

Christianity: What does it mean to belong to a Christian community?

Christianity: Baptism and Confirmation

Baptism is a ceremony that symbolises a commitment to living a life as a Christian. It is a way for Christians to show that they belong to a faith.

In the New Testament, Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist.

Jesus asked his followers to also be baptised so they could become closer to God and wash away their sins.

Holy water is put on baptised people by a church leader as a symbol of being cleansed and made ready for a new life for God.

Some people are baptised as babies, while others choose to be baptised later in life.

When a baby is baptised they are too young to make any promises to God so their parents and godparents do it for them.

Confirmation is the next step after baptism. Christians promise to follow God and live their life in a Christian way.



Why is Jesus important to Christians?

Christians consider Jesus to be a significant figure or role model in their lives. Christians look up to him and follow his ways to be a better person.

Christians model themselves on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Jesus taught people to love God and love their neighbour.

Christians believe that God sent Jesus to live as a human being in order to save humanity from the consequences of its sins.

Christians believe that through the death and resurrection of Jesus this broken relationship with God is restored.

Artefacts and symbols

Font	The font holds the water used for the baptism. It symbolises the baptismal streams, rivers or pools of water where Christ was baptised by John the Baptist.
Candle	The candle is a sign that Jesus is the light of the world.
Cross	The cross is a symbol of Jesus' crucifixion. Jesus' death was his sacrifice to clear the sins of all mankind.
White clothing	White is the color of purity and wearing a white garment during baptism symbolises that the person being baptised now has a clean slate in the eyes of God.

The Last Supper

Jesus celebrated Passover with his disciples. It was called The Last Supper because it was the last meal Jesus would eat before he died.

At the meal Jesus ate bread and drank wine and instructed his disciples to do the same in memory of him. He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in by blood, which is poured out for you."

While they were eating, Jesus said that one of his disciples (Judas) would betray him.

During the meal, Jesus washed the disciples' feet. The disciples didn't want Jesus to wash their feet because it was a lowly task that would usually have been performed by a servant. Jesus washed his disciples' feet to show them the importance of selfless service. It showed how he was going to be a servant for all when he was crucified.

The Eucharist is a re-enactment of the Last Supper. Someone who has been confirmed can take bread and wine in church during a special ceremony called Mass, Holy Communion or Eucharist.

Key Vocabulary

belonging	A sense of fitting in or feeling like you are an important member of something.
baptism	A ceremony where someone is immersed in water, cleansed from sin and announced as a member of the church.
confirmation	Confirmation is when a Christian is old enough to understand and make promises to God themselves.
ceremony	A formal event such as a wedding, christening or baptism.
Last Supper	The final meal that Jesus shared with his disciples.
fellowship	A friendly association between people who have a shared interest.

