

Roman Catholic Basics

In the beginning God created the universe. God created our world, and the pinnacle of that creation was his finest work – ourselves, humankind. God dealt with us through His chosen people the Jews, but although He was always faithful, His people were not. He dealt with Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Elijah and the Prophets. In the fullness of time he sent His son Jesus to become a man like us in all things except sin. He chose Mary to be the mother of the saviour of the world. She was also kept sinless and remained a virgin. She conceived Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit of God.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem and grew up in Nazareth about 2,000 years ago. At the age of about 30, Jesus went round the Holy Land preaching the word of God converting sinners, healing the sick and disabled and raising the dead. These miracles were in witness that His ministry was from God and that He was the son of God. He called many to be His disciples and chose twelve to a special role and called them apostles. His followers wrote down many of the things He did and said and these writings form the New Testament part of the bible, whilst the law and the prophets are set out in the Old Testament.

The son of God took a second nature in becoming man to save us from our sins. He came to teach us and show us the way to live in doing the will of God the Father. He came to suffer and die to take upon Himself the punishment due to mankind so that all who accept Him should not perish in the eternal fires of hell but have eternal life and happiness in the glory of God in heaven with the angels. By the Father sending and the Son coming and the Spirit creating, God showed how much He loves mankind. Jesus died on a cross, was buried and rose from the dead on the third day and ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father.



To gain eternal life we must repent of our sins, change our ways and accept the message of life given by God through His holy prophets and the son of God Himself. How mighty and merciful you are o Lord, raising up fallen mankind to the glory of the angels!

Once we repent and accept the gospel, God will give us His spirit to transform us, for He wants us to be holy and perfect as He is. To provide for our spiritual needs on earth He has given us the Catholic Church and the seven sacraments which His ministers, the priests, have been given authority to perform. These are Baptism, Reconciliation, Holy Communion, Confirmation, Holy Orders, Marriage and Sacrament of the Sick.

Having taken flesh the Lord identifies Himself with mankind and when He comes to judge it will be on the basis of how we have loved. "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take as your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you made me welcome, lacking clothes and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." (Matthew 25 v 34-36).

The members of the church, both living and dead, past, present and future, complete the mystical body of Christ who is its head and so those who are found worthy to enter heaven will receive a new glorious body after the last judgement and will live with God forever. Come Lord Jesus!