

KEY CONCEPTS			
POPE	The Bishop of Rome, head of the Catholic Church.	ICTHUS	The Greek word for fish, ICTHUS, made an acronym for Christ. Jesus Christ, God’s Son, Saviour.
INFALLIBLE	Without error. The belief that, under strict conditions, the teaching of the Pope on behalf of the Church is protected from error.	CHI RHO	A Christian symbol consisting of the Greek letters Chi (X) and Rho (P), which are the first two letters of ‘Christ’ in Greek.
VENERATION	Regarding something with utmost respect and reverence; honouring, but not worshipping, a saint or a very holy person.	RETREATS	Taking time out of ordinary daily life to focus on God, religion and spirituality; taking time to communicate with God through prayer and reflection.
RELIGIOUS VOWS	Sacred promises of poverty, chastity and obedience, made by monks and nuns.	APOSTOLIC SUCCESSION	The line of Catholic bishops, going back to Jesus’ apostles.
A RELIGIOUS	A person who has taken the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION	The belief that God preserved the Virgin Mary from Original Sin from the moment of her conception.
THEOTOKOS	‘God-bearer’; the title given to the Virgin Mary, bearer of Christ.	CRUCIFIX	A representation of the cross with a figure of the crucified Jesus on it.

VATICAN II

The Second Vatican Council, or Vatican II, was an ecumenical meeting called by Pope John XXIII in the early 1960s. The modern world was changing dramatically during this time, and Pope John XXIII wanted to address matters of concern, and bring the Church up to date, thereby making it more relevant and accessible to worshippers.

IMPORTANCE OF VATICAN II

Vatican II is of great importance to the Catholic Church. It appears Pope John XXIII wanted to renew the Church spiritually and allow Christians to unite together. Sixteen documents were produced in total, laying a foundation for the church as we know it today. Four key documents are identified below, with the main findings from them. Many of these brought about great change within the Church, with worshippers able to participate in the Mass and their Church community in a way that had never been seen before. Many welcomed these changes which allowed them to engage in worship on a deeper level.

THE FOUR KEY DOCUMENTS FROM VATICAN II

<p>Sacrosanctum Concilium <i>‘Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy’</i></p> <p>THEME: Celebration and Prayer</p> <p>KEY POINTS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Mass could now take place in the local language of a place rather than in Latin. The rite of Mass would also be simplified to allow worshippers to understand it better and participate more.2. The Laity were now allowed to read the Word of God to the congregation during the Mass. They could read the First and Second Readings, the Responsorial Psalm, and the Bidding Prayers.3. The priest faced the congregation during the Mass. This was possibly to emphasise the sense of community and so that worshippers could feel part of the re-presentation of Jesus’ sacrifice.	<p>Lumen Gentium <i>‘The Light of Humanity’</i></p> <p>THEME: The Church</p> <p>KEY POINTS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. This document called for all members of the Church to bring the light of Christ to the world.2. All baptised Catholics are part of the priesthood (common priesthood).3. Ordained priests (sacramental priesthood) are the members of the common priesthood who are able to celebrate the sacraments.4. The Church was no longer to be seen as a pyramid structure, but a circle with all members of the Church joined together.	<p>Gaudium et Spes <i>‘Joy and Hope’</i></p> <p>THEME: Life in Christ (The Church in the Modern World)</p> <p>KEY POINTS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. This document emphasised that all human beings have an inherent dignity because they are created in the image and likeness of God.2. Peace and justice are necessary for all people, whatever their belief. True peace comes from God, and involves living in harmony with others.3. All believers and non-believers should be actively engaged in working together for social action and change.	<p>Dei Verbum <i>‘The Word of God’</i></p> <p>THEME: Revelation</p> <p>KEY POINTS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Sacred Scripture (the Bible) is a divine revelation. God revealed himself to all through his revelation so that we might know him.2. The Bible should be available to all in their own languages. Therefore, believers could read the Word of God for themselves and pray for a fuller understanding of it.3. Catholics should apply the teachings of the Bible to their everyday lives.
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