Knowledge organiser: GCSE Catholic Christianity Unit 3- The Triune God

Sub topics

- A Christian understanding of the trinity
- The Trinity in the Old Testament/The Trinity in creation
- The Trinity in the New Testament
- The Trinity in the Nicene creed
- The Councils of Nicea and Constantinople
- The Trinity and God's love
- The influence of the trinity on Christians today
- Baptism: Symbolism and Importance
- Prayer
- Types of music used in worship
- The importance of music in worship
- Mass settings set to music

Key words

Triune God: Within the one God there is a three-ness.
Trinity: The belief that there is 3 persons in one God; the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are separate, but are also one being.
Creed: A statement of faith
Consubstantial: Literally means 'of one being', showing that the Father, Son and Spirit are not separate entities but one God.
Mission: 'Sending out' people with a job or function to perform.
Evangelism: Preaching the good news about Jesus to other people
Epistles: The letters written by the apostles to the early Churches
Immanent theology: The study of the internal life of God
Self-revelation: The idea that human can only know God through what God has chosen to show about himself
Heresy: A belief that goes against the accepted teachings of the Church
Acclamation: Praising with great enthusiasm
Sanctus: A hymn of praise to the threefold holy God.
Gloria: A hymn of praise of God's glory and goodness, which is sung early in the Mass

Assessed tasks

1. ***Mid- Module assessment***
2. ***End of module assessment***

Possible H/WK tasks-

Self/Peer assessed H/WK tasks

1. ***12 mark question- The best way to understand God is to understand the Trinity (12)***
2. ***Write a defence of the Christian belief in the Trinity as monotheistic faith***

Students may be set additional assessed tasks by their class teacher which will help the class teacher to assess their progress and inform their planning.

Opportunities for independent learning/Stretch and challenge

Research the following passages in the Bible- these are in addition to the ones studied in lesson. Explain how they connect to belief in the Trinity and what they add to your understanding. John 16: 13-15, Romans 8:14-17 and John 4:13-17.

Read the article- Explaining the trinity

Visit Britannica.com/biography/Jesus/The-dogma-of-Christ-in-the-ancient-councils and read about the dogma of the Trinity in early Church councils

Read the article **'The trinity is like water and other bad analogies'** and develop your understanding of modalism.

Read St Paul's letters to the Philippians and Colossians. Make a note of how many times Paul refers to the Father, Son and Spirit. How do a reading of these letters help Christians understand Paul's understanding of one God as three persons.

Read Karl Barth's understanding of the Trinity https://postbarthian.com/2017/03/14/karl-barth-say-trinity-one-god-three-modes-not-persons/

Complete independent exam questions on shared area.

Scripture/magisterium and the Triune God

- The Triune God refers to the three-ness within one God whilst the Trinity refers to the distinctive qualities of the three persons in the one God
- The term Trinity is never used in the Bible, however there are passages in the Bible that help Christians understand the Trinity including the creation story in Genesis, the Shema in Deuteronomy and Jesus' Baptism
- The Nicene creed helps us to understand the qualities of each person of the Trinity. The father as the almighty creator, the Son as the incarnate who sacrificed himself out of love, and the Holy Spirit as the giver of life.
- There are two key Church councils that have been involved un debating the nature of God as Trinity throughout the history of the Church- these are the councils of Nicea and the council of Constantinople.

Trinity and God's love- How do we receive God's love through the trinity and how does it influence believers today?

- Both St Augustine and Catherine La Cugna study the relational aspect/nature of the Trinity. This means that they study the inner relationship between the different persons within the trinity and its impact on believers.
- Augustine taught that the starting point to understand the trinity is that 'God is love.' He taught that the love of God that exists between the persons of the Trinity outpours into the hearts and lives of believers as a gift from God.
- Catherine La Cugna taught that everything we know about God is through self-revelation. We can understand and experience God's love through his actions in people lives. Example the incarnation and redemption.
- The love that pours out from the Trinity into the lives of Christians influences how a Christian lives their life. They are called to share this love with others. Two ways in which Christians can share this love is through Mission and Evangelism.

Baptism

- -Baptism is a sacrament of initiation in the Catholic Church. It is when a person becomes a child of God.
- There are many key symbols associated with the Catholic practice of Baptism, including water, oil and white garment. Water represents the cleansing of original sin and the beginning of a new life.
- Through the sacrament of baptism, a believer can participate in the life of the trinity, Through the sacrament of baptism, believers receive God's love and start a new life guided by the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus' baptism marked the beginning of his earthly ministry, it also signals the beginning of a new life/mission for a Christian in a community of believes

Prayer

- -Prayer is defined as 'the raising of the heart and mind to God.'
- All Christian prayer is offered up to God the father, through the Son Jesus and united through the Holy Spirit.
- There are 2 different types of prayer; traditional prayer and spontaneous prayer.
- There are different prayer postures that allow the person to show the intention behind the prayer.

Music and acclamations

- Music is used in Catholic worship in praise of God. There are different types of music that are used in worship including plainchant, traditional hymns and contemporary worship songs.
- Music helps to unite people in praise and increases the beauty of worship
- The psalms emphasise the singing for joy. Joy comes from knowing that God is with his people, guiding and protecting them
- There are parts of the Mass (Mass settings) that are sung including the Eucharistic acclamations. The Eucharistic acclamations are parts of the Mass that highlight celebration of Jesus' sacrifice. They are sung in praise of God.