JOURNE MHRA THE EARLY CHURCH How the Church began. THE GREAT SCHISM A recount of the most well known split in history. CATHOLICISM IN THE MIDDLE AGES Corruption, indulgences, the Black Death. PROTESTANT REFORMATION Martin Luther and the 95 Thesis. CATHOLICISM IN IRELAN The invasions, the Penal Laws, and the Irish Potato Famine. CATHOLICISM IN THE 20TH The Council of Trent Council. CATHOLICISM IN THE 21ST CENTURY **Modern Church and Laudato Si.**

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—May 2020 **—**

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The Early Church

By Malika



The Early Church started in Jerusalem which is in the Middle East. Jesus was arrested and then put on trial. Jesus was betrayed by one of his followers named Judas. He was sentenced to death, and was crucified on a cross. A man named John, came the next day to bury Jesus. A few days later, some of his few female followers visited a few days later after his death, and noticed that his tomb was empty. The female followers then alerted his followers and they came to see. The resurrected Jesus then appeared to his disciples. They didn't believe that he was Jesus, but after they saw his wounds they were startled. Jesus reminded his disciples that they had witnessed him and his works and to go out and forgive throughout all nations. Jesus then blessed his disciples and ascended into heaven. Jesus gave Peter the 'keys' to the church. Jesus told Peter that on this rock, Jesus will build his church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. Jesus will give Peter the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Whatever Peter loose on Earth, will be loosed in Heaven. The word Church comes from the Greek word ekklesia which means gathering.

After the resurrection of Jesus, Pentecost happened which is a biblical event at which the Holy Spirit was poured out on his disciples. The first Christian was named Paul who helped spread Christianity. He was a Jew with Roman Citizenship who persecuted Christians before joining them. He was that man originally known as Saul when he was struck blind by a heavenly light and asked by God,

Why are you persecuting me?" After, he was baptised and his sight was restored in Damascus.

The Roman Empire controlled Israel from 64BCE - 313CE. The Romans were in charge during Jesus' life and it was a Roman Leader who sentenced Jesus to death after the pressure from Jewish Leaders. After Jesus' death, the Romans continued to rule. When Christianity began, the Roman's despised them. The Romans blamed the Christians for lots of events and thought they ate humans because they had the body of Jesus. The Roman people thought that Christians were Atheists as Christians didn't worship in the Roman Gods as many Romans believed in many Gods and were polytheistic while Christians only believed in one.

The Roman Persecution then occurred over a period of two centuries between 64CE - 314CE. Persecution was a way of being treated badly because of their religion, race or political beliefs. The Great Fire of Rome then began in 64CE and was out of control for six days killing many people and leaving many without homes. 3 of Rome's 14 districts were also completely wiped out. Emperor Nero then blamed the Christians for starting the Great Fire of Rome. Constantine was proclaimed Emperor and he worshipped the Sun God. The end of persecution ended in 311 CE. In 312CE, The Battle of Milvian Bridge started. Constantine gathered his forces and decided to bring down Maxentius himself.



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THE GREAT SCHISM

~ By Gitty Rahim

Claims to universal jurisdiction by the Bishop of Rome, as well as western instability and theological differences in Europe caused a split between two Churches.

The East and West Churches:

Reports have shown that not only did Western Europe become unstable, but they had also recently become plagued by treacherous wars, as a rise in Islam became clear and Spain was overtaken and conquered. Western Emperors made the important decision to focus on defending Europe both internally and externally, in order to prevent any further invasions.

On the other hand, Eastern Europe was growing in power, as they became richer and progressed in terms of education and culture. They had become a very wealthy colony, with good fortunes, health and happiness lying at the tips of their fingers. But claims showed that they were only successful in achieving this through brutal force, a drive for power and the desire to recreate the glory days of Rome.



The East and West Churches.

© https://www.britannica.com/event/East
West-Schism-1054

The Dispute of Icons:

As the East and West focused on and followed different languages and cultures (Latin in the East and Greek in the West), disputes became centred on the use of icons. Many Romans were iconoclasts; the majority of them being East Romans. This meant that they believed in the destruction of all religious images.

But why were so many people including the Byzantine Emperor, King Leo III, against religious images? They believed that the worship of icons and religious images was similar to the worship of objects, which was forbidden in the Bible.

Therefore, King Leo III ordered the destruction of all religious images in Western Europe in 726CE. This was a challenge for the Christians, and as a result of this, a major change was brought about; the Western Church did not have the ability to worship their icons.



The Great Schism of 1054

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The Great Schism and The Uniting of The Churches:

Gradually, in the year 1054, after years of misunderstandings between the two Churches. different religious beliefs and faiths that they followed, and the many religious variances between them, there was a big split between the Eastern Church and the Western Church, also known as the 'Great Schism'. But the Great Schism was not all that bad because with it came a good change. The types of beliefs and different Chirstians within the Christian community had been broadened. However, this famous historical split didn't last for all of eternity.

In 1954, Pope Paul VI and the Patriarch of Constantinople, Athengoras, restored the connection and peace between the two Churches.

God, Jesus and The Holy Spirit:

Another major dispute between the Eastern and Western Churches that was brought about was about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. The Eastern Church believed that the Son and the Holy Spirit proceeded from God, therefore, he was the high power. On the contrary, the Western Church believed that the Son was equal with God, and that the Holy Spirit proceeded from both of them. As the years progressed, the Second Council of Nicaea was established in 787CE. They were the seventh ecumenical council, who attempted to settle the Iconoclastic Controversy. Years later, in the year 589, the term 'Filioque' ('and from the Son') was added to the Nicene Creed.



Theological differences between Eastern and Western Church.

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Catholicism in the Middle Ages

By: Mandy Kuy

Corrupt! The church during the dark ages was motivated by greed, according to reports. Purgatory was a place where sinners would go if they had sinned, but if they sinned a lot they would go straight to hell, which people were afraid of. So the church convinced people that if they buy these indulgences, they wouldn't go to purgatory. Indulgences were pieces of paper which reduced the amount of punishment one is given. Many people bought these indulgences because they thought they wouldn't go to purgatory.

These indulgences weren't helping people get out of purgatory at all but instead, the money that they made was only used to make buildings and pay for expenses. The church also read the bible in Latin so that they could pretend to translate it to, 'Buy these indulgences so that you won't go to purgatory,' since many couldn't understand Latin they couldn't understand that what the Priests were saying was not in the bible at all. Some key individuals were Priests who often used bibles to try and bribe people so that they could buy indulgences since commoners couldn't understand or read Latin.



n 1347 CE, The Black Death was introduced to Europe and believed to be a sign that God sent the Plague onto them and no matter how much they prayed, he wouldn't stop. The corruption of the church was further exposed during the Black Plague. As time went on, more and more people started losing faith in God, believing he sent the plagues. The Black Death was a disease carried by infected rodents and fleas that spread to people by eating which caused swelling on the arm or neck and then eventually, death the next day. It was likely that it originated from Asia and was brought by trading ships, which is how they made it in other areas. Millions of people died because of the Black Death. After the Black Death in 1352 CE, many feared that they would go to purgatory after, so they started to buy indulgences from the church.



The Crusades were religious wars that happened between the Muslims and the Christians. If people were to participate in crusades, they would be granted an indulgence, a letter to leave purgatory, from the Pope. There were a total of nine crusades throughout the middle ages. These crusades were held to stop Muslims from capturing any other part of their Holy Christian Land. Before the First Crusade, the Muslims had captured two thirds of the Christian world. During the Fourth Crusade, in 1202 CE, the Muslims had captured the Holy Land from the Christians which was called the city of Constantinople. They were meant to have an invasion through Egypt, but instead they attacked the city of Constantinople. When the Christians failed to retrieve their land, after fighting for it, their hatred towards the Muslims grew. After the last crusades the East and Westurn churches slowly began to grow apart because they realised they had lost to the Muslims.



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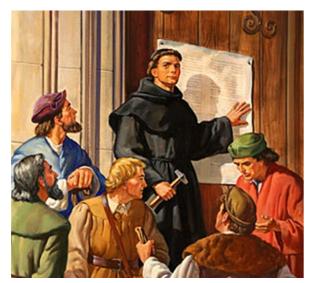
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The Protestant Reformation

By Christeena Byju



(Martin Luther Nailing the 95 Theses onto the door of the Wittenberg castle)

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Protestant Reformation

The Protestant Reformation began in 1517 CE when a monk named Martin Luther decided that he didn't agree with what the Catholic Church, at the time, was doing. Back then the Bible was written in Latin, so only people with higher education, like priests, could read it, this led to a great deal of corruption in the Church, like the sale of indulgences.

Indulgences were letters that reduced temporary punishment for the sins someone committed; these could be obtained by paying money to the Church or going on a pilgrimage.

In 1511 CE, after Martin was ordained, he was sent to the University of Wittenberg where he studied the scripture. After reading St Paul's Scripture (Galatians3:11) he came to the realisation that what mattered was not what someone did, but their faith, and that was what made them righteous in the eyes of God.

Martin only followed what the scripture said and believed that if practices were not specifically mentioned in the Bible then they were irrelevant. With this mindset, he concluded that the selling of indulgences was corrupted, seeing as this practice was not mentioned in the Bible and was used for the Church's profit. Along with this he believed that the Pope didn't have the power to write indulgences, or that said indulgences could send someone to heaven.

In 1517 CE Martin wrote his 95 Theses that contained 95 statements or arguments of the church's wrongdoings. He posted this list on the door of the Wittenberg Castle, where everyone could see it; these arguments were

quickly accepted and were shared with the aid of the printing press.

In 1518 Luther was questioned by the Pope's representative but he was adamant with his opinions. Later in 1520, Rome tried to stop Luther's small rebellion by sending a Papal Bull, a letter issued by the Pope telling him to recant in 60 days or face excommunication from the Catholic Church.

In response Luther burned the letter, and in 1921 CE, he had split from the Church.Later in the year Luther was invited to explain his views at the diet of worms, he was declared a heretic after expressing his opinions in a 10 minute speech and was banned. Since Martin only followed what the scripture said, he believed that priests should be free to marry since he believed marriage was the better state; he also believed that all sacraments except Baptism and the Eucharist were irrelevant. Disagreements and fights broke out between the Roman empire and the Protestants from 1530 CE to 1550 CE, while this was happening, in 1546 CE Martin Luther had died. In 1555, the Lutheran religion was recognized by the peace of Augsburg; also allowing the princes of Germany to decide what religion they themselves, and their citizens would follow. After Martin's death, his goal to purify the Church only led it to split in half.

Protestant Reformation in England

During this, England's churches also experienced some changes.

King Henry the 8th was married to Katherine of Aragon, whom he wanted to divorce.

Henry wanted a male heir to take the throne after him, however Katherine only gave birth to girls, due to this, Henry wished to end his marriage with Katherine. The Catholic Church didn't allow divorces, so King Henry took the initiative to remove England from the authority of Rome.

In doing this he cut off all Bishops from Rome and all the taxes once paid to the church, were now paid to the state. Henry then divorced Katherine and proceeded to marry Anne Boleyn.

In 1534 CE the act of supremacy was passed, recognising King Henry and all his successor the supreme heads of the Church of England. From 1536 to 1540, Henry's anti-Catholic act caused many religious houses to close down. After his death, the throne was passed on to Edward, the nine year old son of King Henry and Jane Seymour (his third wife.)

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Catholicism in Ireland

By Alexandra Lang

Ireland was invaded by the english crown in the period called the plantations, in the years 1556 and 1652 by their leader Anglo Norman Barons. The land was taken from the irish and given to the english Gentry or the irish had been expelled from various places of the country and this made the irish citizens very hostile towards the english. The british at this time were mostly Protestan and it was thought that the English settlers would proceed the 'backwards' Irish and introduce the 'superior' prostanstant religion into ireland however they refused to turn away from there catholic faith. Turning into a protestants would make life so much better for those who were catholic nevertheless most catholics refused to convert into protestantism, catholicism remained at a huge percent of 75%.

The penal laws were introduced in order to oppress the strong sense of catholicism in Ireland and doing so they hoped that these laws would make life miserable for the catholic people of ireland and expected them to join the church of England. Any individual that was catholic had to celebrate mass in secret locations (fields, hills, mountains) because of the new laws and if someone found out you could have been sentenced to death. List of some of the penal laws catholics could not serve in public

office, intermarry, own firearms, vote, inherit land, adopt orphaned children and they could not receive an education. The effect it had on Ireland was that the catholic population were in poverty but also was thinking their faith would become stronger towards the lord and gave them some hope in that hard miserable time.

The Irish Potato Famine, also known as the Great Hunger, began in 1845 when a fungus-like organism called Phytophthora infestans spread rapidly throughout Ireland and killed all the potatoes making all the irish citizens starv. England was still in control of ireland and of course they made themselves top priority over everyone else in that time of poverty and they still would send out grains and other foods to great britain that could have feed the starving.Public work schemes were also introduced to provide employment but the labour was very difficult for workers and would work on land.Because of the famine Irish peasants fell behind on rent and were evicted and demolished many went to the overcrowded work houses. There was death from starvation and diseases killed many of those suffering a cause of weak immunity those who were evicted from their land had nothing to eat 1 million people died.



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CATHOLICISM IN THE 20TH CENTURY

Laudato Si

Pope Frances had written a letter to everyone, which was known as the "Laudato Si". In the letter, he said that we must protect the planet. "The Earth is God's gift to us, full of beauty and wonder". He said, "where the fruits of the Earth belong to everyone." What we see today is that the Earth is more mistreated, hurt and destroyed than it ever has been for the past 2 centuries. We've developed at a greater speed than what we could've ever imagined and have treated the Earth like it has an unlimited supply of resources, taking more than our fair share than most people in the entire planet as well as future generations to come. An immense amount of species are becoming extinct. The Earth, our home has been becoming to look like an immense pile of filth. Our increasing use of fossil fuels, especially coal, oil, and gas is helping to drive climate change which is one of the biggest challenges we face today. He adds that "Although the post-industrial period may be remembered collectively as the foremost irresponsible in history, nonetheless there's reason to hope that humanity at the dawn of the twenty-first century are going to be remembered for having generously shouldered its grave responsibilities.



Laudato Si

Vatican I

In December of 1869, the First Vatican Council had opened up in St Peter's Basilica. 541 people had attended from all over the world along with 60 other church leaders. During the huge formal meeting, there were several discussions, arguments, and disagreements. During the meeting, there was in-depth discussion and only two constitutions were approved: the Dogmatic Constitution on the Catholic Faith and therefore the First Dogmatic Constitution on the Church of Christ which forbidden the primacy and infallibility of the Bishop of Rome. The Vatican council adopted the constitution on the Catholic Feith de feuilles. The constitution set forth the teaching of the 'Holy Catholic Apostolic Roman Church' on God, revelation and faith. The Vatican Council also experienced great opposition to the draft constitution on the character of the Church. However, it was during this period that the Franco-Prussian War broke out.



Vatican I

Vatican II

The world was rapidly changing after WWII in terms of science and culture. The church wasn't in decline, it was booming, but John the 23rd decided to open the windows and let in some fresh air in terms of new ideas and energy. There were some new theological ideas that needed to be addressed as well. Two popes led Vatican II. They were joined by around 2000 people and major Catholic orders. (The people that made the biggest desisions.) They were assisted by a lot of theological experts alongside 20 women who were brought in as advisors. Finally, non-catholic Christians were brought in to observe including Orthodox and Protestent Christians. They highlighted the universal call to holiness, this means everyone is responsible for being and building the church. They also discussed that the Church should be involved in the modern world through communication and technology. The Church's nature was also reevaluated. Finally, the mass was emphasised as being really important. The most visible changes were found in the mass. Most priests now face the people when celebrating mass. And they also say the mass in the local language, rather than the traditional language which was Latin. There are also more scripture readings. All of these changes were designed to fully involve ordinary Catholics in the mass.



Vatican II

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Catholicism in the 21st century

BY KHUSHMEET

Add a The second vatican council had called a halt to the defensive nature between the catholics and christians.It called on christians to focus on what they all shared and had in common rather than what the differences between them were. As a result of the Second vatican council trying to unite the christians, There has been a general move to cooperate with the church's brothers and sisters to try to promote the Gospel values. Today'schurch sees itself as a Pilgrim's church that can learn from modern culture and scientific advances. This attitude of openness makes the church more optimistic toward the world and better be able to serve it. Catholics have rediscovered the bible in recent decades.Today's church respects the right and duty of all people to follow their consciences in the area of religious belief and ethnicity.



They have discovered serving the truth means permitting people the freedom to embrace it without any pressure from anyone. The mission of the Church belongs to all baptised people. All baptised people have a duty to strive for holiness and to preach the Gospel in word and deed.Lay Catholics are still learning how to live their faith in a concrete way in this more modern world. Some of the key individuals were Pope Leo XII, he wrote an encyclical letter Rerum Novarum which promoted economic distributism. Another key individual is vatican II who Pointed out obligation to work, emphasised the duties of Catholics. Vatican Ilclearly pointed out our duty to work for ecumenism, or unity among christian denominations.Mutual prayer, joint service projects, Faith sharing, learning from others and being friends with people from other christian churches are ways of doing this.



Vatican II also emphasised the obligation of catholics to acknowledge and respect nonchristian religions, and reffered to Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism as offering aspects of truth to sincere believers.Postvatican II catholics have learned that running for social justice Is an essential part of following christ.Fostering peace, guarding human rights, and achieving solidarity with the poor are three major issues emerging from Vatican II.A important key quote would be "praise be to you". Important events in the 21'st century are,1891: when pope leo XII wrote Rerum Novarum.1965: Changes to the Church.20th Century: Catholicism models the Servant Church by embracing its Christgiven mandates to serve others as the Lord did. One of the challenges were christians and catholics had to adapt to respecting and being equal to people of other religions. Another challenge was that catholics had rediscovered the bible and had to get into the habit of reading it,meditating on it's meaning, and deriving spiritual nourishment from it.A change was that Catholics became more dedicated in their religion after rediscovering the bible. Laudato Si Is the name of Pope Francis' encyclical(letter). Encyclicals give catholics guidance from the Pope concerning problems which impact the lives and beliefs of catholics.In Laudato Si, the pope is not just writing to catholics, but to everyone who lives on earth because it is our common home.



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JOURNEY THROUGH THE AGES.

Author/s: Malika Pea, Gitty Rahim,
Mandy Kuy, Christeena Byju,
Alexandra Lang, Nandita Srinivasan,
Khushmeet Sandhu

The Church began when Peter was given the 'keys to the Church' after Jesus' ascension. The Christians of the Roman Empire underwent persecutions over the course of two centuries, before The Great Schism separated the East and the West Churches. The selling of indulgences corrupted the Church which brought everyone's attention to Martin Luther, who wrote the 95 Theses. As a result of his actions, he was excommunicated. Western Europe became plaqued by wars before King Henry the 8th introduced the Church of England. Ireland was invaded and the Penal Laws were introduced. Many of the Catholics suffered because they couldn't make a living. The Irish Potato Famine killed a large population of Irish Catholics. The First Vatican Council approved two constitutions, and as a result, faced great opposition. The Second Vatican Council brought an end to the fighting between East and the West Churches and reunited them once again.