

# CHRISTIAN PRACTICES

**Private Worship**  
Done individually, anywhere.

**Communal Worship**  
Done as a group in either a formal or informal setting.

**Jesus Prayer**  
Repeated over or over-repeating Jesus name.

**Extempore Prayer**  
Impromptu prayer, no planning.

**Worship**  
The show value or worth towards something or someone.

**Adoration** - praising God

**Confession** - admit sins

**Thanksgiving** - giving thanks to God.

**Supplication** - asking for God's help.

**God answering prayers**  
Hannah - having a baby  
Lazarus - coming back to life.

**God not directly answering prayers**  
St Paul - told grace is all you need.

**Liturgical Worship**  
Involves a set format for worship.



- Bible readings, hymns, prayers follow set structure.
- Quite traditional.
- Services planned in advanced.

**Non-liturgical Worship**  
There is no set structure to worship. Worship may be more spontaneous.



- Services can be led by a priest or members of the congregation.
- Allows people to be more involved.
- Less structure / more flexible.

**Arrow Prayer**  
Quick prayers sent straight up to God.

**Prayer**  
Communication with God



**Rosaries**  
Used to count prayers.



**Charismatic Worship**  
Pentecostal Churches placing authority on the Holy Spirit to lead them.



- Inspired by the Holy Spirit.
- Very spontaneous.
- Less structure

**Informal Worship**  
More relaxed worship. May not take place in a church.



- Less / no structure
- Spontaneous
- Can worship God in different ways.
- Not always led by a priest / vicar





## What is a church?

Defined as an assembly, or a gathering of Christian people.



## Food Banks

Help to provide food for those who have financial (money) problems and cannot afford food.

The Trussell Trust - supports a network of food banks -  
 - provides emergency food to people.  
 - provide additional support to tackle the cause of poverty.  
 - Build people's resilience.



## Jesus's teachings



Agape - 'love' (selfless) for everyone  
 Love thy neighbour - The Good Samaritan - we should help anyone in need.

Sheep & Goats - God will judge how well people have been kind & loving.



## Street Pastors

Groups of men & women who patrol their local areas on Friday and Saturday nights (10pm - 4am) to care for people out:

- Give out flip flops
- Hot drinks to homeless people
- First aid where needed
- Lolipops as an ice breaker
- Getting people in taxis or on buses home



LOCAL CHURCH

## Mission and Evangelism

Mission literally means 'a sending' and Evangelism is the term used for spreading the word. Christians believing it is their mission to spread the word of Jesus.

### Great Commission

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptise them in the name of the Father, the Son & Holy Spirit". Jesus' command to his disciples.

Christians have a responsibility to tell others of their faith. (Jehovah Witness' for example)

### Discipleship

Christian mission involves training new converts in the way of following Jesus.

### Missionary Work

Involves evangelism and humanitarian work amongst the poor.

## Church Growth

The UK - declining

Alpha courses - programs to teach people about Christianity



Birmingham 2020 Church Planting - building new churches in different places

increasing Africa

Bonke believed God called him to evangelise Africa.

He had dreams that God said 'Africa will be saved'.

Bonke supported by evangelist Daniel Kolenda







## Pilgrimage

A pilgrimage is a journey made for religious reasons, alone or with others to a sacred place.

Reasons for going:

- Grow closer to God and strengthen faith.
- Seek a cure for an illness.
- Gain a better understanding of their faith.

## Lourdes

### France

- Place where St Bernadette had visions of the Virgin Mary.
- Spring built there believe to have healing powers.
- Commercialised, very touristy; busy.
- People go to be healed.



## Iona

### Scotland

- Follow the path of Columba & his Christian missionaries.
- Visit different sites of historical & spiritual significance.
- Veil between heaven & hell-thinnest.
- Peaceful / Reflective.
- Physically demanding.



## Celebrations

Festivals have an important role helping Christians remember the major events in their religion.

### Christmas

- Midnight Mass 
- Nativity plays 
- Christmas dinner
- Christingle 
- Exchanging of presents 
- Give to charity

Remembers the birth of Jesus - the founder of Christianity.

### Easter

Easter follows Holy Week (remembering the suffering of Jesus)

Reasons for it's importance:

- Jesus' resurrection proved Jesus was the Son of God.
- Jesus' predictions came true - all other teachings must be.
- No need fear death - eternal life again possible.
- Message of Easter - light over darkness.



Palm Sunday

Wine



Maundy Thursday

Bread



Good Friday



Easter Sunday

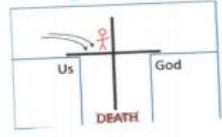


### Reconciliation

To get over your difficulties and have your relationship restored. Main mission of the worldwide Church - to state Jesus came to restore the relationship between God & Humans

Reconciled with God through confession (R.Catholic Church)

Reconciliation needed between humans.  
Reconciliation needed within Christianity.



#### The Community of the Cross of Nails



Coventry Cathedral working with many people/groups to bring about peace & harmony.

Heal wounds of history  
Celebrate diversity  
Build a culture of peace.

Knife Angel



### Persecution

Hostility (anger & bitterness) and ill-treatment especially because of race, or political or religious beliefs.

St Paul - 'everyone who wants to live a godly life in Jesus will be persecuted.'

Jesus taught people love their enemies.

If one Christian suffers everyone does - encourage support

Protest for changes to laws that persecute people.



Open Doors  
Serving persecuted Christians worldwide

Case Studies



WORLDWIDE CHURCH

### Christian Aid

Follow the teachings of Jesus to love your neighbour.

- Believe in 'life before death.'
- Aim to provide emergency aid, short-term aid, long-term aid.



All human beings made in God's image so we should all use our power for good.

"Let us love, not in word or speech but in truth and action."

### The Good Samaritan



About a traveller who is robbed & beaten and left for dead. A Samaritan finally passes by and helps.

Samaritans and Jews hated each other, but the Samaritan help.

"Love thy neighbour as yourself"

### The Parable of the Sheep and Goats



Jesus uses the example of how a shepherd separates his sheep from goats to teach how God will separate the good from the bad at judgement.





## Infant Baptism

A ceremony that welcomes a child to the Christian community and the parents able to thank God for their baby.

- Water - to wash away Original Sin.
- "I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."
- Cross on forehead - to remain faithful to Jesus.
- Promises made to bring the child up in the Christian faith.
- Candle lit - Jesus the light of the world - child receives this.



## Sacraments

An outward sign of an inward grace. A deeper reality than the senses:

- Baptism
- Confirmation
- Holy Communion
- Reconciliation
- Anointing the sick
- Marriage
- Ordination



### Eucharist (Thanks giving)

- Lords Supper
- Holy Communion
- The Breaking of Bread
- Mass
- The Liturgy



### key features:

- Connection to the Last Supper
- Giving of thanks for the bread & wine.
- Using Jesus' words from the last supper

## Believers Baptism

Is initiation into the Church, by full immersion into water, of people old enough to understand the ceremony.



- White clothes - new life / beginning.
- Candidates asked if they are truly sorry for sins & dedicated to living their lives through Jesus.
- Give a testimony of their faith.
- Full immersion symbolises the end of the life of sin and a new life beginning as they come out.

## Transubstantiation

Roman Catholics - bread & wine actually become the body & blood of Christ.

## Memorialism

Ceremony - an expression of Faith. Symbolic of Jesus' body and blood.

## Catholic Mass

- Bible & psalms readings
- Bread & wine at the altar.
- Jesus' words repeated.
- Lord's Prayer said.
- Sign of peace - people shaking hands.
- People receive the bread & wine & blessed by Priest.

## Holy Communion in the United Reformed Church.

- Hymns & various prayers.
- Bible Readings & a sermon.
- Minister repeats the words of Jesus.
- 'Open table' for anyone who wishes to receive Holy Communion.
- Ends with a prayer of thanks.