

Catholic Church architecture: How churches are designed: - Narthex (gathering area or porch) used to display posters and for greeting people before mass. - Nave (main gathering area in church), seating area. - Sanctuary (most important area) contains altar, lectern, tabernacle. - Side chapel (normally dedicated to Mary) or Lady chapel, images of Mary here NOT in main sanctuary (that's for Christ). How design reflects beliefs: - Sanctuary is raised up and priest comes down to give out communion, reflects belief that God came down to earth in Jesus. - Nave = boat in Latin. Belief = Jesus is like captain navigating us to heaven. John: 'I am the way, truth and life' - Cruciform shape of church = belief Jesus died on cross to save us. How design aids worship: - Lady Chapel reminds us we can pray to Mary and she takes our prayers to God (as intercessor). CCC says signs in church should show Christ to be present and active in this place – decoration should reflect belief Jesus is present when we pray. CCC – decoration should be in 'good taste' and make church 'worthy' place to worship God.	The Features of a Catholic church : - Crucifix – cross with Jesus on it, focal point for prayer, reminder in mass Jesus died for us. - Altar – placed at front, priest blesses bread and wine on it making it Jesus' body and blood. CCC: it reminds us of the Altar of sacrifice in the Temple in Jerusalem. - Tabernacle –CCC: box close to altar, where Eucharist is kept, so Catholics genuflect towards it when entering mass. - Lady Chapel – with a statue, focal point for prayer (Mary intercessor). - Remember these features not in Protestant Church, see using statues as idolatry, don't believe Jesus really present in Eucharist so no altar (just plain table), no tabernacle, empty cross. How they express importance of redemption: - Redemption = being redeemed or 'saved' by Jesus' death on cross. - Altar reminds us of Jesus' sacrifice which redeemed us. - Tabernacle holds Christ's body, by eating it we become closer to salvation as closer to Christ. - Crucifix reminds us Jesus died on cross to redeem us.	Artwork: - Includes paintings, frescoes, mosaics, drawings. Style varies with time and artist. Significance of artwork: CCC: artwork is 'true and beautiful' when it encourages us to 'glorify in faith and adoration the transcendent mystery of God'. It should help us understand God better, and encourage worship, not simply show the skill of artist. - It should be a visual expression of faith. - Can help explain teachings of Church. - Captures scene from Bible, invites viewer to reflect on meaning. Use of icons - Show images of Christ, saints, Mary. Popular in 7th century, destroyed in iconoclasm of 8th and 9th century (Protestants said idolatry), Second Council of Nicaea said they are useful to encourage deep worship of God. Use of renaissance and modern art - Made to honour person in picture, give sense of peace, help connect with Christ. Use of renaissance and modern art - Renaissance art made during 1300- 1700. Tries to be realistic. Focuses on religious stories from Bible and uses imagery to teach illiterate people. - Modern artwork explains stories in more understandable way than text. Sieger Koder paints modern religious works. Two pieces that reflect beliefs - Michelangelo's Creation of Adam, Sistine chapel, Vatican. Shows belief that God is powerful (muscly), eternal (grey beard) and gives life (outstretched hand). Shows humans are lifeless without God (Adam reclines), were in a perfect state now fallen (Adam muscly). - Rembrandt's Return of the Prodigal Son, oil painting, Russian Museum. Shows belief that God is loving and forgiving (embracing, delicate hand); powerful (strong hand, wealthy clothing). Shows man is sinful (son is poor, shaven head, bare feet) and needs forgiveness (kneeling). How used in church and other settings - Used as focus for prayer, reminder of key beliefs in churches across Europe. - At home, use a picture whilst praying Rosary, help think more deeply, daily reminder of faith. CCC says pictures should be shown in church and beyond... is responsibility of bishop to promote sacred art.	Sculptures and Statues: - Statues and sculptures are aids to prayer. - Are sacred objects, must be buried not destroyed. - Used by Church to teach people qualities of Jesus or saints when many were illiterate. Divergent views on sculptures and art: - Protestants don't use art or sculptures in worship. Too close to idolatry, breaks commandment (not make graven images); don't need them to focus on God instead pray directly to Him. - In Reformation Protestants destroyed artwork and sculptures. Today they don't destroy, but don't use them. - In OT God approves of statues – e.g. cherubs. CCC says when artists use their creativity to make sculpture or art, they are reflecting God's gifts and power: 'art bears a certain likeness to God's activity in what he has created'. CCC: art reflects a human's inner riches: 'arising from talent given by the Creator and man's own effort, art is a form of practical wisdom, uniting knowledge and skill. How sculptures reflect beliefs: - Sculptures of Jesus remind us Jesus is saviour of the world (Christ the Redeemer – outstretched arms). - Sculptures of Mary show her as pure (immaculate conception). How used in church and other settings: - Church: focal point for prayer, reminder of saints and their qualities, light candles and kneel in prayer in front of them. - Church: veneration of cross on Good Friday, kiss feet of Jesus, reminds he saved the world through his death. - Statues teach us the faith. At home: nativity, small statues of Mary, daily reminder to be spiritual, reminder of pilgrimage. How helpful in Catholic worship: - Because they're 3D, make the piece feel more real so observer connects with God better. - Focal point for prayer and help understand abstract ideas about God.
Sacred Objects What are they? - Sacred objects = items used in mass. Objects of devotion = rosary or relics (bones of saints). Catholics have devotional objects like crucifix at home for prayer. Main types: - Sacred vessels – ciborium, chalice, paten. Most important as they hold body and blood of Christ. - Cloths and priest's vestments – colours represent festivals and themes. White + Gold = Christ is King at Easter and Christmas. Green = ordinary time. Purple = sorrow/ preparation in Lent and Advent. Priest wears white alb, coloured stole and chasuble all covered with symbols. - Sarcophagi – container for bones of significant people/saints found in older churches. Bible imagery/ symbols decorate them to remind us of resurrection. Focal point for prayer. - Hunger cloths – used to be hung on altars in Lent showing life of Christ for illiterate people. Called hunger as Catholics fast in Lent. Not used in Western churches but in developing countries to show God with them in their struggles. Sources of wisdom: CCC: all the signs in the liturgical celebrations are related to Christ. Jesus said 'I am the resurrection and the life' John. Each item related to Christ's resurrection.	Symbolism and Imagery in religious art How they are used - Symbolism = object used to mean something else. Earliest Christian images used symbols only Christians would recognised (persecuted by Romans). Kept symbols as it became popular. Main symbols and beliefs they express: - Crucifix – reminder of Jesus' death and resurrection, focal point for prayer. Protestants use empty cross. - Fish – ichthus Greek for 'fish' letters mean 'Jesus Christ God's Son, Saviour'. Fish in Bible frequently. On bumper stickers now to indicate faith. - Chi Rho – first two Greek letters of word 'Christ'. On Constantine's shields, then became symbol of Christianity throughout Roman Empire. - Dove – sign for Holy Spirit and peace. Noah's ark, Jesus' baptism. CCC: 'Christian iconography traditionally uses a dove to suggest the Spirit'. - Alpha and Omega – first and last letters of Greek Alphabet. In Revelations Jesus says I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. Shows Jesus is God. - Four evangelists – Matthew = human/ angel. Mark = lion. Luke = ox, John = eagle. Eagle symbol of resurrection and ascension of Jesus. On lecterns.	Drama: Meaning and significance - Used in medieval times – 'mystery plays' dramatized the big story of Bible from start to end (Creation – Flood – Ministry – death and resurrection). Important at time when people were illiterate. Taught people in exciting and engaging way. Mystery Plays - Earliest type of play. Also called 'miracle plays'. Either tell key features of Bible, or big story of Bible. - Performed in Church grounds until Pope Innocent III banned them. Now done by groups of different types of Christian working in a local community. - York and Chester put them on each year. Passion Plays - Focus on passion 'suffering' of Christ, start with trial end with death on cross. - Traditionally played at Lent, so known as Easter pageants. - First performed in Reformation, then banned, then returned in 19th Century in Catholic schools. - Now performed in towns, bring people together. Expressing belief using drama - Makes stories more real; helps people understand and remember them; participants see as an act of worship; has more impact than reading text alone; can be in modern setting. CCC says prayer is like a drama: through words and actions this drama engages the heart. Shows prayer in mass is dramatic way to worship God. CCC: God's teaching can be revealed through actions of others. CCC: our relationship with God is 'a covenant drama' which 'engages the heart'.	Music in worship: Traditional music: - Hymns are religious songs written to praise and adore God. Psalms are early hymns. Sung by whole congregation at specific times in mass. - Psalms found in OT, written by Kings David, Solomon, some anonymous. First used in Temple in Jerusalem, still sung by religious orders around the world. Responsorial psalm sung in mass. - Plainchant sung by one or more people with no instruments, originally only type of music allowed in Church. Gregorian chant is one type – peaceful and meditative. Contemporary worship music - Worship songs developed in 1950s, more like folk or pop music. Popular in charismatic movement – used to call Holy Spirit to come into their lives. - Easy lyrics to learn, pop music instruments used. - Not often used in mass, but in youth masses worship music can be used as appeals to younger Christians. How music expresses belief - Allows congregation to express beliefs together. - Words of song help Catholics understand and remember church teaching e.g. Make me a channel of your peace. - Traditional music has existed through history of Judaism and Christianity expressing core beliefs. Worship songs allow joyful and emotional music to be used. CCC says 'make melody to the Lord with all your heart'.

