

# Year 6 Term Four Week Three:

## Tuesday Religion Task

### **Apostle's Creed:**

The Christian Creed may be likened to a mission statement. It is a statement and summary of the essential core beliefs of Christianity. It identifies a Christian as a follower and disciple of Jesus Christ.

#### **What is a Creed?**

In the Church, a statement of beliefs which sum up our Catholic faith is called a Creed. A creed helps us to remember the most important beliefs of our Catholic faith. It is important that we know our Catholic beliefs and what they mean. We are called to be faithful to these beliefs by the way we live.

The development of a written creed began with St Paul. Paul wrote many letters to the Christian churches. In these letters he wrote about Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection.

#### **The Earliest Statement of Christian Beliefs**

The Apostles' Creed was written very early in Christian history, but after Paul's letters. It is called the Apostles' Creed, because it is a statement of what the apostles believed. It wasn't actually written by the apostles. History reveals that churches in many different regions were involved in the development of the Apostles' Creed.

Before the Apostles' Creed was written there wasn't one standard statement of beliefs in the Church. Churches in different cities and regions each had their own statement of what Christians believe. There were many similarities between all these statements because they were developed by a succession of Church Fathers who could be traced back to the apostles. As the Church leaders met, they discussed and eliminated any small differences in their belief statements.

#### **The Need for a Creed**




There were several reasons why it was important for the early Church Fathers to develop a common creed. Not every Church community had access to all the books of the New Testament. A creed would provide a common standard which the Church Fathers could use to determine whether a teaching was true or heretical.






They were also aware that Christians didn't have to know everything about their faith. However, this raised the issue about just what they had to know. A creed would provide the answer. Finally, most Christians could not read. A creed could be memorised. This would help them to remember the core beliefs of Christianity.

### The Apostle's Creed

The Apostles' Creed is a statement of what Christians believe. It is accepted by Catholics as one of the Christian Creeds that is used in their prayer and liturgy. Most Christian churches accept this Creed. The Apostle's Creed is traditionally professed as a part of the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism.

**Below we have unpacked the Apostle's Creed. Copy and paste the definitions to match the meanings to their connected part of the Creed.**

The Apostle's Creed		Meaning
<p><i>I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth</i></p>		
<p><i>and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,</i></p>		
<p><i>suffered under Pontius Pilate,</i></p>		

<p><i>was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell;</i></p>		
<p><i>on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven,</i></p>		
<p><i>and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty, from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.</i></p>		
<p><i>I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins</i></p>		
<p><i>the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen</i></p>		

-Jesus sits at the right hand of God the Father. He will come to judge all people - those living and those who have died.

-Jesus really died. Hell means the 'place of the dead'.

-Jesus is both human and divine. Jesus was conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary by the Holy Spirit. Mary is a virgin and is the Mother of Jesus.

-Christians believe that their bodies will be raised to new life after death. Christians believe in life forever, unending life.

-Jesus rose from the dead and returned to heaven

-God the Father created all things.

-The Holy Spirit is God; The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity. The Church is a community that is holy and it is universal... for all people. The Good News of Jesus is for all people. Christians will be united, body and soul, in heaven. The Church is a communion of people, living and dead. Christians believes in the forgiveness of sins.

-Jesus is a person in history. He was condemned to death