

Crime & punishment:

Absolutism: morality is concrete (never changes)

Supports UN human rights charter but a deontological argument

E.g. murder is ALWAYS wrong

Relativism: morality changes by situation

Appreciates laws being reflections of culture but challenges natural law

E.g. murder in cases of self defence is ok

Sin: actions that go against the will of God

Venial sin: minor e.g. lying

Mortal sin: very bad e.g. murder

Our conscience (guided by natural law) aids us in making moral decisions

Aims of punishment:

Deterrence: prevents future crime (the death penalty)

But clearly ineffective in the USA

Has to be proportionate to the crime so no death penalties for speeding

Retribution: a clear equity of justice to avenge the victim

Involves corporal (torture) or non-corporal (community service) punishment or should God be the final judge?

Rehabilitation: reforms a criminal's behaviour & integrates them back into society

Creates productive members of society

A waste of tax payer £££ & a chance of re-offence?

Forgiveness:

Lays at the HEART of Jesus' Gospel message

Matthew 18 : there's no limit to forgiveness (>27 times)

Lord's Prayer: 'forgive us ours sins & forgive those who have trespassed against us'

To be open to God's mercy, you have to forgive others ('love thy neighbour')

'Father forgive them' (said to the criminals on the crosses besides him) = Jesus' last moments on the cross

Anthony Walker's mother: 'resentment doesn't mask grief, God is the final judge'

Jesus encourages Catholics to inspire love, compassion & mercy within each other

Catholics should be actively cultivating a society in which nobody has to resort to crime

Justice will be restored on Judgment day

Death penalty:

Catholic church's traditional stance:

'The traditional teachings of the church does not exclude recourse to the death penalty' - CCC

St Augustine:

'There is no space to reform a character except in this life' - Letter 153 to Macedonius

'We prefer them to be set free than having the sufferings of our brothers avenged by shedding their blood' - Letter 134 to Apiringus

'The public authority must limit itself to such means' - St Paul II Evangelium Vitae

The death penalty is the last resort to uphold the safety of society whilst dignifying life

Catholic positions:

Pro death penalty:

'Life for a life' - Exodus

Upholds the importance of: 'thou shall not kill'

St Paul: people should follow their countries laws,
inclusive of the death penalty

Church hasn't retracted pro death penalty statements

Wrong to spend tax payer £££ on rehabilitating criminals,
instead of the impoverished

Anti death penalty:

Jesus came to reform sinners = the whole point of his
crucifixion & you can't reform dead people (St Augustine's
letters)

'Turn the other cheek' - Matthew

Risk that innocent life might be taken

2 wrongs dont make a right

Redemption:

Deliverance from sin & its consequences via the acceptance of grace & in turn salvation

The atonement: denotes God's agape love for man as Jesus' sacrifice redeemed humanity

'Jesus is the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world' - John 1:29

Jesus extends his salvation to the faithful, Catholics need to partake in sacrament (encounters with God e.g. baptism which rids man of original sin) & believe in the atonement to be in reach of eternal life

Grace = the gift of God's unconditional love

Protestants on salvation:

Total depravity: we are all born with original sin

Unconditional election: we are saved by believing in Christ

Unlimited atonement: Jesus can forgive any sin

Irresistible grace: we are called to God's grace

Perseverance of the saints: once gained, grace cannot be lost

(TUULIP)

Catholics on salvation:

Jesus' higher purpose = granting salvation to man

We accept grace via freewill

Paschal mystery: the Passion narrative from Jesus' trial to the ascension

Through salvation, we can spend eternity in God's 'glorious splendour'

God's love for man is incomprehensible (we are limited by our own understanding of love) but the atonement reveals it to be a gift

Holy Week:

Maundy Thursday: last supper where Jesus distributed the Eucharist & 'agony in the garden of gethsemane'

Good Friday: trial & crucifixion of Christ under Pontius pilot for blasphemy

Double effect doctrine: the crucifixion of Jesus brought about the net good of salvation for man

Resurrection:

Jesus overcame sin & claimed victory over death

Jesus ascended into the heavens, signifying the fulfilment of his earthly mission

Jesus' Gospel & the Pentateuch (which rained down on the apostles during Pentecost) inspired evangelisation

The church:

4th cent CE: the Nicene Creed was approved on at the Councils of Nicea & Constantinople, it identified the 4 marks of the church:

ONE: it's trinitarian source attributes Catholics as a union of believers, who partake in discipleship & enrich the church in their expressions of the faith centered around ONE God

HOLY: God's church (through the Holy Spirit) = the source of all holiness, each member has been called to holiness (in their quest for salvation) : 'look not on our sins but on the faith of your church'

CATHOLIC: universal in nature, God is omnipresent & evangelisation facilitates the spreading of the Gospel message ('make disciples of all nations')

APOSTOLIC: through apostolic succession (with Peter being the 1st Pope), faith has been preserved, ecclesial = an assembly of believers gathering in prayer

The Church as the Body of Christ:

Jesus was begotten, not born as the incarnate son (Kenosis hymn) & was a moral example on earth: he cared for the sick & sacrificed himself for the good of man, his works are carried on through members of the church

Through the Eucharist, Catholics unite forming one body through the Holy Spirit (through transubstantiation), it reaffirms their oneness, whilst giving them an identity

Romans: 'we through many are one body in Christ'

Mary as a model of the Church:

Discipleship: Mary was devoted to her son from the beginning, following him up to the 'foot of the cross'

Faith: Maintained her religious convictions during Jesus' crucifixion

Charity: She gave herself over to God completely (in accepting the title of the 'mother of God') & she called out to Jesus at the wedding of Cana (his 1st miracle, turning water into wine) -> showing Jesus' obedience to his mother, allowing catholics to intercede through prayer to the communion of saints

Significance of Mary:

Lourdes pilgrimage miracles

Mediator between man & God

Our token to salvation through the birth of Christ

'Outside the church, there is no salvation'

St Cyprian = only Christians will go to heaven - CCC 845

Everyone is unwillingly saved through Jesus' crucifixion:

'Jesus explicitly asserted the necessity of faith... they could not be saved if they refused to either enter or remain in it'

Now, the church teaches:

People who are 'anonymously Christians' aka seek God out with their hearts but aren't exposed to the Gospel receive grace, for God transcends the power of the church

CCC 847: 'those who seek God out with sincere grace... through the dictates of their conscience... may achieve eternal salvation'

Partaking in scripture, believing in the resurrection & loving thy neighbour - guaranteed salvation in the eyes of the Catholic Church

Architecture:

Church = house of God

Interior features:

Altar (where the liturgy of the Eucharist takes place) + the table is symbolic of the last supper,

Candles (Jesus is the light of the world: sin overpowered darkness),

Baptismal font near church's entrance (sacrament of baptism enters catholics into the church, as they are purified of original sin),

Lectern (for the liturgy of the word- congregations are spiritually nourished by the Gospel),

Crucifix (reminder of the Atonement, for Jesus is the 'lamb of God' & through his death, humanity was saved)

Exterior features:

Cruciform shape: symbolic of the Passion

Towers & steeples = symbolic of Jesus' ascension into heaven

Faces eastwards = towards Jerusalem, upholding the new & eternal covenant tradition



Sacraments:

An outwards sign of inwards grace through a spiritual encounter with God

Sacramental nature of reality: creation shows God's love & healing

We see God's grace at work within the sacraments & the 7 sacraments originate in the teachings of Jesus

The 7 Sacraments:

Baptism: the sacrament of initiation, through the power of the Holy Spirit, people are stripped free from the burden of original sin & join the body of Christ

Symbol: holy water

Confirmation: completes the sacrament of initiation, person devotes their life to living out Jesus' Gospel

Symbols: laying of the hands

Eucharist: remembers the last supper, in which Jesus asked the disciples to reenact his consecration of the host at mass & through transubstantiation, it nourishes believers

Symbols: bread & wine

Confession: person shows sorrow & penitence to fix relations with God

Symbols: penitential acts

Last rites: unifies the terminally ill with Jesus' suffering

Symbols: anointing & laying of the hands

Matrimony: man & woman become 1 flesh as they enter into a covenant together with God (+ be 'fruitful & multiply')

Signs: exchanging rings

Holy orders: men are ordained as priests & deacons (as spiritual leaders of their communities)

Symbols: laying of the hands

Aquinas: sacraments allow us to experience God through tangible means, they deliver us from pagan practises & function as 'spiritual medicine'

Eucharist:

'Source & summit of a Christian's life'

Significance:

Re-enacts Jesus' sacrifice (via transubstantiation)

Conveys grace to those who deserve it worthily

Is the highest form of prayer

Establishes Christ's presence in mass

through: the consecration of the Eucharist, the Gospels & amongst congregations who function as the body of Christ

'When 2-3 are gathered in my name, I am there among them'

'Thanksgiving' in Greek

Eucharistic adoration: attempts to understand the mystery of the Eucharist, is spiritually nourishing



Evangelisation:

'Go out and make disciples of all nations' – Matthew

The church began in Jerusalem & spread throughout the Roman Empire

Pope Francis' 2013 Evangelium Vitae translates to: 'the joy of the Gospel'

'The church is poor and for the poor', coinciding with Jesus' Beatitude teachings

Catholics are outwards looking, focusing particularly on the increasingly secular western world

Importance:

A catholic duty to help people attain salvation

Local parishes promote IPD through charity functions

Nationally, the bishop's conference highlights how to evangelise across the UK e.g. building 15 missionary parishes

Globally, the Vatican hosts youth days & spreads the Gospel through the works of CAFOD

Religious pluralism in the UK:

Census 2011:

Secularism has risen, Christianity has declined

2000+ years ago, the Romans brought Christianity to England, it's embedded in the UKs culture:

Sunday is a no trading day: 'keep the Sabbath holy', the House of Lords is comprised of 26 Anglican bishops & they help pass acts (which reflect the mosaic Decalogue)

& the calendar e.g. school holidays is centred around Christmas, Easter, Valentine's Day, Guy Fawkes (conspiracy to blow up the Anglican parliament of James I)

But IPD helps unify those of all creeds, promoting community cohesion