

GCSE



CCEA GCSE GLOSSARIES

Religious Studies

Unit 2b: The Christian Church with a
Focus on the Protestant Church



For first teaching from September 2017

GCSE Religious Studies Glossary

Adoration	This means deep love or respect which is given to God by Christians, e.g. through prayer.
Advent	Literally means 'coming'; a time to reflect on the coming of Christ into the world at his birth; part of the church calendar; it starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas.
Altar	A table made of marble or stone where bread and wine are blessed during a Mass or Eucharist.
Ambo	This is a raised desk or pulpit from which the Bible is often read.
Anglican	A person who is a member of the Church of England (or Ireland).
Ash Wednesday	This marks the first day of Lent, when Roman Catholic Christians receive the sign of the cross in ashes on their forehead.
Attribute	This refers to a quality or feature which is regarded as a characteristic or inherent part of someone or something.
Baptist	A person who is a member of the Christian Baptist denomination.
Baptism	A Christian ceremony of initiation; carried out by the sprinkling or pouring of water over a person, or by full immersion in water.
Believer's Baptism	This is when a Christian is baptised on profession of faith in Christ.
Breaking of bread	This term is used by some Churches eg Brethren to describe their celebration of the Lord's Supper, as such in Acts 2 v 42.
Brethren	A denomination of Christians whose central emphasis is on following the teaching and practice of the New Testament. They do not have any minister or pastor; emphasis is placed on preaching, teaching and worship.
Burning bush	A symbol which reminds Christians of the call of Moses, which is used on a pulpit fall in the Presbyterian Church with the inscription 'ardens sed virens.'
Catholic	This term is used as an abbreviation of 'Roman Catholic'.

Charismatic churches	This is used to describe mainline Churches that have been influenced by the Pentecostal movement, with its emphasis on the work of the Holy Spirit and spiritual gifts.
Charity	A fund or organisation set up to provide help and raise money for those in need.
Church	This term can be used to mean a building used for worship or the people of a denomination.
Church of Ireland	This is the Anglican Church in Ireland.
Cohesion	This is the idea of helping people to unite together.
Community	This refers to a group of people living in the same area or having attitudes or interests in common.
Confession	A sacrament of the Roman Catholic Church when a person confesses their sins to a priest; also called the Sacrament of Reconciliation; a form of prayer when a person says sorry for things they have done wrong.
Communion	A ceremony where Christians celebrate the significance of the death and resurrection of Jesus; involves the taking of bread and wine; also called Eucharist, Mass or Lord's Supper.
Communion Table	This is often used in Protestant denominations and is located at the front of the Church. The bread and wine are placed on it during communion.
Conversion	The process of a person changing from one set of beliefs/religion to another, e.g. someone who changes from being an atheist to becoming a Christian.
Creed	A statement which summarises the main Christian beliefs.
Cross	A Symbol which reminds Christians how Jesus died. It can be displayed in a Church or worn as a necklace.
Crucifix	A cross with the figure of Christ on it. This is often displayed inside or outside a Roman Catholic Church.
Corporate worship	This is when Christians worship together as a congregation.
Deacon	A lay person who carries out practical or religious duties in a church, e.g. caretaking and finance.

Denomination	A branch of the Christian tradition, e.g. Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, etc.
Elder	A formal position of spiritual responsibility, welfare and in some cases governance in a church.
Epiphany	This takes place on 6 th January to celebrate the time when the wise men (magi) appeared to Jesus.
Eucharist	This comes from a Greek word meaning 'thanksgiving'. This refers to the ceremony where Christians celebrate the significance of the death and resurrection of Jesus. It is also called Communion, Mass or Lord's Supper; involves the taking of bread and wine.
Existence	This term means the state or fact of existing. It is frequently used when talking about God.
Faith	When a person has belief and/or trust in God.
Fasting	Abstaining from food for religious reasons.
Fellowship	This is the idea of working together and caring for others in the Church.
Font	This is a piece of furniture which contains a basin which holds water for use in baptisms or where holy water is kept, e.g. Church of Ireland and Roman Catholic.
Harvest	This is a time in the Christian calendar when Christians give thanks to God for the crops and the food that he has provided.
Holy Spirit	The Third person of the Trinity; a gift to believers in the early church at Pentecost. He indwells Christians today and guides and empowers them.
Holy Week	This is the week before Easter when Christians remember the Biblical events leading up to Jesus' death. Christians will often attend special services in Church.
Hymns	These are songs of praise, thanksgiving and worship to God. They can be words from the Bible, e.g. the Psalms or songs composed by people. They can be traditional or modern.

Lectern	A small reading desk situated at the front of the Church from which the Bible is often read.
Icon	This refers to a devotional painting or a symbol of a holy figure or character that is used to assist the congregation or individual in worship.
Lent	A period of preparation for Easter which begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts for 40 days. People often make 'sacrifices' at this time.
Liturgy	A form of a church worship/service which includes set prayers, creeds and Scripture readings.
Lord's Supper	This is the name used by some Protestant Churches for the service of communion, e.g. Baptist Church.
Mass	This is the name by which the service of the Eucharist is known in the Roman Catholic Church and some Anglican Churches.
Moderator	This is the person who is the presiding officer of the governing body of the Presbyterian Church.
Paschal Candle	A candle which is lit during Easter and at baptisms in the Roman Catholic Church.
Penance	An act of punishment carried out to express sorrow for wrong doing.
Pew	A bench which is found in churches instead of chairs for people to sit on.
Pope	The Bishop of Rome and leader of the Roman Catholic Church.
Pulpit	A large piece of furniture in a church where the pastor, minister or priest stands to address the congregation during the services. It is usually a raised area to assist viewing.
Ministry	Service to others; term used for Christian (ordained) clergy.
Miracle	This is an extraordinary event that cannot be explained by natural or scientific laws. It is usually regarded as a direct action of God and provides evidence for his existence.
Nicene Creed	A statement of Christian belief; the version of the creed agreed at the Council of Nicea.
Ordination	

	The process how individuals are consecrated or set apart as clergy, which enables them to perform a variety of religious rites and ceremonies. The actual process will vary depending on the denomination.
Pentecost	The festival which celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit. This took place in the city of Jerusalem and is recorded in the book of Acts.
Prayer	Talking to God; praise, thanksgiving; petition; intercession and contrition.
Protestant	The name usually given to the denominations which broke away from the Roman Catholic Church during the period known as the Reformation when Christians such as Martin Luther protested against the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.
Psalms	A book in the Old Testament part of the Bible which contains the prayers and praises of King David. It is used by some churches instead of hymns. There are 150 of these Psalms.
Reformation	A period during the 16th century when Protestants broke away from the Roman Catholic Church and set up their own churches in an attempt to return to the roots of Christianity. They protested against what they believed to be unbiblical teachings by the Roman Catholic Church.
Rosary Beads	This is a string of beads which helps a person to keep count during the rosary.
Religious Orders	A religious group, e.g. monks, who live by a strict code of practice.
Sacrament	Outward sign or symbol of inner, invisible grace: the Roman Catholic Church believes there are 7 sacraments; only Baptism and Communion are regarded as sacraments (or ordinances) by Protestants.
Stations of the Cross	Pictures/images/stained glass windows which are found in Catholic churches which depict the last events in Jesus' life and his journey to the cross.
Statue	A carved or cast figure of a character related to their faith which is normally life size and can be found inside or outside the Church.
Tabernacle	A special decorative box in the Roman Catholic Church where consecrated bread not used during Mass is reserved for future use.

Transubstantiation	The Roman Catholic belief that during the Mass the bread and wine are transformed into the body and blood of Christ, so that he is really present.
Vatican	The city-state which is home to the Pope and the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church.
Worship	To show adoration, admiration and affection to God through words and actions.