word used in the New Testament.
- 'Catholic' which comes from the Greek word 'katholikos' meaning 'universal'.
- 'Roman' is used because the Vatican City in Rome in Italy is the centre and headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church.

Copy these Key Words and their definitions into your books



The Roman Catholic Church

All roads led to Rome and all roads led from Rome so when the gospel reached the capital city it was the guarantee to the Christians that the promise of Jesus would be fulfilled and the message would reach the ends of the earth.

Copy this sentence into your books

- Peter and Paul were martyred during the reign of Nero when the Christians were being persecuted after a fire broke out in Rome. According to tradition, Peter asked to be crucified upside down. He did not feel worthy to be crucified in the same way as his master
- To Christians in Rome, Peter was their leader because Jesus had appointed him to look after the Church. Since that time, according to Christians, the touch of Jesus has been passed on through Peter and his successors when they lay their hands on others.



The Roman Catholic Church

- As the Roman Empire continued to grow it had capital cities in Rome and also in Constantinople (now Istanbul in Turkey).
- There were divisions about particular beliefs between the two cities.
- In 1054, when the debaters could not agree, the leaders from Rome put a document on the altar saying that the Christians of Constantinople were no longer in union with Rome.
- The Patriarch (leader of the Church) in Constantinople, Michael Cerularius, condemned the West.
- After that there were two separate Churches.
- Today, more than half of the world's Christians are Roman Catholics.

Task One

- How do you think Jesus would have responded to this separation of the Church if he had been alive?
- Explain your answer.
- Swap books with your partner and mark their answer.



The Roman Catholic Church today

- The leader of the Roman Catholic Church is called by many different names:
 - Vicar of Christ
 - Bishop of Rome
 - Pope – ‘father’
 - Servus servorum Dei – ‘Servant of the Servants of God’
 - Successor of St Peter.
- The current Pope is Francis I.

Gregorian Chant



Task Two

- Who is your role model?
- What qualities does your role model have?
- How does your role model influence you?



Plenary

- Write down one thing that you learnt about the Roman Catholic Church in today's lesson.

