

Worship

Liturgical – Follows a set routine e.g. RC
Non-liturgical - Does not follow a set routine

Charismatic – informal; spirit-inspired

Rosary – a string of beads with a crucifix attached

Meditation – thoughtfulness, focused on a religious truth

Quaker meetings – Completely informal, with no leader or structure

The Bible – regardless of the type of worship, it will always have a focus on the Bible

Private – worshipping alone

Prayer – Communicating with God

Why is worship important?

- It brings a sense of **togetherness** as a community
- It makes a person **feel closer** to God
- It is **peaceful** – allowing for prayer and meditation
- It is an **external expression** of their faith
- Christians **praise** God as the eternal Being and source of everything that exists

Pilgrimage

A pilgrimage is a visit to a place regarded as holy for the believer. Often, the journey is also special. Pilgrimage has always played an important role in the history of Christianity, though it is not a compulsory duty and many today see no need to go on pilgrimage.

Some examples of Christian places of pilgrimage are: **Lourdes, Iona**, the Holy Land (Israel) and Canterbury.

Prayer

Jesus spoke about prayer on a number of occasions. Some Christians follow set prayer (such as **the Lord's prayer** (which Jesus taught his disciples), whereas others make them more personal.

There are different types of prayer:

- Thanksgiving
- Adoration
- Confession
- Petition
- Intercession

Practices: Christianity



Sacraments

A **sacrament** = an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace

Protestant Churches = only **2** sacraments: Baptism and Eucharist.

RC & Orthodox Churches = **7** sacraments: Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation, Reconciliation, Marriage, Holy Orders, Anointing of the Sick.

Baptism

Jesus was baptised by John and, during the baptism, Jesus experienced the Holy Spirit entering his life and heard God's assurance that he was the Son of God.

Just before his ascension, Jesus told his disciples to: *"Go and make disciples of all nations, **baptising** them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit"*. Baptism was a rite of **initiation** into the community right from the start and there are many references to baptism throughout the NT.

Eucharist

The Eucharist is celebrated by nearly all Christian denominations and has many names, such as Holy Communion. The central features are the same: the connection with Jesus' Last Supper, the giving of thanks for the bread and wine (consecration) and using Jesus' words at the last supper. RC Christians believe in **transubstantiation** – the bread & wine literally turns into the body & blood of Christ. Whereas Protestants do not believe this.

"Mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith"

The Church in the local community

The Church has always been involved in caring for others. For example, in the Middle Ages the monasteries provided education, hospitality for travellers and treatment for the sick. In the 20th century, a London church set up the first **Samaritans** phone service for those feeling suicidal. In the Parable of the Sheep & the Goats, Jesus told his disciples that whatever they did or failed to do for someone, however insignificant the deed or situation, they did/or failed to do, for Jesus.

One way in which Christians put their faith into action is through food banks and street pastors.

Key organisations (research these!)

- **Corrymeela** – reconciliation & ecumenism
- **Open Doors** – Supports persecuted Christians
- **Spring Harvest** – Mission & evangelism
- **Community of the cross of nails**
- **CAFOD** – Catholic Agency for Overseas Development
- **Tearfund**
- **Christian Aid**