THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH

The Nicene Creed

reasons:

At the Councils of Nicea and Constantinople in the fourth century CE. Church leaders agreed upon a single statement of faith called the Nicene Creed. It identifies four marks, or distinguishing qualities, of the Church. The 'four marks' of the Church are that it is one, holy, catholic and apostolic.

The Catechism notes that the Church is one for three

because of its source, which is the Holy Trinity, a

because of its founder. Jesus Christ, who came to

on the cross, taking away their sins.

reconcile and unite all humankind through his death

because of its soul, the Holy Spirit, who lives in the

'communion' of believers, and who guides the

Catholics are united in their beliefs, the prayer which

sums up what Catholics believe, the other teachings and

the celebration of the sacraments. For example, wherever

you go to Mass in the world, the Mass is always the same.

'One' doesn't mean that everything should be exactly the

same everywhere you go. In the Church's oneness, there

is diversity; there is room for many different types of

people who work together to continue the mission of

expressions of the one faith.

Jesus. The Catholic Church teaches that these various

cultures and traditions enrich the church in the different

souls of Catholics and unites them into one group or

perfect unity of three divine persons, Father, Son and

"...one, holy, catholic and apostolic"

The four marks of the Church (The Nicene Creed)



The Nicene Creed

Catholics recite this every Sunday. A creed is a statement of belief.

A council of bishops met in a place called Nicea, in Turkey, to settle the question of how Christians should speak about God. In this creed it is clear that Christians believe in:

- But also in the 'Son of God' who is equal with the Father
- And in the Holy Spirit who is 'adored and glorified' with the Father and the Son
- One, holy, catholic and apostolic Church
- Forgiveness and Resurrection

the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth of all things visible I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God. born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true

begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father.

Holy Spirit, The Lord the giver of life who proceeds from the Father and the Son. who with the Father and the is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in the

holy, catholic Rantism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the life of the world to come



Choose a Task

Knowledge Check

What are the 'four marks' of the Church? When is the Nicene Creed recited? Who do Catholics believe is the source of all

How does the Church make people holy?

What does it mean that the Church is

What is the Greek word for Church?

Define the term Catholic

Define the term evangelising

Create a detailed mind-map (try to make this visual)

holiness?

anostolic?

Create a multiplechoice quiz (aim for at least 10 questions)

Turn over the mat and try to complete your task without looking at the information. Then refer back to the task mat to see what you have missed/could have

CHALLENGE!

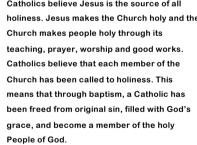
Create a poster/leaflet

Exam Question

c) Explain the importance of belief in the four marks of the Church [8]

Church makes people holy through its teaching, prayer, worship and good works. Catholics believe that each member of the Church has been called to holiness. This means that through baptism, a Catholic has been freed from original sin, filled with God's grace, and become a member of the holy

'Holy' doesn't mean that there are no sinners in the Church. Catholics recognise that they are weak human beings, and at times they sin and fall short of what God wants them to be. They are taught to ask for God's forgiveness and try again. In a sense, the Church considers itself to be a Church of sinners, rather than of the self-righteous. One of the prayers of the Mass



asks:

"Lord, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church.'

Catholic

Saint Ignatius of Antioch (c.35-

108CE) used this word, meaning 'universal' or 'whole', to describe the Church. The Church is Catholic in that Christ is universally present (present everywhere) in the Church, and because he has given the Church the task of 'evangelising' which means telling the whole world the message of Jesus. The Church is Catholic because Jesus gives the Church everything they need to be saved

Apostolic

Catholics believe that Jesus Christ founded the Church and gave his authority to his apostles - these were the 12 men he called to follow him. He entrusted a special authority to St Peter. the leader of the Apostles, to act as his representation on earth. Peter was the first pope. The Church is apostolic means that the faith that Catholics have has been handed down from the first apostles, through the pope and bishops right up to the present day.



Ehurch

In Greek, 'ecclesia' is the word for Church, It means assembly, or gathering together of God's people. The Church is the people of God gathered together. The word church with a small c is used to refer to building where Christians come to pray. When it is written with a capital C, Catholics mean everyone who is a member of the Church, all believers together. The Church is an important idea to Catholics.



Catholics believe Jesus is the source of all holiness. Jesus makes the Church holy and the