

## The Lord's Prayer

These are the words Jesus used when he taught his disciples to pray. This prayer contains all four themes of **ACTS** and is used in many different types of worship across numerous *denominations*.

***Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that 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 Lord's Prayer



## 2. Worship

An expression of adoration and praise for God. There are many different forms of worship:

Liturgical- follows a very set structure e.g., the Eucharist service. Led by a priest/Vicar etc.

Informal- no set structure, spontaneous often found in Evangelical denominations (led by the Holy Spirit).

Resembles worship of Christians in the first decades of the Church before tradition had been established.

Individual worship- in addition to worshipping together in a Church. Forms a personal relationship with God.

### Quakers (the Society of Friends)

Services do not consist of any set prayers.

-Sit in silence and stillness- become closer to God and the congregation

-No official leader

-Ministry- when someone is moved to speak/share something with the congregation



### Evangelical worship

- Very informal
- Moved by the Holy Spirit during worship this may involve speaking in tongues
- Often music, singing and dancing in the congregation

**5. Prayer** An essential part of Christian faith. Develops a special relationship with God. Types of prayer include, Adoration; Confessional; Contemplation; Penitential; Praise; Thanksgiving; Supplication.

Set prayers- The Lord's Prayer, taught by Jesus. Extemporaneous prayers- Spontaneous prayer, some believe that these prayers are influenced by the presence of the Holy Spirit. Informal prayer- speaking to God in a day-to-day language.

## 3. The Sacraments

-An outward sign of an inward and invisible blessing by God, for example baptism and Eucharist.

-Used to describe Christian rites- a sign that Christians are receiving God's grace or blessing.

-Catholic and Eastern Orthodox traditions acknowledge seven specific rites: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance

Anointing of the sick, Holy orders and Marriage.

-Most Protestants recognise two sacraments.

- **Baptism:** Infant (to wash away original sin) and believer's baptism (statement of faith and to cleanse of sin). Importance of this includes- rite of entry to Christianity and follows the example of Jesus. **No one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.** - John 3:5

- **Eucharist:** Also known as Mass or Holy Communion, instituted by Jesus at the Last Supper.

- **Belief 1** - Catholics believe that the bread and the wine become the actual flesh and blood of Jesus Christ. This belief is known as *transubstantiation*.
- **Belief 2** - Some Christians believe that the Holy Communion is a re-enactment or commemoration of the Last Supper. The bread and wine are seen as symbolic of Jesus' death.
- **Belief 3** - Baptists believe the bread and wine are symbols that can be used to bring people together as a community. They use non-alcoholic wine and the bread is offered from person to person.
- **Belief 4** - Orthodox Christians believe that Jesus is mystically present in the bread and wine.
- **Belief 5** - Church of England Christians believe that the bread and wine hold the spiritual presence of the body and blood of Jesus but do not become it.



## 7. Celebrations

**Christmas**- celebrates the birth of Jesus (incarnation) but isn't believed to be the actual day of Jesus' birth. Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas in preparation. Eastern Orthodox Church follows tradition and fasts for advent, they also celebrate it on the 6th of January. Candles or calendar are used to count down, other ways to celebrate during advent are: nativity scenes, Christingle services, carol concerts, cards, decorations etc. On the day church may be attended, gifts exchanged and have a family meal.



**Easter**- Most important festival, it remembers the death and resurrection of Jesus. Lent (40 days) leads up to Easter, it begins on Ash Wednesday. Holy week, the week before Easter remembers the events that led to Jesus' death. It includes Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. On Easter Sunday (the day of Jesus' resurrection) Church will be filled with flowers and a special service held. They may also exchange cards, eggs, attend services during Lent, evening vigil on the Saturday etc.

## 8. Pilgrimage

A journey to a religious place, usually as an act of religious devotion. Many pilgrims travel to the Holy Land to 'walk in the footsteps of Jesus'.

**Lourdes** is a famous pilgrimage site in France where the waters are believed to have healing powers. In 1858, Bernadette Soubirous, a young local girl, was said to have seen the Virgin Mary at Lourdes and her friend was said to have been healed in the waters. Bernadette was made a saint by Pope Pius XI in 1933. Often the water is taken home by pilgrims, and there have been many more stories of healings.



**Iona** is a quiet island in Scotland where a monastery was built by Columba, a monk. It is often visited by pilgrims. Christians go there to study the Bible and pray, which may lead to spiritual growth. People often feel that they benefit from having their lives redirected or feel that they learn something about themselves while in Iona. This can allow Christians to face the challenges of life back at home in a different way.



**Criticisms of pilgrimage**-some Christians believe that the money spent could be better used helping those in need rather than paying for travel. Lourdes is often crowded with visitors, and many people say the site has become too commercialised, with shops selling souvenirs, including statues of the Virgin Mary. Some Christians feel that the benefits of the pilgrimage, like those felt at Iona, can be felt at home when praying.

## **Holy Week**

- **Palm Sunday** - On this day, the four gospels state that Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey. The people were overjoyed to see him, and they showed their love for him by waving palm branches as he passed by. Palm crosses are given out during Christian services as a symbol of this event.
- **Maundy Thursday** - On this day, Jesus hosted the *Last Supper*, which was followed by his arrest in the *Garden of Gethsemane*. This day marks the beginning of a time of sadness and reflection for Christians.
- **Good Friday** - Jesus' *crucifixion* and death. Traditionally, some Christians commemorated this with a day of fasting or by ending the Lent fast and eating *hot cross buns*. Today, many churches hold services during the afternoon at a similar time to when Jesus died (3pm). Some Catholics may hold a procession called the Stations of the Cross, which re-enacts the final journey of Jesus when he carried his cross to his crucifixion. There is a series of 14 stops, all of which remind Catholics of the events that happened during Jesus' final day.
- **Easter Sunday** - Jesus' resurrection.



## CAFOD

The **Catholic Agency for Overseas Development** (CAFOD) works to fight poverty and injustice around the world. It works through churches in places that have suffered natural disasters, aiming to give people the skills to help themselves.



## Christian Aid

**Christian Aid** was set up after *World War Two* to help refugees in Europe. It now works in disaster zones around the world. Every year, during **Christian Aid Week**, the organisation asks each household in the UK to give money to help continue its work to end poverty throughout the world. Christian Aid projects often use the skills of local people to improve life for the community.

## 12. Church in the local community

The main use of a Church is as a place of worship but churches (following Jesus' example) also reach out into communities by:

- Baptism, Conformations, marriages and funerals.
- Food banks
- Youth clubs
- Emergency shelters



*If anyone has material possessions and ignores his brother in need, how can he love God?*-1 John 3:17

**Mission**-According to the *Gospel* of Matthew, Jesus told his disciples that they should spread his message throughout the world and should try to *convert* people to Christianity.

**Missionaries** spread the Christian message abroad, not necessarily only through *preaching*, but through their actions too - for example, helping with *development* projects. This is how Christianity as it is known today has spread across the globe.

**Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.**

— Matthew 28:19



Christianity has been the largest world faith in Europe for a long time, so today its spread in Europe is slow. However, there is rapid growth in South America and Africa, where missionaries have spent time working for *social justice* and setting up churches.

## Evangelism

*Evangelism* involves converting people to Christianity. It often goes hand in hand with the activities of missionaries. Some Christians feel that they should take on this role as they believe that they can help people to discover their real purpose in life. While some evangelists tell people directly about God, others try to show God's love through their actions. For example, Gideons International, an association of evangelical Christians, donates copies of the Bible to hotels and hospitals in the UK and around the world.

**13. Tearfund** Christian charity puts beliefs into action.

Provides emergency and long-term aid. It raises awareness about social issues, campaigns against the causes of poverty and gives practical help.

**Persecution**-Throughout history, Christians have faced *persecution*. There are still many Christians who are persecuted today. They can be put in prison or put to death for their beliefs. Christian guidance teaches Christians to trust God and forgive people, rather than hold on to hatred towards others.

Christians believe in *justice* and in the idea that all people should be treated equally.

**Blessed are the Peacemakers.**

— Matthew 5:9

**Quakers**, are *pacifists* or believe in non-violence.

**Reconciliation** is very important for Christians, who believe that it is something everybody should aim for. Some Christians act as mediators to help bring an end to conflicts. An example is *Archbishop Desmond Tutu*, who tried to bring together black and white people in South Africa following the end of *apartheid*.

Christians believe that they should follow the teachings in the **Parable of the Sheep and Goats**.



However, it is important that all of these actions are done with love, as St Paul said, **If I give all that I possess to the poor, but do not have love, I gain nothing.** (1 Corinthians 13:3)

## Pax Christi

Pax Christi is an organisation that works internationally for *human rights* and peace. It believes that violence should be avoided.

### 1.Christian views on creation

†There are two creation stories in the Bible - Genesis 1 and Genesis 2.

†Genesis 1 describes how God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh.

†Day 1: light & dark; Day 2: sea & sky; Day 3: sun; moon & stars; Day 4: land & plants; Day 5: fish & birds; Day 6: animals & humans.



†There are 2 main interpretations of this account:

†**Literal** - it's a holy text from God and creation happened exactly as described in the Bible.

†**Liberal** - the Bible should be seen as a parable or symbolic story. The meaning is the same, even if it is not historically accurate.

†Many evangelical Christians are **creationists** - they reject scientific theories because they contradict the literal interpretation of the Bible.

†Some Liberal Christians say that you can accept the Big Bang and evolution.

† **Theistic guided evolution:** life came about through evolution but this process was guided by the intervention of God.

**Natural evolution:** evolution is the natural process by which life emerged but God put these laws of nature into place before the universe existed.

### 2.Hindu ideas about creation

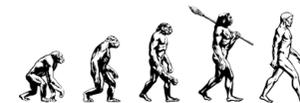
- Hindu cosmology is based on a cyclical idea of time. The universe is one of many bubbles in space. There is no one act of creation. Creation is a continuous process.
- Hindu story:
- Lord Vishnu created different universes and in each universe he lay on a coiled cobra in an ocean. A lotus grew from his navel and in it lay Lord Brahma.
- When Brahma awoke he began to create.
- Gods, moon and sun; fire, wind and ocean; in the ocean he placed an egg which grew and cracked, and Brahma stepped out. He split the egg into two, one half formed the sky and the other the earth. Then humans were made,
- When Brahma sleeps his creation will dissolve.



**Evolution** Hindu scriptures do not support natural selection, nor do they agree that man is the last most perfect species created. All living creatures are of equal worth (all contain Brahman). However, avatars of Vishnu compare to the idea of living beings developing and so Hindus can accept evolution.

### 3. Science vs Religion †

- Charles Darwin was the first person to show that life has arisen through the slow natural process of evolution.
- His theory became known as the 'survival of the fittest'.
- In 1965 the Big Bang theory became the accepted explanation for the origin of the universe.
- Whilst many religious believers accept Darwin, some see it as an attack on their beliefs as it undermines God, the Bible and removes the need for a soul. It removes the idea that God created the earth and humans for a purpose.
- However, some see the two working together, as there is no scientific explanation for what caused the Big Bang. Both theories follow the same basic order: **Light, land, life.**
- Intelligent design is a theory that the world is too ordered for it to have happened by chance. It must have been God



### 5.Hindu attitudes to stewardship

**"May men & oxen both plough in contentment... Auspicious furrow, we venerate you. We pray you, bless us and bring us abundant harvests"** Rig Veda 4.57

- The whole of the natural world is seen as sacred as Brahman is within all creation. Therefore, Humans should respect & live in harmony with nature.
- Forests are very important – it is here that Krishna spent much time.
- Hindus also respect animals.
- Most Hindus are vegetarian, the cow is considered sacred.



### 4.Christianity-stewardship †Life is a gift from God- God has given humans the role of looking after the world.

†Some Christians see this as having **dominion** because Genesis 1:28 says that God created humans to 'rule over' nature meaning they can control the world.

†Other Christians say that we should be stewards of the earth - 'cultivating and taking care of it' (Genesis 2:15)

## 7.Hinduism and the Sanctity of Life

-All life is sacred and should be valued as there is part of the Divine in all living creatures.  
-Taking life brings bad karma.  
-**His Being is the source of all being, the seed of all things that in this life have their life...He is God, hidden in all beings**, Upanishads 6.5 and 6.11

- Ahimsa is the principle of non-violence.
- Ahimsa can be used as an argument for vegetarianism and against abortion and euthanasia

## 6.Christianity and the Sanctity of life

†All life is sacred because it comes from God.  
†God is interested and involved in each human's life. 'You knit me in my mother's womb.'  
†God created each individual person and made them unique in their own right.  
†God created humankind in His own image.



## 11.Religious views against abortion

†**Roman Catholics** - abortion is forbidden in all circumstances as life is sacred and God given from the moment of conception.  
†Abortion is murder and goes against the Ten Commandments.  
†Only God can create life and take it away.  
†**Church of England** - all life is precious as it is made by God. But, in some circumstances abortion is the loving thing to do.  
†Some Christians believe that the UK law is applied too liberally.



### Hindu

- -Some Hindus say all life is considered to be sacred and come from God
- -Some Hindus follow the teachings on Ahimsa and say abortion is wrong but can be permitted if the mother's life is at risk.

## 12.Religious views agreeing with abortion

†Some **Church of England** Christians agree with abortion in a couple of circumstances - if the mother's life is in danger due to the pregnancy; if the pregnancy is a result of rape or if the baby will be born with severe and life-threatening disabilities / illness.



-Some **Hindus** approve of abortion basing their view on Krishna's advice to Arjuna in the Bhagavad Gita. The soul "is not slain when the body is slain" and therefore believing that the soul cannot be destroyed and that the soul of an aborted foetus will simply be born into another body.  
-Many would show compassion in cases such as rape or risk to the mother's life.

## 13.Religious views against euthanasia

†Most **Christians** agree that euthanasia is not acceptable because: all life is sacred; taking life is wrong; it goes against the Ten Commandments; life is a gift from God & therefore precious; suffering can have a purpose & should be endured as God will not give us more than what we can cope with; hospices offer an alternative where care & support can be given.



- **Hindus** who oppose euthanasia use the principle of Ahimsa to argue that it wrong to harm or kill another human being.
- They use the same principle to argue against suicide.
- All life is sacred (atman in all living things)
- Hindus view suffering as a natural part of life, people cause their own suffering through their actions in previous lives.
- Most Hindus consider it part of their dharma to try to alleviate the suffering of those around them.

#### 14. Religious views agreeing with euthanasia

†It can be acceptable to turn off a life-support machine if there is medical evidence that the person is brain dead. Some **Christians** accept that euthanasia might be the most loving thing to do when someone is suffering great pain.

- **Hindus** who support euthanasia use the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita to argue that as the soul cannot be harmed, euthanasia simply releases it so it can move on to its next life.
- Passive euthanasia may be seen as good as it ends suffering

#### 15. Christian views on life after death

The soul is an inner part of our being & it is through this that we connect with God. Some Christians say the soul is a distinct separate part of us, whilst others say body & soul is combined. Christians believe in resurrection & eternal life. Death is not the end. As Jesus was resurrected, those who believe in Him & follow his teachings will be rewarded with life in heaven after death. Some Christians believe in whole body resurrection, with others just thinking the soul goes to heaven. Some Christians see heaven & hell as real places, whilst others see them as symbolic. Roman Catholics also believe in purgatory.

#### 18. Hindu funeral rites

-In India funerals happen very soon after death. Bodies are cremated to remove attachment (except those of saints and small children who are seen as pure). Ashes are scattered in sacred rivers especially the Ganges.  
-Wrapped in white shroud, garland of orange flowers, drops of water from the river Ganges placed in mouth, feet face south, eldest son walks round the pyre three times and lights it, ghee and sweet perfumes are used, prayers are said, verses from scripture are recited, eldest son stays until the fire dies and collects ash to scatter in the river.  
-Relatives bathe and do not go out socially for 10 days, offerings of milk and rice.



#### 17. Christian funeral rites

When someone is close to death, if possible, they are given the last rites; prayers for forgiveness said by the dying person. (RC.) Funerals are usually held in a church, with the coffin placed at the front. Flowers are displayed; candles lit (symbolising Jesus being the light of the world) & prayers said. The priest will say '*I am the resurrection & the life*' to remind mourners of Jesus' resurrection and Christian belief in heaven. When the person is buried, the phrase '*ashes to ashes, dust to dust*' is said, as a reminder that God created humans out of the earth and when they are buried they are returning to it.

#### 16. Hindu views on life after death

Death of the body is not the end of the life of the soul. The soul will continue on its journey to moksha by being born into a new body. The soul's arrival in a new body is determined by desires (attachments) and its merits (karma). Levels of life on Earth: water; plants; insects and reptiles; birds; animals; humans. The Puranas also state the world of demons and heavenly beings.

'...the bodied soul takes other forms when it discards the worn out ones that die.' Bhagavad Gita 2.22

