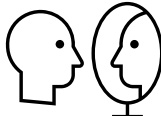









# Religious Education: Year 9 Knowledge Organisers



**❑ Branch 1: Creation and  
Covenant**

**❑ Branch 2: Prophecy  
and Promise**

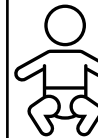
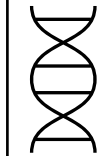
<u>Key word</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Image</u>
Imago Dei	Means image of God, humans are special to God because they <b><u>are made in God's image</u></b> .	
Inalienable dignity	<b><u>Humans</u></b> deserve to be <b><u>treated with respect</u></b> ; this cannot be taken away.	
Human person	A person is a being who has certain attributes such as <b><u>reason, morality, self-consciousness</u></b> .	
Relational	The <b><u>way we are all connected</u></b> and all have a <b><u>vocation to love</u></b> .	
Rational	Humans have a capacity for <b><u>moral reasoning</u></b> , where they apply logic by drawing valid conclusions from experience, to form conclusions.	
Volitional	Humans have <b><u>free will</u></b> , which means the power to make your own decisions.	
Sanctity of Life	The idea that <b><u>human life is sacred</u></b> , holy and precious.	
Sacrament of Matrimony	A <b><u>legally recognised union</u></b> and commitment between two people, performed <b><u>in a Catholic church in the eyes of God</u></b> .	

## Imago Dei and Sanctity of Life

- The Catholic Church teaches that **human beings were created in the image and likeness of God**. Humans were made to **"resemble" God**. This does not mean that humans are like God in appearance, but that they have been **given the same mental, moral and social qualities of God**.
- Humans are the only part of creation to have been made in the image of God and therefore were given a higher status than other species, such as animals.
- Catholics will often use the **Latin term 'Imago Dei'** to describe this unique relationship between God and humans. It singles out humans as those specially chosen by God.
- Humans are given dominion over the world and are **stewards of the land**. **St Catherine of Siena** taught that humans were given a soul and a conscience by God because he made us out of love.
- The Sanctity of Life is the belief that all **human life is sacred and belongs to God** because we were made Imago Dei. As a result of this, Catholics believe **human life should be protected and preserved** and do not agree with abortion or euthanasia.

## Sacrament of Matrimony and the Catholic Wedding Ceremony

- The Catechism teaches that the sacrament of marriage is a **life-long partnership between a man and a woman**.
- The purposes of marriage are; **1. Sacrament-** a sign of God's love through which the couple become more loving like God; **2. Permanent-** it lasts until you die; **3. Exclusive-** it excludes all other relationships; **4. Life Giving-** as a new union between the couple who are classed as one. **Marriage is for procreation.**
- The **Nuptial Mass** includes Bible readings, vows are made by the couple, the exchange of rings to show commitment, bidding prayers to bless them and the Eucharist, to remind them it is a sacrament.



## SOWA

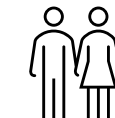
- "God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." **Genesis 1**
- "A man shall leave his father and his mother... and they shall become one flesh." **Genesis 2**

## Genetic Engineering

- Genetic engineering aims to **modify genes to enhance the capabilities of the organism beyond what is normal**.
- Due to the Catholic belief in Imago Dei and the Sanctity of Life, the **Catholic Church accept Genetic Engineering if it respects the human person and protects and preserves life**. The Church see the benefit of it for preventing or treating serious diseases.
- Catholics are **concerned about the ethical dilemma** of it however, such as if it is used to create 'better' humans or 'designer babies'.
- The Church document called **'The Dignity of a Person'** focuses on bioethics and says we must think about what is right and wrong in science and medicine.









## Euthanasia

- Euthanasia means **'gentle and easy death'**. The term is used to describe the **deliberate ending of a person's life** for compassionate reasons **because they are suffering**, e.g. from a painful or incurable disease.
- The Catholic Church disagree with euthanasia**, due to the belief in the Sanctity of Life. They believe **only God can decide who lives or dies** and that all human life has the same value and should be protected. The **Ten Commandments teach: 'do not kill'**. Pope St John Paul II also taught that euthanasia breaks the law of God. Catholics believe **hospice care is a clear alternative** to euthanasia.



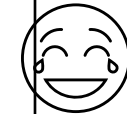
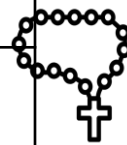
## Branch 2: Prophecy and Promise Key terms- Mary

3

<u>Key word</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Image</u>
Typology	The interpretation of <b><u>events, people, or things in the Old Testament as symbols that foreshadow events fulfilled in the New Testament.</u></b>	
Proto-Evangelium	<b><u>Genesis 3:15</u></b> is called the protoevangelium, meaning " <b><u>first gospel</u></b> ," as it is the <b><u>Bible's first hint of the good news of salvation.</u></b>	
Mother of God	A name given to the Virgin Mary, as <b><u>mother of the divine Christ.</u></b>	
Immaculate Conception	The belief that <b><u>Mary was free of original sin</u></b> from the moment of her conception.	
Our Lady	<b><u>An ancient title for the Virgin Mary,</u></b> used to emphasise her role as <b><u>a sign of hope and a guiding star for Christians.</u></b>	
New Eve	<b><u>A title for Mary;</u></b> Eve disobeyed God, but <b><u>Mary brought Jesus into the world by obeying God.</u></b>	
Magnificat	The Magnificat is a <b><u>hymn of praise to God, praising Him for His blessing to Mary</u></b> and His faithfulness to Israel.	
The Rosary	A <b><u>Catholic devotion to Mary</u></b> using a special <b><u>set of beads.</u></b>	

## How do Adam and Eve point to Jesus and Mary?

- In the Bible, some people or events in the Old Testament are “**types**” – they hint at something that will happen later with Jesus.
- The thing they hint at is called the “**antitype**” – this is something about Jesus’ life or death in the New Testament.
- Adam is a “type”** because he disobeyed God and brought sin into the world. Jesus is the “antitype” because He obeyed God and saved us from sin.
- Eve is a “type” because she gave in to temptation. Mary is the “**antitype**” because she said yes to God and helped bring Jesus into the world.



## Mary as the New Eve

- Mary is called the “New Eve” because her story is the opposite of Eve’s.
- Eve was a virgin with God’s grace**, but she chose to disobey God and listened to the serpent, which led to sin and death.
- Mary was also a virgin, full of grace**, but she chose to obey God and became the mother of Jesus through the Holy Spirit.
- Eve’s choice brought evil into the world, but **Mary’s choice helped bring salvation** through Jesus.



## The Magnificat

- The Magnificat, taken from **Luke’s Gospel** (1:46-55), is the **Blessed Virgin Mary’s hymn of praise to the Lord**. It is also known as the **Song of Mary** and recognises the connection between humbleness and holiness.
- She sings this song after Elizabeth announces her pregnancy**. The term ‘Magnificat’ comes from **the Latin for ‘to magnify’**.



## The Rosary and the Joyful Mysteries

- The Rosary is a **Catholic devotion using beads to pray**, that **focuses on the life of Jesus and Mary**.
- The practice of **praying the Rosary originated from Mary**, who gave the rosary to St Dominic when she appeared to him in 1214.
- The Rosary has **five decades** and each decade includes: **1 Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, 1 Glory Be**.
- Whilst praying the Rosary, Catholics consider the four Mysteries. These are the **Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and Luminous Mysteries**.
- The **Joyful Mysteries focus on the happy times in Mary and Jesus’ life**, such as the Annunciation, the Visitation, the Nativity, the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple and the finding of the child Jesus in the Temple.

## Marian Artwork









- Marian artwork often captures various aspects of Mary. The types are: **Mary the Madonna, with the baby or infant Jesus**, **Catholic beliefs** e.g. Assumption, **Characteristics of Marian apparitions** e.g. Our Lady of Lourdes, **Events in Mary’s life** e.g. The Annunciation.
- Michelangelo’s Pieta** captures the moment when Jesus, taken down from the cross, is given to his mother Mary. She is sorrowful but is at peace, knowing her son suffered for humanity.
- Murillo’s Immaculate Conception** captures the belief that Mary is born without sin as Mary is dressed in white which is a symbol of purity. Angels surround her, showing how she is heavenly and she is praying, showing her pious nature.
- Our Lady of Fatima Statue** has Mary in clothes that are laden with gold, which is a symbol of divinity. She is also wearing the rosary, a way to show devotion to Mary. The crown was added later, to show her queenship.

And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has been mindful, of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name.”



☐ **Branch 3: Galilee to  
Jerusalem**

☐ **Branch 4: Desert to  
Garden**

<u>Key word</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Image</u>
Discipleship	<b><u>Following Jesus' teachings to live a moral Christian life</u></b> ; it comes with many costs and rewards.	
Vocation	<b><u>A call from God to lead the Christian life</u></b> , e.g. through work or being a Priest, Monk or Nun.	
Holy Orders	The <b><u>sacrament</u></b> by which <b><u>men are ordained as priests or deacons</u></b> .	
Deacon, Priest, Bishop	The <b><u>hierarchy of the order of the ordained</u></b> , with Deacon's assisting Priests, Priests who oversee a parish and Bishops, who oversee the diocese.	
Religious Life	A <b><u>vocation</u></b> in which <b><u>members live in a community with a shared mission</u></b> .	
Poverty	The first of the evangelical counsels (virtuous practices), poverty involves a <b><u>voluntary choice to live with minimal material possessions</u></b> , as Jesus became poor for humanity's sake.	
Chastity	The second of the evangelical counsels (virtuous practices), chastity calls for a <b><u>commitment to purity in body and spirit</u></b> . It requires self discipline and prioritises spiritual relationships over physical ones.	
Obedience	The third of the evangelical counsels (virtuous practices), obedience involves <b><u>submitting one's will to God through legitimate authority</u></b> . In religious communities, this often means following the directives of a superior, mirroring Christ's obedience to the Father.	





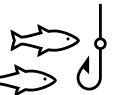
## Mark's Gospel

- The **Romans were in charge** and didn't like people who challenged their power, so life was tough for Jews and Christians.
- Many **Jews were waiting for a Messiah** to save them from Roman rule.
- Mark's Gospel talks about the **Kingdom of God** and gave people hope that things would soon change.
- Mark wrote his Gospel to encourage Christians going through hard times, showing Jesus as the suffering Messiah and Son of God.



## Discipleship

- **Jesus** called his first **disciples** while they were doing everyday jobs.
- Jesus told **Simon** (later called **Peter**) and his brother **Andrew**, **"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people."** They immediately left their nets and followed him.
- Soon after, **James** and **John** also left their work and family to follow **Jesus**, showing total trust and commitment.
- **Levi** (also known as **Matthew**) was a **tax collector**, a job many hated. When **Jesus** called him, Levi left everything behind and followed him too.
- **Levi** invited **Jesus** to dinner with other **sinners**. The **religious leaders** were shocked that Jesus spent time with people they thought were bad.
- **Peter**, one of **Jesus' closest disciples**, promised to stay loyal, but when **Jesus** was arrested, **Peter** denied knowing him three times out of fear.
- Even after this, **Peter** became a great leader in the **Church** and was the first **Bishop of Rome** – later known as the first **Pope**.



## Branch 3: Galilee to Jerusalem- Discipleship

7

## Religious Life

- **Monks are men who live in communities** (called monasteries) or alone (called hermits) to **focus on God**
- **Monks** spend time in prayer, meditation, and studying the Bible, follow strict rules for living simply and avoiding distractions.
- Monks work in areas like farming, teaching, writing, or helping the poor.
- **Nuns are women who take vows** (promises) **to live for God and serve others**:
- Nuns pray and worship daily, often in a convent (a special home for nuns)
- Nuns also help in schools, hospitals, or orphanages, taking care of people in need, and teach others about God through their actions and kindness.











Deacon	<b>Assist priests and bishops at Mass</b> and helps with baptisms, marriages, and serving the poor.
Priest	Celebrates <b>Mass</b> and the <b>sacraments</b> (like the Eucharist, Reconciliation, and Anointing of the Sick), preaches and teaches God's Word, and <b>serves a parish</b> or community.
Bishop	<b>Leads a diocese</b> (a group of parishes), <b>ordains new priests and deacons</b> , and ensures the Church's teachings are followed.

## Sacrament of Holy Orders

- The Sacrament of Holy Orders is when a man is **ordained to serve God and the Church** as a **deacon, priest, or bishop**.
- It is **one of the seven sacraments** in the Catholic Church and a special way of dedicating one's life to God. A **bishop** lays his hands on the man and prays for the **Holy Spirit** to guide him. It **continues Jesus' work on Earth** by providing leaders to guide the Church.



<u>Key word</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Image</u>
Sinai Covenant	The covenant ( <b><u>promise</u></b> ) God established with the people of Israel at <b><u>Mount Sinai</u></b> . <b><u>God gives Moses the Ten Commandments</u></b> .	
Temple	<b><u>A building for religious worship</u></b> , especially in religions other than Christianity. The <b><u>first two places of worship for Jews</u></b> , in Jerusalem, were called temples.	
Holy of Holies	The innermost and <b><u>most holy area of the Tabernacle</u></b> , which <b><u>housed the Ark of the Covenant</u></b> (the <b><u>10 Commandments</u></b> ).	
Day of Atonement	A <b><u>yearly observance</u></b> instituted by God to pay the penalty for the sins of the people of Israel. <b><u>Jews would pray and repent to God for their sins</u></b> .	
High Priest	The <b><u>most important religious figure in ancient Israel</u></b> , serving as the head of the priesthood and the <b><u>intermediary between God and the people</u></b> .	
Grace	<b><u>God's underserved love and mercy</u></b> .	
Atonement	<b><u>The act of making amends for a wrong-doing</u></b> . Christians believe that <b><u>Jesus dying on the cross atoned for the sins of humanity</u></b> and allowed us to go to heaven with God.	
Salvation	The belief that <b><u>through Jesus' death and resurrection</u></b> humanity has achieved the possibility of <b><u>eternal life with God</u></b> .	

## How was God's covenant with Israel constituted?

- In ancient covenant-making ceremonies, **blood was often involved as a solemn and binding element**, signifying the seriousness of the promises being made.
- When **Moses sprinkled the blood from the sacrificed animal**, it demonstrated the **commitment being made to the sacred covenant**. Also, when Moses sprinkled the blood on the people, it showed that they were also responsible for upholding the covenant.
- Moses declared, **'See the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you ...'** (Exodus 24:8). This statement emphasises that **God is the establisher of the covenant**; it is not merely a human agreement, but a divine covenant initiated by God.

## How was the Temple used in Judaism?

- The Temple, in Judaism, is referring to the **historical Temple in the city of Jerusalem** which is central to Jewish history and religious practice. There have been **two main Temples**: The First Temple was called **King Solomon's Temple** as he instructed it to be built in the tenth century BC to **house the Ark of the Covenant**. The Second Temple, which is often referred to as **Herod's Temple**, was built after the Babylonian exile and completed around 516 BC.
- In ancient Judaism, **only the High Priest could enter the Holy of Holies in the Temple**, and this could only be done once a year on the **Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur**.
- On the Day of Atonement, the Jewish people engaged in **fasting, repentance and prayer**. The High Priest wore sacred clothing and would **offer a bull as a sin offering to atone** for his own sins and the sins of his household. The High Priest would then select **two goats for the atonement ritual**. One was sacrificed as an offering for sin and the other was designated as the scapegoat. The **blood of the sacrificed goat was used by the High Priest to cleanse the Holy of Holies**. This ritual signified the removal of sins and the renewal of the covenant.

## Branch 4: Desert to Garden- Redemption **9**

### When do Catholics refer to Jesus as the 'Lamb of God'?

- During **Mass**, Catholics use two prayers that refer to Jesus as the Lamb of God, these prayers are called **Agnus Dei** and **Ecce Agnus Dei**.
- Agnus Dei is the **Latin term for 'Lamb of God'**. The **Agnus Dei** is sung or recited during the liturgy of the Eucharist just before Catholics receive the Eucharist.
- In response to the **Ecce Agnus Dei**, Catholics say together: **'Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.'**

### What is the Catholic attitude to forgiveness?









- The Church understands that **people make mistakes**, and so **Catholics need to ask for forgiveness**. We **must ask for forgiveness daily**, for even the *"just man falls seven times a day"* (Prov. 24:16), and mortal faults that separate the sinner from God (1 Cor. 6:9-10) for all eternity.
- A Catholic should **confess their sins to a Priest** and through prayer. By doing this they are **receiving grace through the sacrament** of Reconciliation, and they can receive advice on avoiding sin in the future.

### SOWA

- "Behold, **the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!**" John 1:29
- "This is how my heavenly father will treat each of you unless you **forgive your brother from your heart**." Matthew 18:35

**❑ Branch 5: To the Ends  
of the Earth**

**❑ Branch 6: Dialogue and  
Encounter**

<u>Key word</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Image</u>
Church	<b><u>Community</u></b> of <b><u>Christians</u></b> throughout the world.	
Communion of Saints	<b><u>Spiritual union</u></b> of the members of the Christian Church, <b><u>living and the dead</u></b> , (excluding the damned). They are <b><u>all part of a single "mystical body", with Christ</u></b> as the head, in which each member contributes to the good of all.	
Church on Earth	A term that describes <b><u>all baptised Christians who are living</u></b> , striving to live holy lives, and spreading the Gospel.	
Church in Heaven	A term that describes <b><u>saints and all the faithful</u></b> who have <b><u>reached eternal life with God</u></b> .	
Church being purified	The <b><u>Church is holy in its foundations</u></b> , but its members must continue to <b><u>purify themselves through prayer, sacraments and acts of love</u></b> . It is the Church's constant growth towards spiritual perfection.	
Saints	<b><u>Holy men and women</u></b> who lived lives of <b><u>heroic virtue</u></b> and are now <b><u>in Heaven with God</u></b> .	
Angels	<b><u>Spiritual beings</u></b> created by God who serve as His <b><u>messengers and protectors of humanity</u></b> .	
Purgatory	A <b><u>temporary state of purification</u></b> for souls who need to be <b><u>cleansed of sin before entering Heaven</u></b> .	

## What does Church as the Body of Christ mean?

- A title given to **all members of the Church**; people become part of the 'Body of Christ' through **baptism**. Catholics receive the Body of Christ during the **Eucharist**, to help carry out his mission.
- Jesus is the Head of the Church**, and we follow his guidance; his work did not end with his death as the **members of the Church act as his physical body** and carry on his work on earth today.

## What do Catholics mean by the Church on Earth and the Church in Heaven?

- The **Church exists in three states**: on Earth, in Heaven, and being purified. The Saints in Heaven pray for those on Earth, and the Church on Earth offers prayers for those being purified.
- The visible part of the Church, the **Church on Earth**, that **Catholics can actively participate in**, represents Jesus' love and grace in the world today. The **Eucharist** (Holy Communion) unites people with God and each other, bringing all faithful together in one Body of the Church by receiving the body and blood of Jesus.
- The **Church in Heaven** refers to **saints, angels and all those who gain eternal life with God** in the afterlife after their time on Earth.

## SOWA

- 'Exactly as Christian communion among our fellow pilgrims brings us closer to Christ, so **our communion with the saints joins us to Christ**.' CCC957




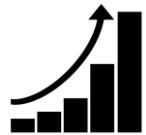




## What are Catholic teachings on saints?

- Catholics use the term "saints" to refer to especially **holy men and women** who, by persevering in the Christian Faith and **living extraordinary lives of virtue**, have already **entered Heaven**.
- In official Church procedures there are **three steps to sainthood**: a candidate becomes "**Venerable**," then "**Blessed**" and then "**Saint**".
- The saints have a special place in the Body of Christ, which includes both the living and the dead. Through Christ, **we on earth remain in communion both with the saints in heaven and with the dead who are still in Purgatory**.
- Catholic doctrine absolutely rejects the worship of anyone but God and rejects all worship of statues, whether of Christ or the saints; instead, **Catholics can use images and statues of saints to focus their prayers on God** or remind them of key moments in the history of the Church, e.g. St Michael defeating the Devil can help Catholics in times of hardship or when they face challenges.

## What do Catholics mean by the Church being purified?

- The Catholic Church teaches that **the Church on Earth is holy; yet is always in need of purification**.
- Catholics are pure as they belong to and come from God; however, this is **not always possible to remain fully pure** and Catholics always want to become purer.
- They, therefore, **take part in sacraments** such as reconciliation and pray to be cleansed of their sins, meaning they become purer.
- Catholics believe **Purgatory is the final state of purification** for those who have died without mortal sin but still need to be purified from venial sins. The reason for this is that **nothing unholy can stand before God**.



<u>Key word</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Image</u>
Intercultural dialogue	<b><u>Positive interactions</u></b> between individuals and communities of <b><u>religious and non-religious</u></b> worldview to <b><u>encourage mutual respect and understanding</u></b> .	
Common good	The belief that if <b><u>all people work together</u></b> to <b><u>improve the wellbeing</u></b> of others, all of society will thrive.	
Respect for the person	Ensuring that <b><u>every person</u></b> is <b><u>treated with dignity and valued</u></b> for the unique contribution they can make to life.	
Development of society	Improving the wellbeing of <b><u>every person</u></b> in a community as well as the services used by all so society as a whole can flourish.	
Peace and security	A <b><u>safe environment</u></b> in which people can live without fear and are treated <b><u>equally, justly and fairly</u></b> and where disagreements are resolved through non-violent means such as dialogue.	
Worldview	An <b><u>overall vision or attitude towards life</u></b> and the purpose of life, which directs how a person lives and acts in the world.	
Religious worldview	A <b><u>worldview</u></b> based on the teaching of a <b><u>particular religion</u></b> .	
Non-religious worldview	<b><u>Worldviews</u></b> shaped by beliefs and ideas, <b><u>not connected to religion</u></b> .	

## What is intercultural and interfaith dialogue?

- **Interfaith dialogue** is when people from different religions talk and learn about each other's beliefs to build respect and understanding.
- **Intercultural dialogue** is when people from different cultures share their traditions, ideas, and experiences to better understand and appreciate one another.
- Both types of dialogue are important because they help **reduce hate and stereotypes**, encourage peace, and make the world a more respectful and connected place.

## What does 'Meeting God in friend and stranger teach'?

- *Meeting God in Friend and Stranger* teaches that **God is present in every person**, even those who believe differently than we do, so we should treat everyone with dignity and respect.
- It reminds us that people from other religions are **not enemies or strangers**, but people we can learn from and build friendships with.
- The document encourages us to be **open-minded and curious** about different faiths, so we can grow in our own beliefs while also understanding others better.
- It shows that **interfaith dialogue**—talking and working together with people of different religions—can help us create a more peaceful and united world.

## SOWA

- 'This is when people of different religions simply try to live in an **open and neighbourly way** with one another' (MGFS 110)




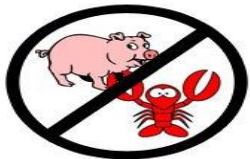




## What does the common good mean?

- The common good means making sure **everyone in a community** has what they need to live a good and fair life, like safety, education, and respect.
- In Catholicism, working for the common good is important because **God wants us to care for others**, especially the poor, vulnerable, and those in need.
- When we put the needs of others before our own and work together as a community, **we help build a more loving and just world**, just like Jesus taught.

## How do Catholic charities reflect belief in the common good and human dignity?

- **CAFOD** helps people in poor countries by giving clean water, food, and education, which supports the **development of society** and helps people live better lives.
- **SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society)** visits lonely and struggling people in their homes, helping them feel valued and respected, which protects the **dignity of the person**.
- **CSAN (Caritas Social Action Network)** works with charities across the UK to fight poverty and injustice, helping promote the **common good** for everyone, **CAFOD** also speaks out against unfair treatment and war, working for **peace and security** by encouraging justice and non-violence.
- **SVP** gives food, clothes, and friendship to those in need, helping to build a caring community and improve **social wellbeing**.
- **CSAN** supports families, the homeless, and people with disabilities, helping to create a fairer society and promote the **development of society and human dignity**.



Key concept	Meaning	Image
Synagogue	House of assembly. The building for public Jewish worship, prayer, study and assembly	
Shekhinah	The place where Gods presence can rest and be felt	
Shabbat	Day of spiritual renewal and rest. Beginning sunset Friday and closing at nightfall on Saturday	
Kosher	Means “Fit” or “proper”. Foods that are allowed to be eaten according to Leviticus 11. It is also used to refer to the purity of ritual objects such as Torah scrolls.	
Torah	The five books of Moses (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy) Regarded as the holiest books of the Tenakh	
Mitzvot	Duties (such as the 613 in the Torah) or good deeds	
Messiah	The anointed one who Jews believe will bring a new era or age for humankind. This will include rebuilding the temple and bringing universal peace.	
Covenant	A promise or agreement between two parties. Covenants were made between God with Noah, Abraham and Moses.	

**Orthodox Judaism:** a branch of Judaism that follow Jewish laws and practices strictly.  
**Reform Judaism:** a branch of Judaism that take a liberal approach to Jewish law.

Jewish beliefs about the Nature of God

Jews are **monotheist** – they believe in **one God** which came from the covenant with Abraham. This teaching comes from the **Shema (daily prayer)** and the first commandment **“You shall have no gods before me”**. They believe God has certain characteristics such as **omnipotence** (power) and **omniscience** (knowledge).

Jews believe that God is a creator. God created the world **‘ex nihilo’** which means from nothing, and this teaching comes from the first book of the Torah called Genesis which says **“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”**. Jews believe that God created the world in 6 days and rested on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Jews **celebrate Sabbath** as a day of rest to remember the day that God created the world. They celebrate **Rosh Hashanah**, which celebrates creation.

Jews believe God is a **lawgiver**. He gave the **10 commandments** to Moses on Mt Sinai as part of the **new covenant** with Moses. In addition, God gave **603 mitzvot**, which are actions that Jews must perform or avoid. Jews are expected to follow **613 laws known as mitzvot** to have a good relationship with God.

Jews believe God is a **judge**. He judges people on their actions. This is shown in the **Torah in the story of Adam and Eve**. Jews have a festival called **‘Rosh Hashanah’** and **‘Yom Kippur’** where they ask God for forgiveness. Jewish people look ahead to the New Year on Rosh Hashanah and cast aside any sin from the previous year.

A covenant is a promise or an agreement.

The Jewish people believe that God has made many covenants with them throughout history.

Abrahamic Covenant

- ❑ Jews believe that G-d made a special covenant with Abraham that was the beginning of the Jewish nation.
- ❑ The covenant had three main parts:
  1. **The Promised Land** – in the **book of Genesis God promised** Abraham and his descendants a new home, which is now referred to as Israel.
  2. **Descendants** – G-d promised Abraham that he would build a great nation from him. The **book of Genesis** refers to Abraham as the **‘father of many nations’**
  3. **Circumcision** – the sign of the covenant was circumcision. Orthodox Jewish males show their loyalty by being circumcised at eight days old.
- ❑ Abraham is important to Jews because he is the **patriarch (founder father)**. He was obedient to God through **monotheism** and willingness to sacrifice his son, Isaac. He kept the covenant with God and all male Jews have **brit milah**. He is the foundation of the **Shema (daily prayer)** which states **“the Lord is one and only”**



Importance of the Ten Commandments & Mitzvot

- ❑ The Ten Commandments are important to Jewish people because **they are the commandments that apply to all Jews including men, women and children**. Jews have 613 mitzvot, however, the Ten Commandments are the main rules.
- ❑ The first commandment links to **monotheism** and the **Shema** as it teaches that Jews shall worship no other gods.
- ❑ By following the commandments Jewish people can have a much better relationship with G-d and with others e.g. **‘Do not commit adultery’** and **‘Do not steal’**
- ❑ Jewish people believe that **God will judge them on their actions**. If they follow the commandments, then God will judge them kindly. They are important because the commandments are what the Jewish people must do to fulfil their part of the **covenant that Moses made with God**.
- ❑ The mitzvot are **actions that Jews must perform or avoid**. They ensure rules such as kosher are followed.
- ❑ The mitzvot allow Jewish people to make good choices and use their free will correctly.

Covenant with Moses

- ❑ Moses is important because God chose him to help the **Jews escape slavery in Egypt**. Moses delivered the Jews out of Egypt and through the Red Sea.
- ❑ Moses is also important to Jewish people because Moses made a new **covenant with God** on Mount Sinai: **“We will do everything the Lord has said”** This covenant meant Jewish people have a duty to follow the Torah and the commandments of God. Moses is important because he was given the **Torah (written Jewish Law)** from God. Moses was also given the other 603 mitzvot to guide the Jewish people on how to live a good and faithful life.
- ❑ Moses is also important because he met the Shekinah on Mount Sinai when he received the laws directly from God: **“The glory of the LORD rested on Mount Sinai...Moses entered the cloud as he went up to the mountain.”** (Exodus)
- ❑ The actions of Moses in Egypt are the foundation of the Passover festival (Pesach)

### Different Jewish beliefs about life after death

- Orthodox Jews believe in the **resurrection of the body**. They believe there will be a physical resurrection where they will be given a new body after death to live again.
- Reform Jews do not believe the body will be resurrected, life after death will be more of a **spiritual resurrection (the soul will live on)**. They also believe the dead person will live on through the good they have done in the memories of the people they leave behind.
- Jews believe that when people leave this world, they are **rewarded or punished** for what they have done during their lives. Jews believe that **God is a judge** who will judge them on their actions.
- Orthodox Jews believe in the **Olam Ha Ba** which is the world to come.
- Talmud teaches: **"The world is like a lobby before the Olam Ha-Ba"**
- This will either be **Gan Eden (heaven)** or **Gahenna (hell)**.
- Many Reform Jews **reject life after death completely** and focus on living a good Jewish life on earth by attending synagogue or taking part in rituals like Bar Mitzvah.
- Some Jews believe in **Sheol** – a place of darkness where all the dead will go before, they are judged by God on how well they have kept the mitzvot in their lives.

### Different Jewish beliefs about the Messiah

- The Messiah for Jews is the **anointed one** who Jews believe will bring a new era or age for humankind. This will include rebuilding the temple and bringing universal peace.
- **Orthodox Jews** believe that in every generation there is a **descendent of King David who has the potential to be the Messiah**.
- This person will be directed by God to rule over all humanity with kindness and justice. He will also **follow and uphold the Jewish written law (The Torah)** and will be the ultimate teacher of it.
- He will **rebuild the Temple** that was destroyed in 70AD and bring Jews back to the land of Israel – this comes from the **book of Isaiah**.
- In contrast, **Reform Judaism**, rather than believing in a single, male descendant of King David who will be the Messiah, urges us to be more active in bringing a time of peace on earth through our actions.
- Instead of a particular person, they believe **Jewish people have the power to bring peace on earth through their actions and how they react to other people**. Reform Jews have the view that we should act the way we hope a messiah would act.

- Jews believe that **life is sacred and belongs to God**. The **book of Genesis** teaches that G-d created all life, which shows that life is important.
- Life is so important that Jews believe that most of Jewish law can and should **be set aside to save or protect a life**.
- Saving human life overrides all the other commandments (mitzvot) in Judaism. The Torah teaches: **"Do not stand by while your neighbour's life is at risk."** (Leviticus)
- A Jewish person is not just permitted to break the law; they are required to! Any law that conflicts with life or health should be disregarded: **"It is a religious duty to disregard the Sabbath for any person afflicted with an illness that may prove dangerous"** Talmud
- Genesis teaches humans are created in the **image of God** / Jeremiah – **"before I formed you..."**

### The Shekinah (The place where Gods presence can rest and be felt)

- The word Shekinah is another aspect of God and **means "the dwelling," or "the Divine Presence"** of God. It refers to God being very close to the Jewish nation; He lives amongst them. It shows that G-d is always near and a part of what is happening to the Jewish people.
- The Shekinah is referred to in the **Torah**. It is sometimes shown as a **cloud**, which comes down to the earth and reaches out. It is usually a very frightening experience for those involved because God is so glorious.
- **Moses met the Shekinah on Mount Sinai**. It is also shown as being with the Jewish nation throughout the **Exodus from Egypt** (when they escaped slavery under Pharaoh). It is the spirit of God who supports and guides the Jews through the tough journey into freedom.

### The Tanakh and The Talmud

- The word **Tanakh** is an acronym made from the first letters of: **T** for **Torah** – the Law, which includes the first five books **the three main parts of the Hebrew Bible** of Moses (like Genesis and Exodus). **N** for **Nevi'im** – the Prophets, which tell the stories and messages of prophets like Isaiah, Elijah, and Jeremiah. **K** for **Ketuvim** – the Writings, which include poems, songs, and wise sayings, like Psalms, Proverbs, and Job. So, **Tanakh = Torah + Nevi'im + Ketuvim**.
- The **Talmud** is a collection of Jewish discussions and debates about how to understand and follow the laws in the Tanakh. It was written later and helps explain what the Torah means and how it should be followed in everyday life.

