

# AN OUTLINE OF THE FAITH: THE REVISED CATECHISM

The following is authorized by the General Synod of the Church of England, the wording being very slightly adapted to present circumstances.

A Catechism is an outline of the faith. It is a commentary on the creeds, but is not meant to be a complete statement of belief and practice; rather, it is a point of departure in teaching, and it is cast in the traditional question and answer form for ease of reference.

## I. THE CALL OF GOD. THE CHRISTIAN ANSWER

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 to himself, and I was made a member of Christ, the child of God, and an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven.
4. **What did your godparents promise for you at your Baptism?**  
At my Baptism my godparents made three promises to God for me: first, that I would renounce the devil and fight against evil; secondly, that I would hold fast the Christian faith and put my whole trust in Christ as Lord and Saviour; thirdly, that I would obediently keep God's holy will and commandments and serve him faithfully all the days of my life.
5. **Are you bound to do as they promised?**  
Yes, certainly, and by God's help I will.

## II. CHRISTIAN BELIEF

6. **Where do you find a summary of this Christian Faith which you are bound to believe and hold fast?**  
I find a summary of the Christian Faith in the Apostles' Creed and in the Nicene Creed.
7. **Repeat the Apostles' Creed.**  
I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe 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, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living 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.

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

From the creeds I learn to believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who is the creator and ruler of the universe, and has made all things for his glory.

**9 . What does the Church teach about God the Father?**

The Church teaches that God the Father made me and all humankind, and that in his love he sent his Son to reconcile the world to himself.

**10. What does the Church teach about God the Son?**

The Church teaches that, for our salvation, God the Son became man and died for our sins; that he was raised victorious over death and was exalted to the throne of God as our advocate and intercessor; and that he will come as our judge and saviour.

**11. What does the Church teach about God the Holy Spirit?**

The Church teaches that God the Holy Spirit inspires all that is good in humankind; that he came in fullness at Pentecost to be the giver of life in the Church, and that the Spirit enables me to grow in likeness to Jesus Christ. Thus I learn to believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and this Holy Trinity I praise and magnify saying:  
Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.

### III. THE CHURCH AND MINISTRY

**12. 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 and women. Its members on earth enter it by baptism and are one company with those who worship God in heaven.

**13. How is the Church described in the Creeds?**

The Church is described as One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic.

14. **What do you mean by these words?**

By these words I mean that:

the Church is *One* because, in spite of its divisions, it is one family under one Father, whose purpose is to unite all people in Jesus Christ our Lord;

the Church is *Holy* because it is set apart by God for himself, through the Holy Spirit.

the Church is *Catholic* because it is universal, for all nations and for all time, holding the Christian Faith in its fullness.

the Church is *Apostolic* because it is sent to preach the Gospel to the whole world, and receives its divine authority and teaching from Christ through his Apostles.

15. **What orders of ministers are there in the Church?**

There are these orders of ministers in the Church: Bishops, Priests and Deacons.

16. **What is the work of a Bishop?**

The work of a Bishop is to be a chief shepherd and ruler 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.

17. **What is the work of a Priest?**

The work of a Priest is to preach the word of God, to teach, and to baptize; to celebrate the Holy Communion; to pronounce absolution and blessing in God's name; and to care for the people entrusted by the Bishop to his charge.

18. **What is the work of a Deacon?**

The work of a Deacon is to serve both in the conduct of worship and in the care of souls.

19. **What is the Church of England?**

The Church of England is the ancient Church of the land, catholic and reformed. It proclaims and holds fast the doctrine and ministry of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.

20. **What is the Anglican Communion?**

The Anglican Communion is a family of Churches within the universal Church of Christ, maintaining apostolic doctrine and order and in communion with one another and with the Sees of Canterbury and York.

## IV. CHRISTIAN OBEDIENCE

21. **The third promise made at your Baptism binds you to keep God's commandments all the days of your life. Where has God made these commandments known?**

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

22. **Recite the ten commandments found in the law of Moses.**

I am the Lord your God:  
you shall have no other gods but me.

You shall not make for yourself any idol,  
whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above,  
or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.  
You shall not bow down to them or worship them.

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.  
For six days you shall labour and do all your work.  
But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God.

Honour your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness.

You shall not covet.

**23. Repeat the words of our Lord Jesus Christ about God's commandments.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: The first commandment is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.'

The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

There is no other commandment greater than these.

Again: 'I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.'

**24. What then is your duty towards God?**

My duty towards God is:

- 1 to worship him as the only true God, to love, trust, and obey him, and by witness of my words and deeds to bring others to serve him;
- 2 to allow no created thing to take his place, but to use my time, my gifts, and my possessions as one who must give account to him;
- 3 to reverence him in thought, word, and deed;
- 4 to keep the Lord's day for worship, prayer, and rest from work.

**25. What is your duty towards your neighbour?**

My duty towards my neighbour is:

- 5 to love, respect, and help my parents: to honour the Head of State; to obey those in authority over me in all things lawful and good; and to fulfil my duties as a citizen;
- 6 to hurt nobody by word or deed; to bear no grudge or hatred in my heart; to promote peace among men and women; to be courteous to all; and to be kind to all God's creatures;
- 7 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 called to the state of marriage to live faithfully within it.
- 8 to be honest and fair in all I do; not to steal or cheat; to seek justice, freedom, and plenty for all people.
- 9 to keep my tongue from lying, slandering, and harmful gossip, and never by my silence to let others be wrongly condemned;
- 10 to be thankful and generous, to do my duty cheerfully, and not to be greedy or envious.

## V. THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE CHURCH

### *Grace*

26. **How can you carry out these duties and overcome temptation and sin?**  
I can do these things only by the help of God and through his grace.
27. **What do you mean by God's grace?**  
By God's grace I mean that God himself acts in Jesus Christ to forgive, inspire, and strengthen me by his Holy Spirit.
28. **In what ways do you receive these gifts of God's grace?**  
I receive these gifts of God's grace 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*

29. **What do you mean by the worship of God?**  
To worship God is to respond to his love, first by joining in the Church's offering of praise, thanksgiving and prayer, and by hearing his holy word; secondly by acknowledging him as the Lord of my life, and by doing my work for his honour and glory.
30. **Why do we keep Sunday as the chief day of public worship?**  
We keep Sunday as the chief day of public worship because it was on the first day of the week that our Lord Jesus Christ rose from the dead.
31. **What is prayer?**  
Prayer is the lifting up of heart and mind to God. We adore him, we confess our sins and ask to be forgiven, we pray for others and for ourselves, we listen to him and seek to know his will.

32. **Repeat the Lord's Prayer.**

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*

33. **What is the Bible?**

The Bible, in both the Old and the New Testaments, is the record of God's revelation of himself to humankind through his people Israel, and above all in his Son, Jesus Christ.

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34. **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.

35. **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 Gospel Sacraments and other Ministries of Grace*

36. **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 a means by which we receive his gifts

37. **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.

38. **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 Holy Communion.

39. **What other sacramental ministries of grace are provided in the Church?**

Other sacramental ministries of grace are confirmation, ordination, holy matrimony, reconciliation of a penitent, and the ministry of healing.

40. **What is *Baptism*?**  
Baptism is the sacrament in which, through the action of the Holy Spirit, we are 'christened' or made Christ's.
41. **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.*
42. **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.
43. **What is required of persons to be baptized?**  
It is required that persons to be baptized should turn from sin, believe the Christian Faith, and give themselves to Christ to be his servants
44. **Why then are infants baptized?**  
Infants are baptized because, though they are not yet old enough to make the promises for themselves, others, making the promises for them, can claim their adoption as children of God.
45. **What is *Confirmation*?**  
Confirmation is the ministry by which, through prayer with the laying on of hands by the Bishop, the Holy Spirit is received to complete what the Spirit began in Baptism, and to give strength for the Christian life.
46. **What is required of persons to be confirmed?**  
It is required that persons to be confirmed should have been baptized, be sufficiently instructed in the Christian Faith, be penitent for their sins, and be ready to confess Jesus Christ as Saviour and obey him as Lord.
47. **What is *Holy Communion*?**  
Holy Communion is the Sacrament in which, according to Christ's command, we make continual remembrance of him, his passion, death, and resurrection until his coming again, and in which we thankfully receive the benefits of his sacrifice.  
It is, therefore, called the Eucharist, the Church's sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; and also the Lord's Supper, the meal of fellowship which unites us to Christ and to the whole Church.
48. **What is the outward and visible sign in Holy Communion?**  
The outward and visible sign in Holy Communion is bread and wine given and received as the Lord commanded
49. **What is the inward and spiritual gift in Holy Communion?**  
The inward and spiritual gift in Holy Communion is the Body and Blood of Christ, truly and indeed given by him and received by the faithful
50. **What is meant by receiving the Body and Blood of Christ?**

Receiving the Body and Blood of Christ means receiving the life of Christ himself, who was crucified and rose again, and is now alive for evermore.

51. **What are the benefits we receive in Holy Communion?**  
The benefits we receive are the strengthening of our union with Christ and his Church, the forgiveness of our sins, and the nourishing of ourselves for eternal life.
52. **What is required of those who come to Holy Communion?**  
It is required of those who come to Holy Communion that they have a living faith in God's mercy through Christ, with a thankful remembrance of his death and resurrection; that they repent truly of their sins, intending to lead the new life; and be in charity with all men and women.
53. **What is Ordination?**  
Ordination is the ministry in which, through prayer with the laying on of hands, our Lord Jesus Christ gives the grace of the Holy Spirit, and authority, to those who are being made bishops, priests, and deacons
54. **What is Holy Matrimony?**  
Holy Matrimony is Christian marriage, in which the man and the woman, entering into a life-long union, take their vows before God and seek his grace and blessing to fulfil them.
55. **What is Reconciliation of a Penitent?**  
Reconciliation of a Penitent is the ministry by which those who are truly sorry for their sins, and have made free confession of them to God in the presence of the minister, with intention to amend their lives, receive through the minister the forgiveness of God
56. **What is the sacramental ministry of Healing?**  
The sacramental ministry of healing is the ministry by which God's grace is given for the healing of spirit, mind, and body, in response to faith and prayer, by the laying on of hands, or by anointing with oil.

## VI. THE CHRISTIAN HOPE

57. **What is the hope in which a Christian lives?**  
A Christian lives in the certain hope of the advent of Christ, the last judgement, and resurrection to life everlasting.
58. **What are we to understand by the coming (advent) of Christ?**  
By the coming (advent) of Christ we are to understand that God, who through Christ has created and redeemed all things, will also through Christ at his coming again, make all things perfect and complete in his eternal kingdom.
59. **What are we to understand by the last judgement?**



By the last judgement we are to understand that all 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.

60. **What are we to understand by resurrection?**

By resurrection we are to understand that God, who has overcome death by the resurrection of Christ, will raise from death in a body of glory all who are Christ's, that they may live with him in the fellowship of the saints.

61. **What, then, is our assurance as Christians?**

Our assurance as Christians is that neither death, nor life, nor things present, nor things to come, will 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 Christ, we shall at the last be made like him, for we shall see him as he is.*

The God of all grace,  
who called us to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus,  
establish, strengthen and settle us in the faith.  
To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. **Amen.**