

Walk With Me

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NOTE

Some of the material in this course was used in the First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion programmes especially in Topics 5, 8, and 11.

This could be used for review or skipped as appropriate.

1 — Creation & The Environment

God calls us to continue creating and repairing the world

Objectives

- The two stories of Creation
- The truth we learn from these stories
- Pope Francis letter: Laudato Si
- Ways that we can make a difference to save our Common Home

First Story of Creation

The Universe is created in 7 Days - Genesis Ch1 –Ch2v4

What we learn from this story

Second Story of Creation

Adam and Eve - Genesis Ch2v4—Ch3v24

The Sins committed by Adam and Eve

What we learn from this story

God's instruction to continue his work of creation

Our response

Pope Francis' Letter Laudato Si

Our Common Home: The link between Poverty and Climate Change

4 Main ways we can make a difference

In the beginning God created the Universe - this was a Big Bang

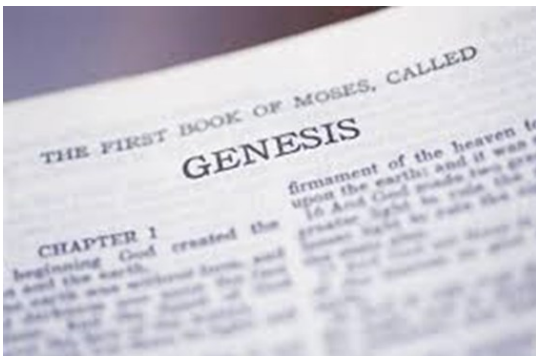


The **big bang** is how astronomers today explain the way the **universe** began.

It is the idea that the **universe** began 13.8 billion years ago as just a single point, then expanded and stretched to grow as large as it is right now (and it could still be stretching).

Science is discovering new things about the origin and growth of the Universe all the time!!

The Bible tells two stories of how the Universe began



The authors of the book of **Genesis** wrote **two stories** – about 2500 years ago - describing **how God created the**

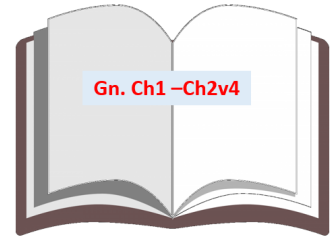
These stories are not intended to provide scientific or historical truths

Their purpose was to teach us truths about God

In the beginning, when God created the universe, the earth was formless and desolate.....

The power of God was moving.....

The First Story



God created the world in 7 Days

On the First Day



God created light

On the Second Day



God created the Sky and the Sea

On the Third Day



God created Land which produced plants with fruit

On the Fourth Day



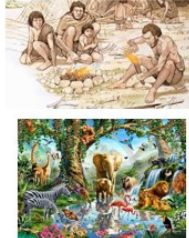
God created the Sun, Moon and Stars to give Night and Day

On the Fifth Day



God filled the waters with living things and the air with birds

On the Sixth Day



God created Animals and People

On the Seventh Day



God blessed the Seventh Day and made it **Holy** because

GOD RESTED

Today, astronomers have discovered that the sequence of the days in this Creation Story do actually mirror the sequence of events in current scientific theory.

The first story creation of the world teaches us....

God made **ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING!!**

He was "pleased with what we saw"

Everything he made was **GOOD!!**

Every person he made was **GOOD!!**

When he had finished..
He was "**very** pleased with what we saw"

Gn ch1 v31



He also taught us:

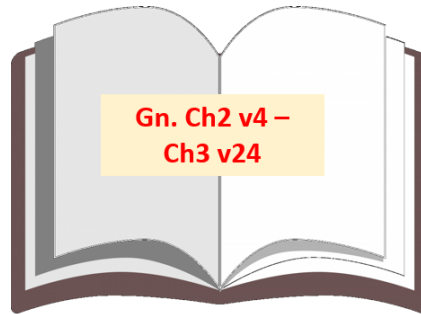
The importance of RESTING from Work

And:

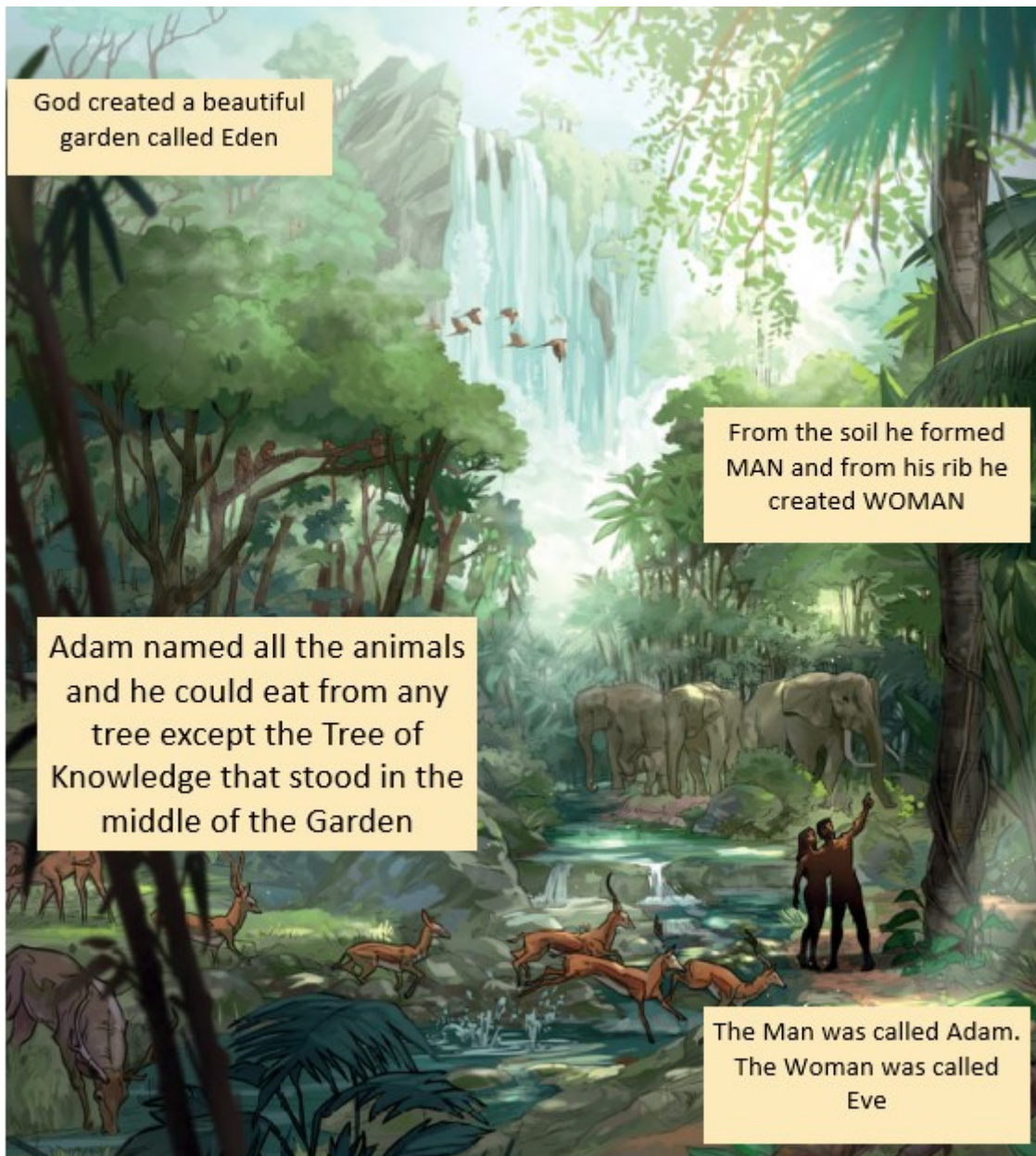
That we must make TIME for GOD in our lives

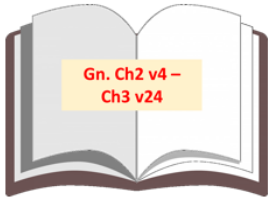
The Second Story

The Lord God took some soil from the ground and formed man out of it; **he breathed life giving breath into his nostrils and the man began to live**



God made Adam and Eve

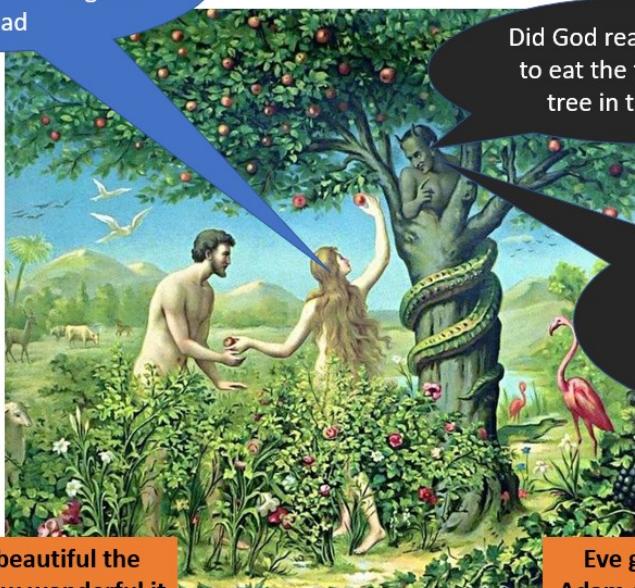




God said :
"You may eat the fruit of any tree in the garden, except the tree that gives knowledge of what is good and what is bad. You must not eat the fruit of that tree; if you do, you will die the same day." Gn Ch2 v16

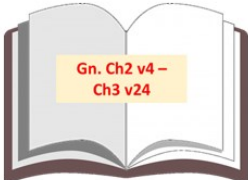
The Devil in the form of a serpent (snake) tempted Eve to eat the fruit that gave knowledge of good and evil

God told us not to eat the fruit of the tree that gives knowledge of what is good or bad



Did God really tell you not to eat the fruit from any tree in the garden?

That is not true, you will not die. God said that because he knows that when you eat it, you will be like God



Eve saw how beautiful the fruit was and how wonderful it would be to be wise

Eve gave some to Adam and he also ate it

As soon as they ate it, they were given understanding and realised that they were naked



Adam and Eve committed the sins of:

1. Pride
2. Disobeying God

Adam and Eve hid from God



Because they had rebelled against God they could no longer stay in the garden which was a place of total unity with God.

They must now work to cultivate the land and experience death

But God had a **plan for the reconciliation and redemption** for them and the whole of humanity!
He prophesied that there would be a **woman whose offspring would "crush the head" of the snake**

The second story creation of the world teaches US....

- God breathed his life into us
- Evil comes into the world when we disobey God
- The worst sin of all is the sin of Pride
- When we sin, we turn away from God

This story also teaches us that we are all born into an **imperfect human race with a inclination to sin.**

This second story of Creation explains this as **our inheritance of the first sin of Adam and Eve**

This is known as **ORIGINAL SIN**



Through Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross we have been **forgiven and reconciled with God**



Baptism overcomes the power of evil in our lives and frees us from Original Sin
We become "Dead to Sin"

But there is something else.....

God said:

“Have many children, so that your descendants will live all over the earth and bring it under their control”

The job of Creation is not finished....

God now needs us and nature to continue...

CREATING,
and
REPAIRING the world

God wanted us to Manage his Creation.
What have we done??

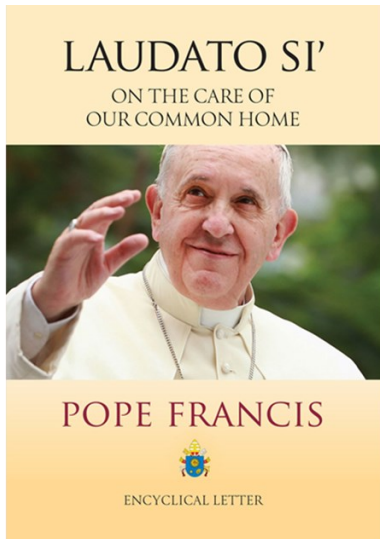


We have done many amazing things with our understanding of science,

But.....

We have created a Climate Change crisis





Pope Francis is very concerned.

Our greed and excessive use of resources has created a Climate Change Crisis and widescale poverty

Laudato Si is a letter written by the Pope to the Bishops

Pope Francis says that we must look after our common home and the poor



Pope Francis showed us 4 main ways we can make a difference

We have developed at a greater speed than we could have ever imagined, and have treated the earth like it has an unlimited supply of resources.



How are we using too much oil?

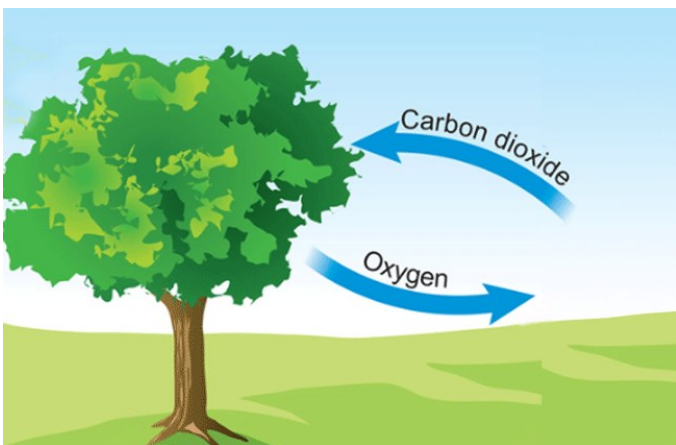
When we burn too much oil we create too much CO₂.

What harm is this doing to the planet?

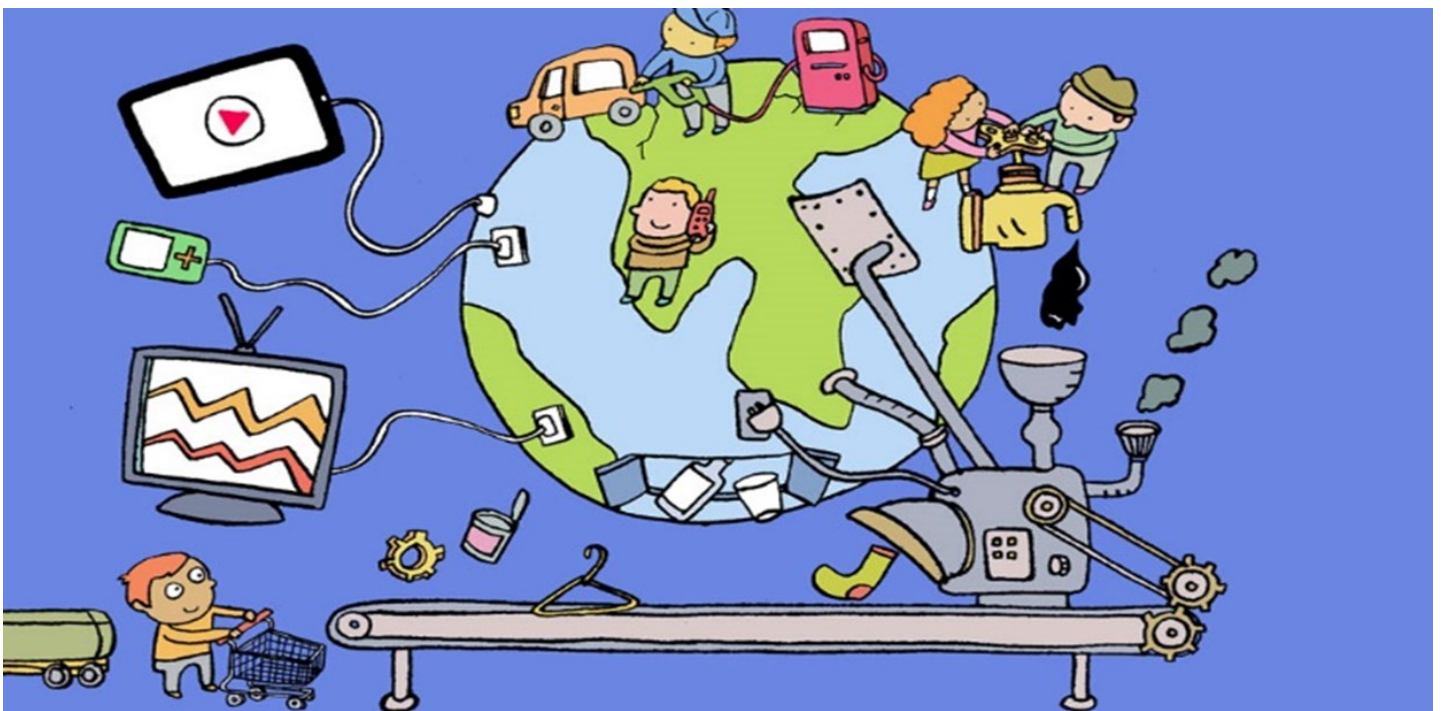
We have cut down the earth's natural forests



Why is it bad for the planet when we cut down too many trees?

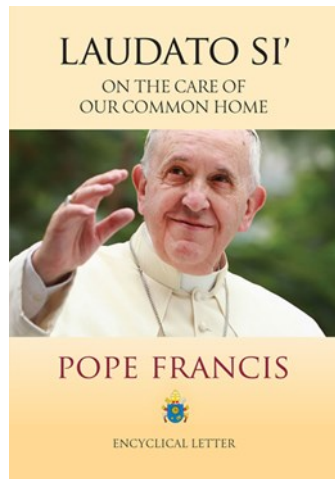


We have taken more than our fair share from most people on the planet, as well as future generations.



Can you think of 4 ways that you could reduce waste?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)



Some other things Pope Francis said in his letter

“Purchasing is always a moral – and not simply economic – act” (LS206)

Why might people suffer if we always try to pay the least amount of money we can?

Can you think of any examples of people who suffer because the goods they produce are sold too cheaply?

Can you think of any examples of things we should be prepared to pay more for to help those who produce them?

“By learning to see and appreciate beauty, we learn to reject self-interested ways of thinking. If someone has not learned to stop and admire something beautiful, we should not be surprised if he or she treats everything as an object to be used and abused” (LS215)

Can you think of any beautiful things in nature which are being used or abused?

How can we learn to “see and appreciate beauty”?

“Christianity proposes an alternative understanding of the quality of life, one marked by moderation and the capacity to be happy with little” (LS222)

What does he mean by “quality of life marked by moderation”?

In what ways could I try to learn to be happy with less?

Topic 1 Creation and the Environment Review

- 1) The Bible creation stories are not intended to tell us scientific or historic truths. What is their purpose (See P4)?
- 2) In the first story of Creation, how did God feel about everything he had made (See P5)?
- 3) What do we learn from the seventh day of creation during which God rested and made holy (See P5)?

- 1) In the second story of Creation, what was the tree that God told Adam and Eve not to eat the fruit of? (See P7)
- 2) What was the lie that the devil told Eve to persuade her to eat the forbidden fruit See P7)?
- 3) What were the sins committed by Adam and Eve when they ate the fruit (See P8)?

- 1) God told us to continue his job of creation by creating and repairing the world. What do you think are some of the good things we have done?
- 2) What is the crisis we have caused (See P9)?
- 3) What is the name of the letter that Pope Francis has written to the Bishops about the care of our Common Home (See P 10)?
- 4) In this letter Pope Francis is not only concerned with the Climate Change crisis, what other widespread problem has been caused by our greed (See P10)?

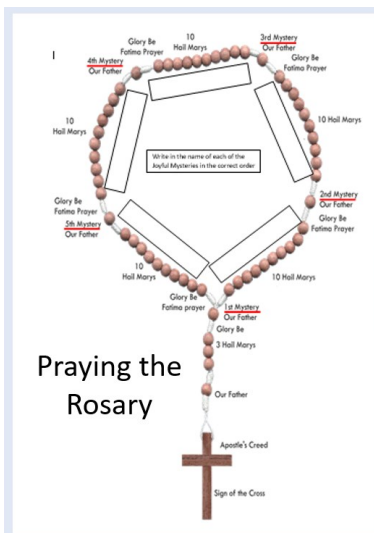
Let us Pray!

***Pray that we are given the guidance to look after
God's creation, as he would wish us to do so***

God of love, show us our place in this world
as channels of your love
for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.
Enlighten those who possess power and money
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
that they may love the common good, advance the weak,
and care for this world in which we live.
The poor and the earth are crying out.
O Lord, seize us with your power and light,
help us to protect all life,
to prepare for a better future,
for the coming of your Kingdom
of justice, peace, love and beauty.
Praise be to you!
Amen.

Pope Francis - Laudato Si

The First Glorious Mystery of the Rosary



The Resurrection

Do not be alarmed. I know that you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified. He is not here - he has been raised!

Mk Ch16 v6

For the words of the Rosary Prayers - see the next page

The Prayers of the Rosary

The Our Father

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name

Thy Kingdom come thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven

Give us this day our daily bread

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil

The Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou amongst women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,

now and at the hour of our death. Amen

The Glory Be

Glory be to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be

Amen

2 — Myself

God has made me **SPECIAL!!**

Objectives

- God has made me special
- God has created me with many gifts
- God's greatest gift to me is Jesus
- God is calling Me

God has made me special!

God created me in his image

Gn. Ch1 v26-27

Ps 8 v5-7

Pope Benedict

St. John Henry Newman

Psalm 139

God has created me with many Gifts

My home and essentials

Those who love me

My skills and talents

My possessions

My Intellect

God's greatest gift to me is Jesus

Jesus showed us through his life and teaching how much God loves us

In his death—Jesus showed that there were no limits to God's love for us

In his resurrection—Jesus showed us God's promise of eternal life

Through the gift of the Holy Spirit—God lives with us today

The Sacraments

God is calling Me

I am called to be more like Jesus

I am called to reflect Jesus to others like a mirror

Jesus command to Love on another

Getting to know Jesus

Reflecting the love of Jesus—Matthew Ch25 v35-30

God made us in his own image



“God created human beings, making them to be like himself. He created them male and female.”

This means that God made us as a reflection of himself

REFLECTION

This means that God made us to be **like him** and **resemble him**

**God shows
his respect
for all people**



King David was so filled with joy and wonder that he composed Psalm 8.....



What are human beings, that you think of them; mere mortals, that you care for them?

Yet you made them inferior only to yourself; you crowned them with glory and honour.

Ps8 v4-5

Read the whole of Psalm 8.

Is there a verse or phrase which especially strikes you?



Can you experience anything of the Wonder and Awe that King David must have felt?

Pope Benedict XVI challenged some of the false ideas of our modern times...



“Only when we meet the living God in Christ do we know what life is. **We are not some casual and meaningless product of evolution.**

Each of us is the result of a thought of God.

Each of us is willed

Each of us is loved

Each of us is necessary.”

Homily, St. Peter's Square, April 24, 2005

After reflecting on his purpose on earth - St. John Henry Newman prayed....



*I am created to do something or to be something for which no one else is created; I have a place in God's counsels, in God's world, which no one else has; whether I be rich or poor, despised or esteemed by man, **God knows me and calls me by name.***

Psalm 139

- 1 Lord, you have examined me and you know me.
- 2 You know everything I do; from far away you understand all my thoughts.
- 3 You see me, whether I am working or resting; you know all my actions.
- 4 Even before I speak, you already know what I will say.
- 5 You are all around me on every side; you protect me with your power.
- 6 Your knowledge of me is too deep; it is beyond my understanding.
- 7 Where could I go to escape from you? Where could I get away from your presence?
- 8 If I went up to heaven, you would be there; if I lay down in the world of the dead, you would be there.
- 9 If I flew away beyond the east or lived in the farthest place in the west,
- 10 you would be there to lead me, you would be there to help me.

Which statement(s) best describe your reaction to this Psalm?

- 1) **I don't really understand it**
- 2) **I find it a bit annoying and intrusive—I like my privacy**
- 3) **I find it a bit scary—but also a bit difficult to believe that God is so interested in me**
- 4) **I find it very reassuring and it give me comfort**

If I really believe this, how might it change the way I live?

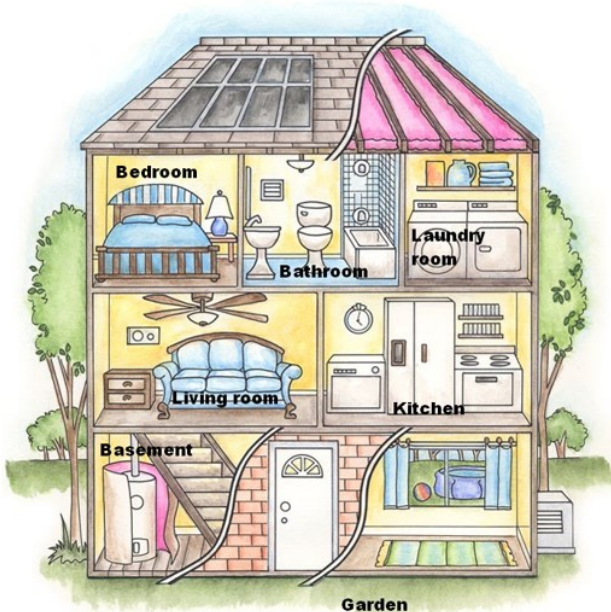
What if I'm doing something wrong—How do I think God will react?

But can I believe that I am really that special to God????



How do I know that God Loves Me?

How do I know that I am special and loved by God?



He has given me my home and family

How do I know that I am special and loved by God?

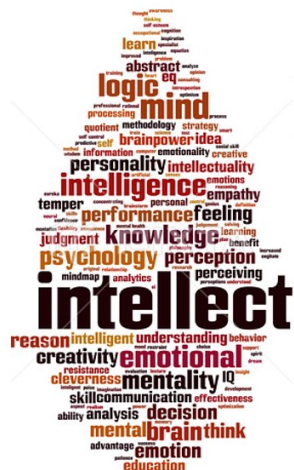


**He has given me food, clothing
and many possessions**

How do I know that I am special and loved by God?



**He has given
me my skills
and talents**



**He has given me
my intellect,
intelligence and
knowledge**

What has God given me??

Can you list two of your favourite possessions?

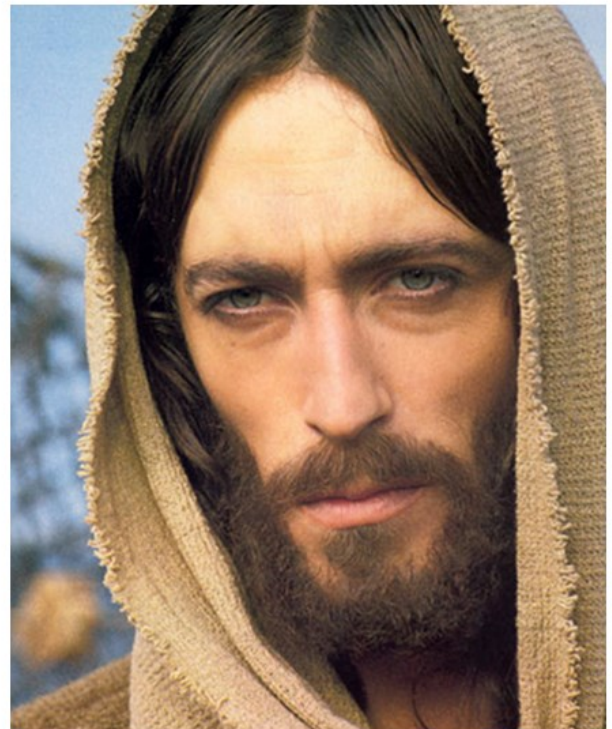
What are the things you can do best?

What would I like to have or be able to do in the future?

Which statement describes you best?

1. I do not have enough for my needs
2. I have enough and do not go short of anything I need
3. I have more than enough

The greatest
gift we have
from God is
Jesus



Through his life, his teaching and his miracles.....



Through his teachings



By example in his own life



12 baskets left over!!



600 Litres of wine!!

Jesus showed us the love and generosity of God

Through his death.....

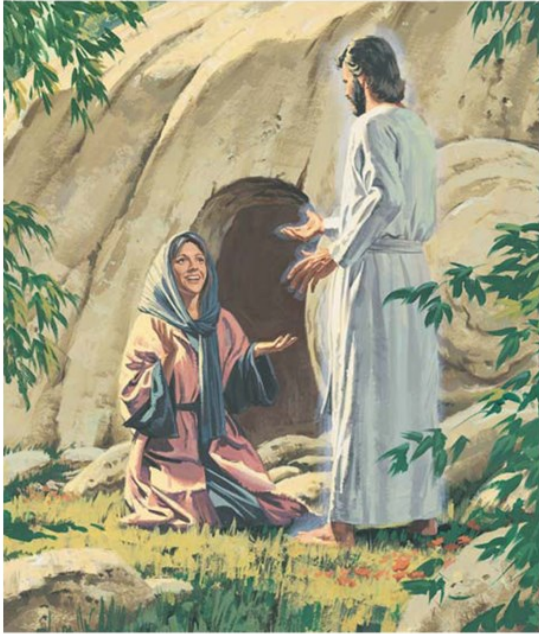


Jesus showed us that there are no limits to God's Love...

On the Cross – Jesus taught us

- That **God's love** for us is **total and unconditional**
- To **forgive everyone** – including those who hate us
- That **his sacrifice has reconciled all** humanity with God

Through his resurrection



Jesus showed us that we too will rise from the dead!!

Through the gift of the Holy Spirit.....

Holy Spirit coming down on the Apostles at Pentecost – Acts Ch2 v1-4



Jesus shows that God continues to **live with us every day** through the church and the Sacraments



Do you remember what a Sacrament is ???

In each of the Sacraments

There is a **physical tangible sign**

Which shows.....

The reality of an **inner change!**

Do remember what the 7 Sacraments are?

The Seven Sacraments



Write in the name of each Sacrament



Which Sacraments have you received?

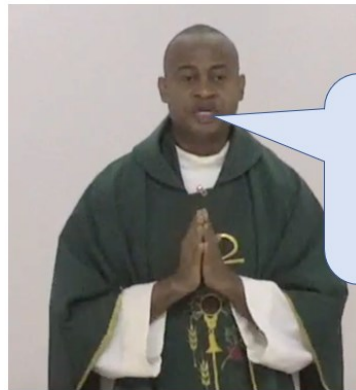
Which important Sacrament would you normally receive when you are aged 13-14yrs?

Which Sacraments should you receive regularly?

We should try to be like a Mirror!!

At the end of every Mass, the priest sends us out....

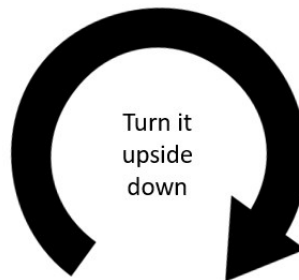
Go.....



Go in peace,
glorifying
the Lord by
your life."

How can "I glorify the Lord by my life"?

Look at this picture.....



Which picture is the
right way up?

The lake is
acting like a
Mirror

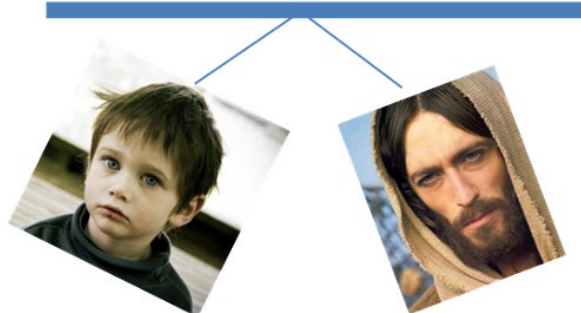


Which is the
Sky?
Which is the
Lake?



The more we get to know Jesus, the more our
lives reflect him like a Mirror

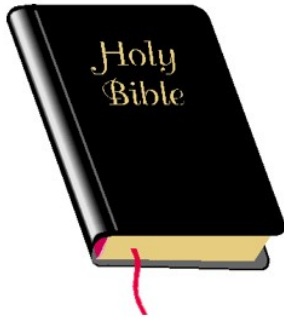
Mirror reflecting Jesus



A special kind of **Mirror that reflects Jesus** to all we meet

How can I get to know Jesus?

Spend time reading about his life in the Bible



Go to Mass and the Sacraments when you can



Spend time with him in prayer



Try to discover him in the lives of others

The more we get to know Jesus....

The more we will follow his commandment:

Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.



John Ch13 v34-35

AND.....

The more we love one another.....

The more we will glorify him by our lives!



**Go in peace,
glorifying
the Lord by
your life."**

Jesus told us how to “Love one another as I have loved you”

Look at the parable Jesus told in Matthew Ch25 v35-40

At the end of time, the King will say to the good people:

I was **hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink**; I was **a stranger and you received me in your homes,**

I was **naked and you clothed me**; I was **sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me.**

They will then answer him, "When, Lord, did we ever see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink?

When did we ever see you a stranger and welcome you in our homes, or naked and clothe you? When did we ever see you sick or in prison, and visit you?"

The King will reply, "**I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important of these followers of mine, you did it for me!**"

But....How can I do these things?

I was **hungry and you fed me**

- I was hungry for someone to notice my needs
- I was hungry for you to forgive me

I was **thirsty and you gave me a drink**

- I was thirsty for someone to explain how to do something
- I was thirsty for someone to answer my questions

I was **a stranger and you received me in your homes**

- I was a new person at school and wanted someone to welcome me
- I didn't know where I was supposed to go and needed someone to show me

I was **naked and you clothed me**

- I was being laughed at and I needed someone to stick up for me
- I had made a mistake and I needed someone to help me correct it

I was **sick and you took care of me**

- I was fed-up and you helped to cheer me up
- I had too much to do and you helped to make my life easier

I was **in prison and you visited me**

- I was stuck in doors and you called me
- I was being bullied on social media and you stuck up for me

Remember.....

When we give help and make friends with the **least attractive** people we are doing it **for Jesus**

When possible we can do these things literally

But

There maybe less obvious ways...

Do you know someone in need at school?



Is there someone at school who is **Hungry, Thirsty, a Stranger, Naked, Sick or in Prison**

?

Topic2 Myself—Review

What does it mean when the Bible tells us that God made us in his own image (See P20)

Read carefully St. John Henry Newman's prayer on P4. Write down the line or lines which you like best

List the gifts that God has given you which are described on Pages23-24

Name the greatest gift we have from God (See P25)

How does Jesus continue to live with us every day (See P 27)

How can we reflect Jesus like a mirror? (See P29)

In Jesus parable in Matthew Ch25 v35-40, what were the six ways that the good people looked after the King through the least important people they met? (See P31)

