

# THE CHURCH

The church is the community of all those who belong to Christ. The Church is holy because God works in her.

The Church is Catholic, which means universal, sent to all. She is apostolic because she is built on the foundation of the apostles.

## How did the community of the Church come about?

Jesus had disciples gathered around Him. From those friends, He chose 12 apostles. He made Peter the leader of the Apostles: "You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church" (Matt 16:18). The Church is built forever on the foundation of these apostles. That's why we call the Church 'apostolic'. The bishops are the successors of the apostles.



## Why is the Church holy?

Only God is entirely holy. The Church is holy, because the holy God works in it. Everything that comes from God is holy. Everything on earth that is radiated through God is holy.

## What does the word 'Church' mean?

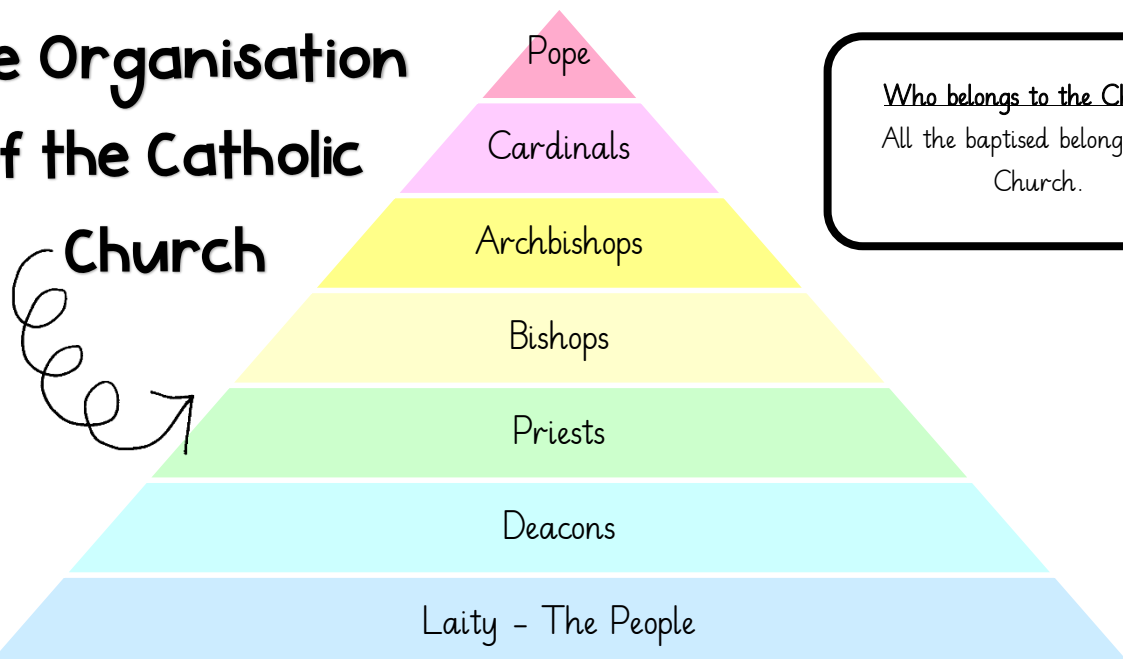
The word 'Church' comes from the Greek word *kyriakon*. It means something belonging to the Lord. Jesus is our Lord and we are His team – an international team from all countries, of all colours and languages of the world. This is called Catholic (=universal). It does not matter where we come from: the Lord has called us to be His Church and to take care of His world. We do this by using our God-given talents.

## What does it mean to go to Church?

To a lot of people, Church is only a building, where people go in and out. But to go to church means to go where Jesus himself awaits us. To go out of church means: to take Jesus to the people.

The Church is not stones and buildings. The Church is the people that belong to Jesus.

## The Organisation of the Catholic Church



## Who belongs to the Church?

All the baptised belong to the Church.