## Year 5 RE: Wednesday 20.10.21

## The Nicene Creed

Christians are not the only ones who believe in God. The Jews and the Muslims believe in the same God as Christians. Christians, Jews and Muslims believe that God is a personal God. God loves us and knows us better than we know ourselves.

However, unlike Jews and Muslims, Christians believe that God is a Trinity. They believe that Jesus is the Son of God and has one and the same divine nature as God. Christians believe that God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are One. Christians believe God is a Trinity of Three Divine Persons in One God.

Jesus revealed many truths about the mystery of God to the apostles. These beliefs were recorded by the early Church after the apostles had died. Belief in God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit formed the baptismal profession of faith, which in time became known as the Apostles' Creed.

So you would think that the Church should not need another creed! After all, the Apostles' Creed made clear what Christians believe.

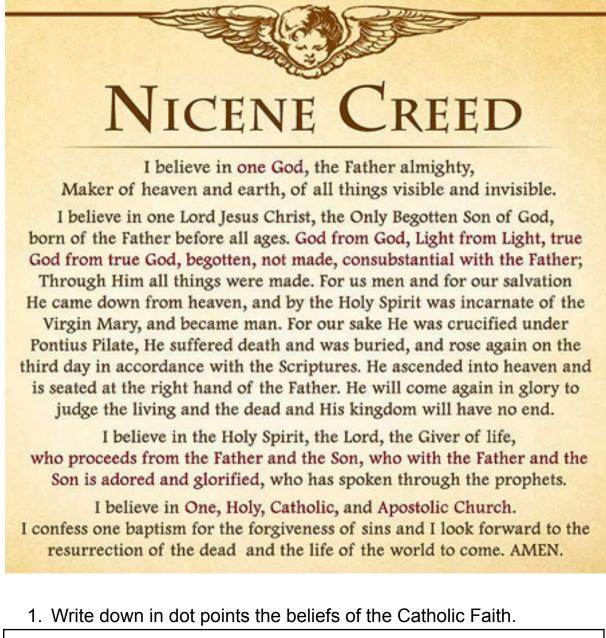
Still, people in the Church continued to argue about the nature of God.

## <u>Arianism</u>

During the third and fourth century followers of Arianism denied that Jesus was fully divine. They said that God the Father had created Jesus. They refused to believe that Jesus shared the one divine nature with the Holy Spirit and the Father. To them, Jesus was not consubstantial with the Father.

The Church Fathers were worried about the spread of Arianism. They believed that it was necessary to write a creed that would include more explicit detail to correct this heresy. So they gathered at the Council of Nicaea in 325 CE. Here they wrote the Nicene Creed. This Creed ended

after 'I believe in the Holy Spirit'. The remainder of the text was added to the Creed during the Council of Constantinople in 381 CE.



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