

7 YOUR CHOICE

Jesus has many amazing things to offer you and those you love. His life and message communicate wholeness, love and freedom. Jesus will not force you to get to know Him and receive all the good things that He has to offer. You are free to choose. It is up to you.

What is your choice going to be?

8 PROFILES

Vivien, 30, from Coventry

“Up until the age of 23 I had no faith background at all. None. I came to the Catholic Faith seven years ago and am what’s called a convert. I find being a Catholic is a tremendous blessing because it gives such meaning to my life.”

David, 59, from Glastonbury

“How does one make the transition from tick-in-the-box, complacent, belief in God to a warm, loving and personal relationship with Jesus? In my case just follow where you are led, and then marvel at what God can do in your life.”

Emilia, 22, from Cambridge

“In the Catholic Church I’ve discovered the freedom that I had noticed in other young people who follow Jesus. My faith is the biggest treasure I have, and the good thing is, it’s a free gift that is open to everyone!”

To read more stories see: www.life4seekers.co.uk

Some well-known Catholics are:
Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, J.R.R. Tolkien,
Delia Smith, Frank Skinner, Anne Widdecombe and
Declan Donnelly.

9 FIRST STEP

Why not take a first step and find out more about what is on offer? For more information please see:

www.life4seekers.co.uk

Alternatively email: enquiries@life4seekers.co.uk or
telephone: 0207 901 4863.

For free publications and general enquiries, please fill in and return the reply slip below.

All enquiries are confidential. Free materials are sent in a plain envelope and there are no callers or obligations.

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I am not a member of your Church. I would like to receive a free publication about the Catholic Faith.

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Please return to:

Life4seekers
Catholic Enquiry Office
39 Eccleston Square
London
SW1V 1BX



Tel: 0207 901 4863

Email: enquiries@life4seekers.co.uk

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WHAT
IS A
CATHOLIC?
THE BASICS

Life4seekers

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH

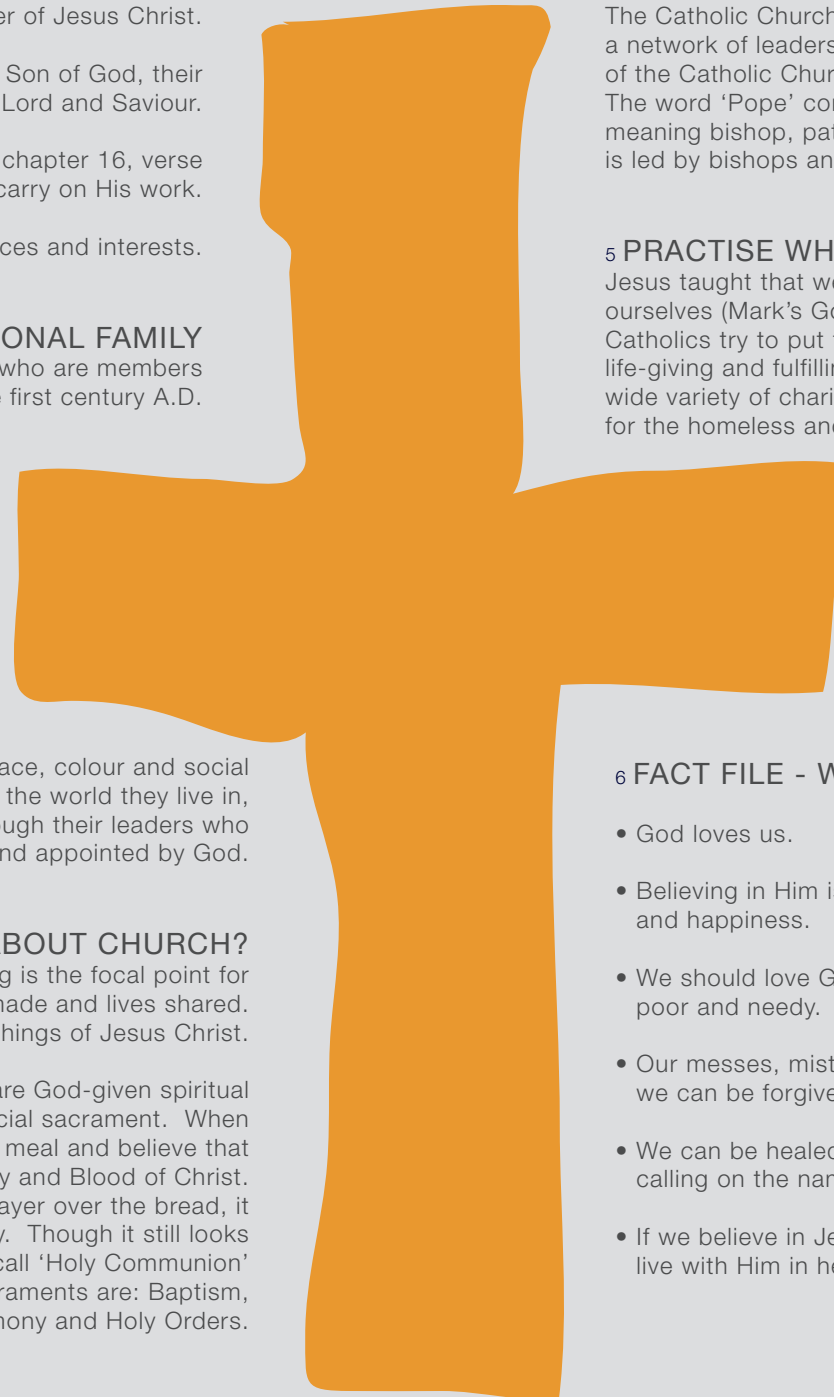
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1 WHAT IS A CATHOLIC?

- A Catholic is a Christian which means that he/she is a follower of Jesus Christ.
- Catholics believe that Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man, the Son of God, their friend, liberator, Lord and Saviour.
- They believe that Jesus Christ set up the Church (Matthew's Gospel, chapter 16, verse 18) to pass on the fullness of His teaching, His life, and to carry on His work.
- Catholics are ordinary people who have many different jobs, faces and interests.

2 AN INTERNATIONAL FAMILY

'Catholic' means universal. There are over one billion people worldwide who are members of the Catholic Church which was founded by Jesus Christ in the first century A.D.



The Church is made up of a large family of people from every race, colour and social background, who share a common vision and beliefs. Whatever part of the world they live in, they are in communion (united) with one another in a special way through their leaders who they believe are chosen and appointed by God.

3 WHAT ABOUT CHURCH?

'Church' means the gathering of the people of God. The church building is the focal point for Catholic community gatherings, and is a place where friendships are made and lives shared. People gather there to pray, and to learn about the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

The 'sacraments' are a very important part of Church life. These are God-given spiritual channels through which life flows. The 'Eucharist' is a very special sacrament. When Catholics come together to celebrate the 'Mass' they share a holy meal and believe that through it they are fed, under the appearance of bread and wine, the Body and Blood of Christ. During the Mass a miracle takes place. When the priest says a special prayer over the bread, it is changed by God's power, so that Jesus is present in it in a unique way. Though it still looks like bread, Jesus' living presence is there, and this is what Catholics call 'Holy Communion' because they are united with God when they receive it. The seven sacraments are: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Matrimony and Holy Orders.

4 LEADERS

The Catholic Church takes care of its community through a network of leaders, teachers and helpers. The head of the Catholic Church worldwide is Pope Benedict XVI. The word 'Pope' comes from the Greek word 'papas', meaning bishop, patriarch, or father. Locally, the Church is led by bishops and priests.

5 PRACTISE WHAT YOU PREACH

Jesus taught that we should love our neighbour as ourselves (Mark's Gospel, chapter 12, verse 31). Catholics try to put this into practice and find it to be a life-giving and fulfilling way to live. They are involved in a wide variety of charitable works such as running hostels for the homeless and caring for the elderly.

6 FACT FILE - WHAT DID JESUS TEACH?

- God loves us.
- Believing in Him is the way to true freedom, peace and happiness.
- We should love God and one another, especially the poor and needy.
- Our messes, mistakes and wrongs can be put right - we can be forgiven and know peace.
- We can be healed from deep wounds and hurts by calling on the name of Jesus.
- If we believe in Jesus we will inherit eternal life and live with Him in heaven.