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| **Marriage** |
| In a Catholic marriage, a man and a woman make sacred vows before God and the Church to love and be faithful to each other for life. The ceremony usually takes place during a Mass, where the couple exchange vows and rings as a sign of their commitment. Marriage is important in Catholic teaching because it is a sacrament, meaning it is a holy sign of God’s love. It is seen as permanent (lasting for life), exclusive (between one man and one woman only), and life-giving (open to the gift of children). Through marriage, couples are called to love each other selflessly and reflect God’s love in the world. |

**Year 9 – Creation and Covenant**

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| Creation and Covenant Lesson Checklist | | |
| Learning Intention | | Absent? |
| Why is life important? | |  |
| What does Genesis teach about human dignity? | |  |
| What is the Nature of Abortion? | |  |
| What is the Catholic teaching on Abortion? | |  |
| What is the Nature of Euthanasia? | |  |
| What is the Catholic teaching on Euthanasia? | |  |
| What is the Nature of Genetic Engineering? | |  |
| What is the Catholic Church teaching on Genetic Engineering? | |  |
| What happens in the Sacrament of Marriage? | |  |
| Why is the Sacrament of Marriage important for Catholics? | |  |
| Creation and Covenant Keywords | | |
| Imago Dei | Latin for ‘Made in the image of God’ | |
| Inalienable Dignity | Belief that every person is worth respect and honour | |
| Evangelium Vitae | A letter (encyclical) written by Pope John Paul ii that explains the importance of human life | |
| Abortion | The intentional ending of the life of a foetus/embryo in the womb | |
| Rational | Being able to work things out and make logical decisions. | |
| Euthanasia | Literally translates as a “good death” the intentional ending of the life of someone who is suffering | |
| Sanctity of Life | The belief that life is holy and belongs to God | |
| Quality of life | The belief that life is only worth living if it is of a good standard or quality | |
| Sacrament of Matrimony | Celebrating love for a partner and for God by marrying within the Church. | |
| Genetic Engineering | A process by which the genes of a living thing are modified or changed. | |

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| **Importance of Life** |
| Life is important for Catholics because it is a gift from God and begins at the moment of conception. Catholics believe that every person has inalienable dignity, meaning their value and worth can never be taken away, no matter their age, health, or ability. This belief is strongly supported in the Catholic teaching Evangelium Vitae (“The Gospel of Life”), written by Pope John Paul II. It teaches that all human life is sacred and must be protected, especially the most vulnerable, such as the unborn, the elderly, and the sick. Catholics are called to respect life at every stage and speak out against anything that threatens it, like abortion or euthanasia. |
| **Genesis and Human Dignity** |
| The **Genesis accounts** teach that human beings have **great dignity and value** because they are **made in the image and likeness of God** (Genesis 1:27). This means every person reflects something of God and is created with **purpose, freedom, and the ability to love and choose good**. |

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| **Abortion** |
| Abortion is the deliberate ending of a pregnancy before the baby is born. Catholics believe that life begins at conception, so abortion is seen as a serious moral wrong because it ends an innocent human life. The Catholic Church teaches that every unborn child has inalienable dignity and a right to life. This belief is supported in documents like Evangelium Vitae, which calls abortion a grave violation of human rights. |
| **Euthanasia** |
| Euthanasia is the act of deliberately ending a person's life to relieve suffering, often in cases of serious illness. The Catholic Church teaches that all life is sacred from conception to natural death, so euthanasia is morally wrong. Catholics believe only God has the right to take life, and that even in suffering, life has meaning and value. Instead, they support palliative care to help people die with dignity and compassion. |
| **Genetic Engineering** |
| Genetic engineering is the process of changing or modifying the genes of a living organism, often to prevent diseases or improve certain traits. The Catholic Church supports genetic research that helps cure illness and respects human dignity, but it is against genetic engineering that changes human life in unnatural ways, especially if it involves destroying embryos or treating life as a product. |

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| **Making links to previous learning** | |
| Abortion and Euthanasia all link back to humans being created imago dei – in the image of God and so life should be protected. | In Evangelium Vitae, Pope John Paul II taught that the venerable should always be protected, think links to Catholic Social Teaching and our responsibility to others. |
| Color Chain Links Clip Art at Clker.com - vector clip art online - Clip Art  LibraryMarriage is a Sacrament, which the Catechism teaches is ‘an outward sign of inward grace’. | Marriage is seen as a Covenant, a promise or agreement. Linking to the Covenants God made with Moses and Abraham in the Old Testament. |

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| **Key Sources** |
| * *Bubble Speech Light Bulb Stock Vector (Royalty Free) 101954740 |  Shutterstock*‘*Do not kill’* The 10 Commandments * ***‘Till Death do us Part’.*** * ‘*Life is always a good... every human life is sacred because it is a gift from God’* Pope John Paul II |

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| **Outside the Classroom** |
| [Marriage - Seven sacraments of the Catholic Church - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zh4f3k7/revision/7) |

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| **Learning Intention** | **Success Criteria** | **Homework** |
| Why is life important? | * Explain what ‘inalienable dignity’ means. * Evidence the Catholic belief on inalienable dignity through the Genesis Creation accounts. | Keyword Revision |
| What does Genesis teach about human dignity? | * Explain some of the differences between the accounts of the creation of human beings in Genesis 1 & 2. * Identify what ‘equal personal dignity’ means. * Explain why the Church teaches that man and woman have an ‘equal personal dignity’. |  |
| What does it mean to be human? | * Explain what the Valladolid Debate was. * Explain the arguments of Bartolome de las Casas. * Evaluate if they were faithful reflections of the Church’s teaching about the universal and inalienable dignity of human beings. |  |
| What is the nature of abortion? | * Define what ‘abortion’ means. * Explain the law on abortion in the UK. * Evaluate non-religious arguments for and against abortion. |  |
| What is Catholic teaching on abortion? | * Define what ‘conception’ means. * Evidence the Catholic attitude towards abortion, with reference to imago dei and the sanctity of life. * Consider your own response to the belief that all life is sacred from the moment of conception. |  |
| What is the nature of euthanasia? | * Define what ‘Euthanasia’ means. * Explain the law on Euthanasia in the UK. * Evaluate non-religious arguments for and against euthanasia. |  |
| What is Catholic teaching on euthanasia? | * Evidence the Catholic attitude towards Euthanasia, with reference to imago dei and the sanctity of life. * Consider your own response to the belief that all life is sacred and should always be protected. |  |
| Assessment Point – Explain why life is important for Catholics | * Keywords included and explained. * Refers to elements of the Genesis Creation Accounts. * Explains how humans are different to other creatures (imago dei).   Includes the impact of this belief in terms of Abortion and Euthanasia. |  |
| What is the nature of genetic engineering? | * Define what ‘Genetic Engineering’ means. * Explain the law on Genetic Engineering in the UK. * Evaluate arguments for and against Genetic Engineering. |  |
| What is the Catholic Church teaching on genetic engineering? | * Explain how they were faithful reflections of the Church’s teaching on inalienable dignity of human beings. * Reflect on the extent to which you recognise your own and other’s dignity, irrespective of appearances, actions and feeling. |  |
| How does an artistic impression deal with what it means to be human? | * Explain how the film ‘My Sister’s Keeper’ deals with the issue of Genetic Engineering. * Explain what the Catholic Teaching on this situation would be. |  |
| What happens in the Sacrament of Marriage? | * Describe the Sacrament of Matrimony * Explain why matrimony is described as a ‘sacrament at the service of communion’. |  |
| Why is marriage important for Catholics? | * Explain what the Church teaches is the purpose of marriage. * Evidence this belief through Genesis 1 & 2 and Jesus’ teaching on marriage in Mk10:1-12. * Evaluate the claim that no-one can make a promise that binds them for life. |  |
| How does ancient human art relate to the mystery of imago Dei? | * Offer an interpretation of an example of ancient human art. * Explain the links with Catholic beliefs and practices relating to the mystery of imago Dei. |  |