

Syllabus Objectives	<p><i>Knowledge</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have a knowledge of current developments in the ecumenical movement • be able to name and recognise contemporary trends and challenges in Christianity. <p><i>Understanding</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have an understanding of the importance of origins in understanding the present and offering insight into future situations • be aware of the historical nature of Christianity and the role of the cultural context in the shaping of belief and practice from ancient times to the present day • understand the relationship between faith and culture • have an insight into the nature of Christian community life and ethical vision. <p><i>Skills</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recognise moments of adaptation and reform in the Christian tradition • analyse these moments in the light of Christian origins • develop critical awareness of their own/local Christian communities in the light of the original message of Jesus and life in the first communities. <p><i>Attitudes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • appreciation of the place of cultural context in the preaching and development of the Christian traditions • appreciation of the significance of the life, teaching, death, and resurrection of Jesus for the first Christians, for Christians today, and for the wider community • openness to diverse expressions of Christianity.
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Topic: 5.1 Interpreting the message today

Procedure

<i>Description of content:</i>	<p><i>In the case of one of the following, explore how the teaching and work of one Christian denomination sees itself as carrying on the mission of Jesus</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Christians faced with violence, intolerance, and sectarianism</i> • <i>Christian understanding of a just and inclusive society</i> • <i>Christians and the use and sharing of the earth's resources</i> • <i>Christian faith and victory over death</i> • <i>Christian community life today: structures and authority.</i>
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Review Junior Certificate RE syllabus Section D Part 1 with reference to the changing patterns of religious belief and practice in Ireland and elsewhere.

Or interview parents / grandparents / elderly neighbours on how the Christian message was understood and lived in their youth with regard to some of the issues listed in 5.1

Group work:

Research how the teaching and work of one Christian denomination sees itself as carrying on of the mission of Jesus in the case of one of the following:

Group 1: Christians faced with violence, intolerance, and sectarianism

For information research:

- Report of the *Moving Beyond Sectarianism* project, Liechty, Joseph & Clegg, Cecilia (2001)

- *Moving Beyond Sectarianism: Religion, Conflict and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland* Dublin: Columba Press.
- Bardy, Peter and Grosch, Paul (1994) *The Puzzle of Ethics* London: Fount
- *Peace Education Programme* of the Irish Council of Churches www.irishchurches.org.
- Etc.

Group 2: Christian understanding of a just and inclusive society

For information research:

- The Vincentian Refugee Centre in Phibsboro, Dublin.
- Catholic Bishops' Letters, *The Work of Justice* (1977).
- Corrymeela (www.corrymeela.org)
- Cornerstone Communities ([www.cornerstone@dnet.co.uk](mailto:cornerstone@dnet.co.uk))
- L'Arche - www.larche.ie
- Etc.

Group 3: Christians and the use and sharing of the earth's resources

For information research:

- CORI projects
- Catholic Bishops' Letter, *Prosperity with a Purpose* (1999)
- Dorr, D. (1992) *Option for the Poor: A Hundred Years of Catholic Social Teaching* New York: Orbis.
- Roman Catholic Church's agency for development, www.trocaire.org
- Protestant Church's agency for development www.Christian-aid.org.uk.
- Etc.

Group 4: Christian faith and victory over death

For information research:

- Hospice Foundation in Harold's Cross & St. Francis' Hospice, Raheny
- Bishops' Letter, *End of Life Care: Ethical and Pastoral Issues* (2002).
- Hospice in Belfast (www.mariecurie.org.uk)
- Etc.

Group 5: Christian community life today: structures and authority.

For information research:

- § Presbyterians - General Assembly (www.presbyterianireland.org)
- § Church of Ireland - General Synod (www.ireland.Anglican.com)
- § Methodist Church - Conference. (www.irishmethodist.org)
- § Focolare-focolare.org;
- § Sant'Egidio - santegidio.org
- § Etc.

Written Assignment:

- Select *one* of the following to show how *one* Christian denomination carries on the mission of Jesus:
 - § give an example of a contemporary Christian response to violence or intolerance or sectarianism
 - § give an example of a contemporary Christian effort to create a just and inclusive society
 - § give an example of a contemporary Christian vision regarding the use of the earth's resources
 - § give an example of a Christian response to dying and death
 - § give an example of the structures and authority of a Christian community
- Outline two key achievements and two difficulties in the search for Christian unity.

Or

- c. Explain the ways in which two rites of Christian worship remember Jesus.

Outcomes:

Select one of the following to show how the teachings and work of one Christian denomination carries on the mission of Jesus

- give an example of a contemporary Christian response to violence or intolerance or sectarianism
- give an example of a contemporary Christian effort to create a just and inclusive society
- give an example of a contemporary Christian vision regarding the use and sharing of the earth's resources
- give an example of a Christian response to dying and death
- give an example of the structures and authority of a Christian community.

Topic: 5.2 Trends in Christianity (Higher Level only)

Procedure

Description of content: *the search for Christian unity or Christian worship as remembering Jesus*

Buzz: Do you know of any developments today within *either* the search for Christian unity *or* worship?

What are the key achievements?

What are the difficulties?

Take feedback and note on the chalkboard the key achievements and difficulties. e.g.

Key achievements

Key Difficulties

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| § Improvement in the understanding and acceptance of regulations regarding mixed marriages | § Doctrinal difficulties in understanding of Eucharist |
| § Theological dialogue | § Church and authority |
| § Co-operation in prayer services during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity | § Inheritance of prejudices and memory of the past |
| § Participation by women of all denominations in the Annual Women's World Day of Prayer | § Geographical distribution of the churches in Ireland (mostly Protestant in North; predominantly Catholic in South) |
| § Educating for Peace programmes | § Sectarianism |
| § Courses in ecumenical studies | § Etc. |
| § Christmas carol services in common | |
| § Conferences, exhibitions organised jointly. | |
| § Etc. | |

Interview: Invite speakers representing another Christian denomination to talk of their experience of the search for Christian unity.

Description of content: *contemporary issues in Christology*

Brainstorm: Have there been different trends in the understanding of Jesus through the centuries?

Take feedback from students, noting their points in a diagram on the chalkboard and making reference to the following points if necessary:

- § The connection between the historical Jesus and bringing him into our times was made in the early church at Thessalonica, Philippi and Corinth. Paul is talking and writing from the perspective that Jesus is the Christ, the giver of the Spirit, Lord, Son of God in power etc. This is the beginning of Christology in the light of the Resurrection experience.
- § The Gospel writers carry on this development, superimposing their faith pictures of the Christ on narratives about the historical Jesus, since for them there was no distinction between the Jesus of

the past whom they knew and the Risen Christ in whom they now believed. This process culminates in John's statement that Jesus is the Logos or the self revelation of God.

- § Subsequently there was the encounter with Greek philosophy leading to the formulation of Chalcedon 'Truly God and truly man'.
- § The Reformation saw a return to the biblical theology focusing more on Christ as Saviour;
- § The Enlightenment saw the break down of the hitherto unquestioned relation between Jesus and the Christ, and gave rise to the Jesus of History versus Christ of faith debate.
- § The contemporary debates in Christology have been largely concerned with this issue of how to bridge the gap between Jesus and the Christ.
- § More recent trends have been to see how Christology relates to some of the key issues of the modern and the post-modern world, e.g. Feminist Christologies, Liberation Theology, World Religions, Ecology etc.

Outcomes:

- outline some of the key achievements and key difficulties in the search for Christian unity OR explain the ways in which two rites of Christian worship remember Jesus
- explain two contemporary understandings of Jesus and name the writer with which each is associated.