

**Creatio ex nihilo**

The Latin phrase for “creation out of nothing”

**Creationism**

The belief that the Bible accounts of creation are literally true

**Eternal**

Exists beyond time and has no beginning or end

**Faith**

Personal commitment to God, which includes trusting and obeying God

**God**

The one supreme being, who creates and sustains everything

**Imago Dei**

A Latin phrase meaning “in the image of God”, the idea that humans reflect God’s nature

**Omnipotent**

The belief that God is all powerful

**Benevolent**

The belief that God is loving

**Prayer**

The way in which humans communicate with God

**Sin**

To go against God’s law

**Stewardship**

The duty to care for something; the world and everything in it



**Genesis Creation Story**

Both stories tell of how creation came to be. They were written by different groups of authors who were inspired by God. They show the belief that all life comes from God and God is the creator.

**Genesis 1** - The opening sentence of Genesis reveals the following about God - “**In the beginning God created ...**” This suggests that God existed before time itself, and that God is an eternal being. God is placed outside of time and space. This suggests that before God created the world there was nothing. This means that God’s creation comes from nothing. This is known as ‘**creatio ex nihilo**’.

**Genesis 2** - Genesis 2 focuses more on the creation of humans. Like Genesis 1, it reminds Catholics that all life comes from God. When God breathed life into to Adam, this was not meant to be taken literally, but to show how close God can be to humans. The quality of God being close to humans and acting in the world is known as **immanence**. Both Bible stories tell us that God is the **creator**. The authors of the accounts of creation show God’s closeness to creation, the authors write in a way so that readers will be moved by God’s care and tenderness.

How can Christians be good stewards of the earth?

Christians can be good stewards by looking after God’s creation, using their time wisely, and making choices that honour God. This includes caring for the environment, managing time well through a balance of work, rest and prayer, and using their talents to help others in the community. They also show stewardship by being responsible with money—avoiding greed, giving to charity, and spending ethically—and by caring for people in need. Many Christians link these actions to teachings such as Genesis 2:15 about caring for the earth and the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats, which teaches that helping others is a way of serving God.

Scientific view on the origins of the universe

The **Big Bang Theory** is an idea that around 14 billion years ago, the universe began with the expansion of a hot, dense point energy. As the energy cooled, it went through a series of changes, before becoming atoms which were necessary for all life to form.

**Evolution** – **Charles Darwin’s** theory suggests that all living things change over time to suit their environment. E.g. giraffes have long necks to reach the leaves on trees.



Scripture/Sources of Wisdom

“...rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground...” – Genesis 1

“In the beginning God created ...” – Genesis 1

“Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea.” – Genesis 1

“So, God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them” – Genesis 1

“The Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life.” – Genesis 2

“You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” – Genesis 2

“Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man.” – Genesis 2