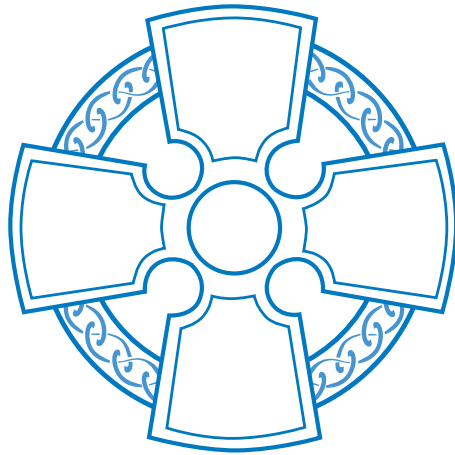


The Church in Wales

# THE CATECHISM

An Outline of the Faith



# The Catechism

## An Outline of the Faith

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*The purpose of setting out this Outline of Faith as a Catechism is to present it in a form suitable for teaching.*

### CONTENTS

- I. THE CALL OF GOD: THE CHRISTIAN ANSWER
- II. CHRISTIAN BELIEF
- III. THE CHURCH AND MINISTRY
- IV. CHRISTIAN OBEDIENCE
- V. THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE CHURCH
  - Grace
  - Worship and Prayer
  - The Bible
  - The Sacraments
- VI. THE CHRISTIAN HOPE

# I. THE CALL OF GOD: THE CHRISTIAN ANSWER

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1. What is your Christian name?

**My Christian name is .....**

2. Who gave you this name?

**My parents and godparents gave me this name at my Baptism.**

3. What did God do for you in your Baptism?

**In my Baptism God called me and made me a member of Christ, the child of God, and an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven.**

4. What promises were made at your Baptism?

**Three promises were made:**

**first, that I would renounce the devil and fight against evil;**

**second, that I would believe the Christian Faith and put my whole trust in Christ as Lord and Saviour;**

**third, that I would obey God's holy will and commandments and serve him faithfully all the days of my life.**

5. Are you bound to fulfil these promises?

**Yes, and by God's help I will.**

6. Why are people baptized?

**In order that they may become members of the Body of Christ.**

7. How are the promises for infants made and carried out?

**Promises are made by their parents and godparents, in order that the infants will be brought up within the Church, to know Christ and be able to follow him.**

## II. CHRISTIAN BELIEF

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8. Where do you find a summary of the Christian faith?

**I find it in the Apostles' Creed and in the Nicene Creed.**

### **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth:  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead,  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God  
the Father Almighty.  
from thence he shall come  
to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen**

## **THE NICENE CREED**

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only begotten Son of God,  
begotten of his father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made:  
who for us men, and for our salvation  
came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man,  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried,  
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
And he shall come again with glory to judge both the  
quick and the dead:  
whose kingdom shall have no end.  
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the Giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped  
and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins.  
And I look for the Resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

**9. What do you learn from the Creeds?**

**I learn to believe in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, three persons in  
one God, whom we call the Holy Trinity and whose nature is love.**

10. What does the Church teach about God the Father?

**The Church teaches that God, who is the creator and ruler of the universe, made me and all mankind, and has created all things in his love.**

11. What does this mean?

**It means that the universe, though disordered by evil, is good; it is the work of a loving God who creates, sustains and directs it. It means that the world belongs to its creator; that we are called to enjoy it and to care for it in accordance with God's purposes. It means that all people are worthy of respect and honour, because all are created in the image of God, and all should respond to his love. In failing to respond we reject God's love and purpose, and in so doing disfigure his image in ourselves and become estranged from him.**

12. What does the Church teach about God the Son?

**The Church teaches that the Father sent his Son to reconcile the world to himself. He was made man and died for our sins; he was raised victorious over death and was exalted to the throne of God as our advocate and intercessor; and he will come again as our judge and saviour.**

13. What does the Church teach about God the Holy Spirit?

**The Church teaches that God the Holy Spirit inspires all that is good in mankind; that he came in his fullness at Pentecost to be the giver of life in the Church, and that he enables me to grow in likeness to Jesus Christ.**

14. How is this Faith expressed?

**This Faith is expressed in a life of praise and service and summed up in the worship of the Holy Trinity when we say:**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:  
world without end. Amen**

### III. THE CHURCH AND MINISTRY

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15. What is the Church?

**The Church is the family of God and the Body of Christ through which he continues his reconciling work among men. Its members on earth enter it by baptism and are one company with those who worship God in heaven.**

16. How is the Church described in the Creeds?

**The Church is described as one, holy, catholic and apostolic.**

17. What do you mean by these words?

**By these words I mean that:**

**the Church is *one* because it is the redeemed family of God the Father, which seeks to unite all men in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**the Church is *holy* because it is set apart by God from himself, through the Holy Spirit;**

**the Church is *catholic* because it is universal, concerned about the whole life for all nations and for all time, holding the Christian Faith in its fullness;**

**the Church is *apostolic* because it received its divine Authority and teaching from Christ through his apostles, and is sent to carry out Christ's mission to all people.**

18. What is the mission of the Church?

**The mission of the Church is to be the instrument of God in restoring all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.**

19. How does the Church carry out its mission?

**The Church carries out its mission as it prays and worships, proclaims the Gospel and serves God's will in promoting justice, peace and love in all the world.**

20. Through whom does it carry out its mission?

**The Church carries out its mission through the ministry of all its members.**

21. What is the ministry of all its members?

**The ministry of all its members is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; according to the gifts given to them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world and to play their part in the worship and life of the Church.**

22. What is the ministry of a bishop?

**The ministry of a bishop is to be a chief shepherd in the Church; to guard the Faith; to ordain and confirm; and to be the chief minister of the Word and Sacraments in his diocese.**

23. What is the ministry of a priest?

**The ministry of a priest is to preach the Word of God, to teach, and to baptize; to celebrate the Holy Eucharist; to pronounce absolution and blessing in God's name; and to care for the people entrusted by the bishop of his charge.**

24. What is the ministry of a deacon?

**The ministry of a deacon is to help the priest both in the conduct of worship and in pastoral care.**

25. What is the Church in Wales?

**The Church in Wales is the ancient Church of this land, catholic and reformed. It proclaims and holds fast the doctrine and ministry of the *one, holy, catholic and apostolic* Church.**

26. What is the Anglican Communion?

**The Anglican Communion is a family of Churches within the Catholic Church of Christ, maintaining apostolic doctrine and order and in full communion with one another and with the See of Canterbury.**



## IV. CHRISTIAN OBEDIENCE

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27. At your Baptism you promised to keep God's holy will and Commandments all the days of your life.

Where has God made these known?

**God has made his will and commandments known in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, especially in the Teaching and example of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

28. What are the Ten Commandments?

**The Ten Commandments are the laws given to Moses and the people of Israel.**

**God said:**

- i. I am the Lord your God, you shall have no other gods before me.
- ii. You shall not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them.
- iii. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
- iv. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
- v. Honour your father and your mother.
- vi. You shall not kill.
- vii. You shall not commit adultery.
- viii. You shall not steal.
- ix. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.
- x. You shall not covet anything that is your neighbour's.

29. What do you learn from these Commandments?

**I learn two things: my duty to God and my duty to my neighbour.**

30. What then is your duty to God?

**My duty to God is:**

- i. to worship him as the only true God, to love, trust and obey**
- ii. to put nothing in the place of God;**
- iii. to show God respect in thought, word and deed:**
- iv. to keep Sunday as a time for corporate worship, learning and fellowship.**

31. What is your duty to your neighbour?

**My duty to my neighbour is:**

- i. to love, respect and help my parents;**
- ii. to show respect for the life God has given me; to work and pray for peace; to bear no malice, prejudice, or hatred in my heart; to be courteous to all; and to be kind to all God's creatures;**
- iii. to be clean in thought, word and deed; controlling my bodily desires through the power of the Holy Spirit who dwells within me; and if married, to be faithful to my husband or wife;**
- iv. to be honest and fair in all I do; not to steal or cheat; to seek justice, freedom and the necessities of life for all people and to fulfil my duties as a citizen;**
- v. to speak the truth, refrain from slander and harmful gossip, and never by my silence let others be wrongly condemned;**
- vi. to resist temptation to be envious, greedy or jealous, and to be thankful and generous.**

32. How did our Lord Jesus Christ summarize the Ten Commandments?

**Our Lord Jesus Christ said: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.**

**Again, our Lord Jesus said: a new commandment I give you, that you love one another as I have loved you.**

## V. THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE CHURCH

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### GRACE

33. How can you carry out these Commandments and overcome temptation and sin?

**I can do so only through God's grace.**

34. What do you mean by God's grace?

**I mean the help God gives me; by his grace my sins are forgiven, and I am inspired and strengthened through the power of the Holy Spirit.**

35. In what ways do you receive the gifts of God's grace?

**I receive them within the fellowship of the Church, when I worship and pray, when I read the Bible, when I receive the Sacraments, and as I live my daily life to his glory.**

### WORSHIP AND PRAYER

36. What do you mean by worship?

**Worship is my response to God's love: first, by joining with others in the Church's corporate offering of prayer, celebration of the Sacraments and reading his holy Word; secondly, by acknowledging him as the Lord of my life, and by doing my work for his honour and glory.**

37. Why do we keep Sunday as the chief day of public worship?

**We keep Sunday as the chief day of public worship and as a weekly celebration of Easter Day, the day on which our Lord Jesus Christ rose from the dead.**

38. What is prayer?

**Prayer is my response to God, with or without words. I adore, praise and thank him; I confess my sins and ask to be forgiven; I pray for others and myself; I listen to him and seek to know his will.**

39. What is the prayer which our Lord Jesus Christ has given us?

**Our Father, who art in heaven  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen**

## **THE BIBLE**

40. What is the Bible?

**The Bible is the record of God's revelation of himself to mankind through his people of Israel, and above all in his Son, Jesus Christ.**

41. How was the Bible given to us?

**The Bible was given to us by the Holy Spirit who first inspired and guided the writers, and then led the Church to accept their writings as Holy Scripture.**

42. How should we read the Bible?

**We should read the Bible with the desire and prayer that through it God will speak to us by his Holy Spirit, and enable us to know him and do his will.**

## THE SACRAMENTS

43. What do you mean by a sacrament?

**By a sacrament I mean the use of material things as signs and pledges of God's grace, and as means by which we receive his gifts.**

44. What are the two parts of a sacrament?

**The two parts of a sacrament are the outward and visible sign and the inward and spiritual grace.**

45. How many sacraments has Christ, in the Gospel, appointed for his Church?

**Christ in the Gospel has appointed two sacraments for his Church, as needed by all for fullness of life: Baptism and the Holy Eucharist.**

## BAPTISM

46. What is Baptism?

**Baptism is the sacrament in which, through the action of the Holy Spirit, we are made Christ's or 'christened'.**

47. What is the outward and visible sign in Baptism?

**The outward and visible sign in Baptism is water in which the person is baptized 'in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit'.**

48. What is the inward and spiritual gift in Baptism?

**The inward and spiritual gift in Baptism is union with Christ in his death and resurrection, the forgiveness of sins, and a new birth into God's family, the Church.**

49. What is required of us at Baptism?

**It is required that we should turn from sin, believe the Christian Faith, and give ourselves to Christ to be his servants.**

## THE HOLY EUCHARIST

50. What is the Holy Eucharist?

**The Holy Eucharist is the sacrament commanded by Christ for the continual remembrance of his life, death, and resurrection, until his coming again. In the Holy Eucharist, Christ unites us to his one offering of himself and we thankfully receive the benefits of his sacrifice.**

51. By what other names is this service known?

**The Holy Eucharist is called the Lord's Supper, the Breaking of Bread, and Holy Communion; it is also known as the Liturgy, and the Mass.**

52. What is the outward and visible sign in the Eucharist?

**The outward and visible sign in the Eucharist is bread and wine, given and recorded according to Christ's command.**

53. What is the inward and spiritual grace given in the Eucharist?

**The inward and spiritual grace in the Holy Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Christ given to his people, and received by faith.**

54. What are the benefits which we receive in the Eucharist?

**The benefits we receive are the forgiveness of our sins, the strengthening of our union with Christ and one another, and the foretaste of the heavenly banquet which is our nourishment in eternal life.**

55. What is required of us when we come to the Eucharist?

**It is required that, having a living faith in God's mercy, we should examine our lives, repent of our sins, and be in love and charity with all people.**

56. What other sacramental rites are provided in the Church?

**Other sacramental rites are: Confirmation, Ordination, Holy Matrimony, the Ministry of Absolution, and the Ministry of Healing.**

## CONFIRMATION

57. What is Confirmation?

**Confirmation is the rite by which we make a mature expression of the commitment to Christ made at Baptism, and receive the strength of the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop.**

58. What is required of those to be confirmed?

**It is required of those to be confirmed that they have been baptized, are sufficiently instructed in the Christian faith, are penitent for their sins, and are ready to confess Jesus Christ as Saviour and to obey him as Lord.**

## ORDINATION

59. What is Ordination?

**Ordination is the rite in which God gives authority and the grace of the Holy Spirit to those being made bishops, priests, and deacons, through prayer and the laying on of hands by bishops.**

## HOLY MATRIMONY

60. What is Holy Matrimony?

**Holy Matrimony is a lifelong union, instituted by God, into which the man and woman enter. Christians make their vows before God and the Church, and receive the grace and blessing of God to help them fulfil their vows.**

## THE MINISTRY OF ABSOLUTION

61. What is the Ministry of Absolution?

**In the Ministry of Absolution those who are truly sorry for their sins and determine to renounce them for the future, having confessed their sins to God freely and fully in the presence of a priest, receive through his ministry the forgiveness of Almighty God.**

## THE MINISTRY OF HEALING

62. What is the sacramental Ministry of Healing?

**In the sacramental Ministry of Healing, in response to faith and prayer, by the laying on of hands or anointing with oil by a priest, God's grace is given for the healing of body, mind and spirit.**

63. Is God's activity limited to sacramental rites?

**God does not limit himself to sacramental rites. They were appointed by Christ himself or evolved in the Church under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. They are patterns of countless ways by which God uses material things to reach out to us.**

64. How are the sacraments related to our Christian hope?

**Sacraments sustain our present hope and anticipate its future fulfilment.**



## VI. THE CHRISTIAN HOPE

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65. What is the Christian hope?

**The Christian hope is to live in Christ in newness and fullness of life; it is the confident expectation of the coming of Christ in glory, the last judgement and the resurrection to life everlasting.**

66. What do we mean by the coming of Christ in glory?

**By the coming of Christ in glory we mean that Christ will come again at the end of time to make all things new.**

67. What do mean by the last judgement?

**By the last judgement we mean that at Christ's coming in glory all men will give account of their lives to God, who will condemn and destroy all that is evil, and bring his servants into the joy of their Lord.**

68. What do we mean by the resurrection of the body?

**By the resurrection of the body we mean that as God raised Jesus Christ from the dead, so will he raise us from death in the fullness of our being, that we may live for ever with Christ in the communion of saints.**

69. What do we mean by heaven and hell?

**Heaven is to enjoy God for ever. Hell is the alienation which results from our rejection of God.**

70. What do we mean by the communion of saints?

**The communion of saints is the whole family of God, the living and the dead, bound together eternally in Christ by grace, through sacrament, praise and prayer that God may in his infinite mercy bring the whole Church, living and departed in the Lord Jesus, to a joyful resurrection and the fulfilment of his eternal kingdom.**

71. What do we mean by eternal life?

**Eternal life is the true knowledge of the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which we now have in part and one day, by God's grace, we shall enjoy in full, united in love with all the people of God.**

72. What then is our assurance as Christians?

**Our assurance as Christians is that neither death, nor life, nor things present, nor things to come, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Thus, daily increasing in God's Holy Spirit, and following the example of our Saviour Jesus Christ, we shall at the last be made like unto him, for we shall see his as he is.**

***Therefore I pray:***

**May the God of all grace, who has called us unto his eternal glory  
By Christ Jesus, after that we have suffered awhile, make us perfect,  
stablish, strengthen, settle us.**

**To him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen**