

Death & Afterlife:

Catholic views:

Death = part of the human experience, in death is a change (a metamorphosis: not the end): 'we will not all sleep, we will change'– Corinthians 15

Eternal life is achieved via the atonement & partaking in sacrament, whilst utilising God's grace to seek him out with your heart, in atoning for sins

Palliative care alleviates suffering for the terminally ill in hospices (reject euthanasia), funeral rite filled with symbolism alluding to eternal life (via music & psalms.)

Palliative care dignifies life, in attempting to uphold its quality until its natural death. 1995: Evangelium Vitae (Pope John Paul II) supports palliative care as an alternative to euthanasia ('a special form of charity'– CCC)

Euthanasia:

'Gentle death'

Voluntary euthanasia: at the person's request to avoid living a life of immeasurable suffering

Illegal in UK & condemned by the Church

'Euthanasia is a grave violation of the law of God'– John Paul II

– originates from man being made imago dei in Genesis (& through Catherine of Sienna) to affirm sanctity of life (upholds 'do not kill')

Suffering = arguable source of meaning in life & can lead to net good in learning about the human condition, as man identifies with the suffering of Christ (coincides with 'problem of evil' theodicies), palliative care = alternative to maintain one's dignity

'Stewards, not owners of life... it's not ours to dispose of'– CCC

'Masterpieces of God's creation, deserving of upmost reverence'– Pope Francis

Muslims & Jews reject euthanasia, seeking palliative care to retain one's dignity

Right to die:

Sanctity (& longevity) vs Quality of life

Alternative Christian beliefs:

Focus on Christ's compassion in healing ailments via miracles

'Love thy neighbour' & Golden rule

Maintaining quality of life overrides longevity- compassionate approach

Secular views:

Humanists:

BHA campaign to legalise euthanasia in UK

A human right (1947) to die

Quality supersedes need to preserve longevity of life (& sanctity but atheist worldview so reject creationism)

Autonomy is at the heart of Singer's message, euthanasia is an option

Switzerland Dignitas clinic = aids in assisted suicide

'Time we learnt to be as good as dying as we are living' - Pratchett

Points of judgement for 15m:

Slippery slope argument:

When does RIGHT to die become an OBLIGATION to die (based on distaste of being cared for by families if terminally ill, disrupting their life quality), need safeguards to protect people if euthanasia legalised in UK

Fruitful lives lived by disabled-> unproductive lives are still lives, so rather discriminatory + where do you draw the line?

God = fountain & source of knowledge, gave us ability to develop life ending meds?

Physicians ending life = against all that's stipulated by Hippocratic oath (to preserve life, not take it)

Aquinas' double effect doctrine: alleviation of pain is the aim, death is merely the consequence

Merciful release for terminally ill (has rational basis)

If euthanasia = playing God, all meds are playing God by intervening with God's plan

Life after death:

Catholic stance: on IMMORTALITY of the SOUL

Denying the resurrection denies Jesus' resurrection = 'our preaching is useless and so if your faith' - Corinthians 15, Eternal life prospect central to salvation focus of Christianity

'Mortal will become immortal'

Jesus claimed victory over death, the faithful will do the same

Imminent eschatology: 'you do not know when the time will come': liturgy Advent reading (alludes to resurrection at the end of time)

'Thy kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven': lead by the Holy Spirit, living in accordance with scripture will transform the world

Nicene creed affirms Resurrection

Dualism: 'a natural body' (earthly vessel for the soul) & a 'spiritual body' coexist, as professed by St Paul, it will be 'raised in it's glory.' 'Borne the image of an earthly man... we will bear the image of a heavenly man' - Corinthians 15

Soul: responsible for our rational nature, gives identity, reveals infinite nature of eternal life

Denying resurrection denies Christian faith as built on foundations of salvation for all in the eternal life, attained via the atonement: 'If Christ has not been raised, faith is futile... you still live in your sins' - Corinthians 15

Alternative theories suggest Jesus was revived

Reincarnation = eastern philosophy (Hindu & Sikh origin), endless reincarnation till state of perfection reached

Humanists:

Reject dualism, accept material existence (rational)

Finality in death breeds comfort

Helps attribute meaning to life to combat existential dread, inspiring one to make the most of their only life

Eschatology:

Catholics on heaven & hell:

Heaven = state of being in God's presence via an acceptance of grace, leading to salvation.

Described as: 'beatific vision', 'glorious splendour', 'transcendent place' = attempts to conceptualise tangibility of the intangible

'Definitive happiness': CCC

Hell = realm of damnation, Dante's artistic depictions capture fire & brimstone, symbolic of the torment souls undergo as they cry out in desperation to the Lord. Eternal separation via a rejection of grace (+ misuse of one's freewill, supplemented by a betrayal of the conscience.) God is 'abounding in mercy & steadfast love', thus judges one's actions, made at their own volition to determine their fate in the eternal life

Dying with unforgiven mortal sin = hell

Judgement:

Parable of unforgiving servant stresses need for one to forgive others to be forgiven themselves, through analogy of debt repayment. 'Forgive your brother & sister from your heart' - Matthew 18

Parable of rich man & Lazarus depicts damning consequence of not showing mercy to others in the earthly life, but rather indulging in materialism & hedonism (leads to hell), living in accordance with scripture (exemplified in Jesus' beatitudes: 'the poor in spirit will inherit the kingdom of God') leads to heaven, a place where 'Lazarus is poor no more'

Demonstrate belief in a PARTICULAR JUDGEMENT

Final judgement = God will judge all creation, suggested in Revelation

Purgatory:

'To purge' - Greek origins

'Fire will test the quality of each person's work' - Corinthians 3

Realm of purification, post heaven (a state of moral perfection) -> 'incorruptible body... a spiritual body' - CCC

God's friendship... need purification to be in the happiness of heaven' - CCC

Hans Kung (theologian), purgatory = place to repent for absences of faith

Protestants:

Rejection notion of purgatory

Acceptance of grace = heaven

Life is a pilgrimage to God "first fruits"

Humanists:

Death is part of the human condition

Life = endless recycling of matter

Finality breeds comfort & appreciation of the present

Jews:

Orthodox: bodily resurrection in messianic era ('under the wings of the Shekinah') = against cremation & organ transplants: 'Many will awake, some to eternal life, some to everlasting abhorrence' - David 12

Reform: reject, deceased beloved live on through memories & good deeds

Magisterium:

Teaching authority of Catholic Church, update Church's dogmas

3 sources of validity: Bible (God's word for the writers were inspired by the Holy Spirit), theologians (tradition), Popes & bishops (trace ordination back to apostles who were told to 'make disciples of all nations')

Ordinary magisterium:

Popes & bishops preach gospel in homilies & letters 2 diocese. Encyclicals include: *Evangelium vitae* (Pope John Paul II on the sanctity of life & euthanasia), which apply scripture to the modern world

Extraordinary magisterium:

Respond to disputes

Conciliar: bishops in a general council to apply doctrine to modern day e.g. Council of Nicaea & Constantinople & 1563 Council of Trent (responded to Reformation, affirming belief in Eucharistic transubstantiation)

Pontifical: Pope = has papal infallibility (on matters of faith only) due to apostolic succession, originating from St Peter eg 1950: beliefs about Mary clarified

Pontifex maximus = great bridge builder (Pope gaps bridge between earth & heavens for he acts as God's representative on earth)

Evangelium Vitae:

Pope John Paul II's encyclical, touches on:

euthanasia as a 'grave violation of the law of God'

& abortion which is condemned on the basis of 'life being sacred...including the initial phase which precedes birth' & 'can never make illicit an act which is intrinsically illicit' (murder = fundamentally wrong, extended to 'unborn children')

2nd Vatican Council:

1960s, most recent council, called by Pope John XXIII, closed by Pope Paul VI in 1965

Post WW2, saw progression in technology & society, forced Church to alter dogmas & doctrines to fit context

4/16 documents = constitutions of great importance

'You are Peter, and on this rock I shall build my church' – Matthew 16: Apostolic succession lead to Papal infallibility, his role changed, becoming a 'man of the people'

Dei Verbum:

Considers Biblical context & thus scholarship, gave way for non-overlapping magisteria (evolution compatible with creationism), more biblical study groups

Sacrosanctum:

Liturgical change: mass delivered in native tongue, not Latin, priests faces congregation not alter, lectionary was revised to give bigger biblical selection, more laity involvement for the 'church is made by the poor, for the poor'

Lumen Gentium:

'Light of the people's': laity role (as Body of Christ) increased e.g. active altar service & choir, corresponding to baptismal promise of being of service to others

2nd Vatican Council marked SHIFT in Church's approach to modernism, likened to Bolshevik October Revolution & 1798 French Revolution

Guadium et Spes:

Published 1965 to integrate Catholicism into world, by focusing on: issues of social justice & responsibility

Church was to be a 'source of joy and hope'

Contains foundational principles, giving way for: IFD, CAFOD & CST

Influence: Pax Christi, associations for racial justice, justice & peace groups by parishes set up

Sarcophagi:

Express **Passion Narrative** via tangible means for accessibility (low literacy rates in 4th century)

Reinforces Jesus' triumph & victory over death

Panel symbolisms:

Romans giving Jesus a crown, mocking him as 'King of the Jews' (in line with blasphemy as reason for prosecution), reclaimed meaning as Jesus' victory over death

Pilate depicted washing his hands of the guilt & retraction of responsibility associated with killing the Son of God

Stylised cross with Chi-ro in the centre of an eagle (Roman symbol of Victory over death & the God: Jupiter), with soldiers gazing up in awe



Funeral rite:

Faure's Requiem: 'does not express the fear of death... but death as a happy deliverance, an aspiration towards happiness above' - Gabriel Faure

Requiem = rest (Latin)

Funeral service express belief in eternal life via symbolisms:

Pall covers coffin, showing equality in death before the eyes of God & recalls baptism

Cross on coffin depicts power of the atonement in offering salvation through grace in death, so that we 'share Christ's victory over death'

Song of the Angels (based on Paradisium): 'angels lead you to paradise... to Jerusalem... to the bosom of Abraham... where Lazarus is poor no longer' : rich symbolism as parallels drawn between old & new testaments= new & eternal covenant under Jesus as the Messiah lead to salvation of man & beatitudes profess belief that the righteous ('poor in spirit') will 'inherit the kingdom of God'

Paschal candle: represents mystery of salvation & that 'darkness could not overpower' (-John), for Jesus was the light of the world

St Paul: 'death where is your victory, where is your sting', alludes to Last Judgement in Revelation

Classical compositions reflect the tranquility of life's trials being left behind, evoking feelings of 'faith in eternal rest'

Burials take place, followed by wakes

Psalms: echoes of monasterial life in modern day eg though Liturgy of the Word to express the emotion unanimous amongst congregations

Jewish funerals:

Solemn, immense grief depicted through tearing of one's shirt (like Jacob did in Genesis), marks end of earthly existence prior to resurrection in the Messianic age, Shiva mourning period= no celebrations, cannot read Torah (as law of God rejoices one's heart), no flowers at tombs (rocks instead, like Abraham did for his wife Sarah.)

Prayer:

CCC: 'the raising of the heart & mind to God' or 'petition of good things from him in accord with his will'

Types of prayer:

Adoration: praising the Lord eg via sign of the cross/ blessed sacrament

Thanksgiving: for the wonders of creation, Eucharist = thanksgiving (in Greek)-> expression of thanks for Jesus' sacrifice

Repentance: expression of sorrow, penitential acts & reconciliation underwent

Intercession: bidding prayers to Saints

Petitions: asking of God to respond to needs

Formulaic prayers:

Derived from oral tradition, prayers from those closest to God historically eg Lord's Prayer, Glory Be, Hail Mary (Rosary prayer set)

Extempore prayers:

Immersed with meaning as Christians create them (lack of repetition so practise isn't mundane & futile like in formulaic prayers), prayer in a more 'spontaneous way'

Lord's Prayer:

Thanksgiving: 'father' = great privilege, Aramaic 'abba' used by Jesus = encouragement of close relationship with God & his people

Repentance: 'forgive us our trespasses' - acknowledgement of falling short of perfection & need the atonement to be in reach of salvation

Prayer for the deceased:

'Eternal rest grant unto him', 'through the mercy of God rest in peace'

Remembrance of the dead in Eucharistic prayers

Pro praying for the dead:

RIP= Requiescat in pace

Customary to pray, origins from 40-50AD (tomb inscriptions)

Prayers = acts of love for the departed/spiritual therapy for griever

Allow for a quicker transition from purgatory to heaven

Prayers lead to God 'treating souls with more clemency than their sins deserve' - St Augustine

Anti prayers for the dead:

Protestants: stopped praying for the dead post reformation

In death, one's destiny is at the hands of God alone

Should spend time doing proactive deeds in memory of the deceased

Intercessions detract from Jesus' divinity

Final judgement in Hebrews suggests prayer is futile, the decision is in the hands of God alone

Paschal candle:

Used in Easter service, depicts Jesus' triumph over death

Triduum liturgies commemorate events of the Passion:

Holy Thursday (last supper), Good Friday (crucifixion), Easter Vigil (resurrection)

Candle represents: 'light of Christ' overcoming the 'darkness of sin', procession finished with exultet hymn

Candle symbols:

Alpha & Omega: Christ is the Beginning & End

Cross: faith in the resurrection

5 wounds: wounds of Jesus upon his crucifixion

Year: candle marked with current year = salvation is till the end of time

Easter Candle:

Jesus' triumph over death marked by lighting of the candle from Easter Sunday to Pentecost

Historically, baptism occurred at Easter vigils (water blesses child entering the Church, symbolic of the atonement ridding man of original sin)

Candle burns 'brightly', commemorating Jesus' victory over death, in him 'overcoming sin'

