



# Renewing Our Faith

## Introduction to the Apostles Creed

## What is Faith?

Faith is a gift that God gives us. This gift helps us to believe God's **Revelation**.

**Revelation:** the truths of Faith which God has made known to us through Scripture (Bible) and Tradition (handed down).

The full Revelation of God is Jesus, so what Jesus and His Apostles taught completes Revelation.

Many of the truths that we believe cannot be known by the human mind alone. But through God's wisdom (understanding) and love we can place our trust in him to tell us the truth, even at times it is hard to understand.

God reveals (shows) faith through Mary, the perfect model (example). From the time she said yes to become the Mother of God until the time Jesus her son died on the Cross, Mary's faith was always strong. She had total trust in God's will (want) for her.





Another example of God revealing faith is Abraham who God ask to leave everything that was well known to him and to follow God. He learnt to do what God commanded and have faith that God's promises always come true.

## How can we apply faith in our everyday lives?

By surrendering (giving up) everything to God and placing our trust in him through the times of joy and in the times when we struggle (difficult/hard).



In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus gave up his will to follow the will of his Father, saying: **“My Father, if it is possible , take away this cup of suffering from me! But I will do what you want, not what I want.”**

(Matt 26:39)

## What is the Creed?

A **Creed** is a list or summary of all things that a person believes in.

**Creed:** comes from the Latin word 'credo' meaning *I believe*".

In the Catholic Church we have two Creeds

1. The Apostles' Creed
2. The Nicene Creed

Both Creeds have three parts.

1. **God**, who is the Father Almighty (powerful) and Creator (maker) of heaven and earth.
2. **Jesus Christ**, who came down to earth to save us from our sins.

## **What is the Apostles' Creed?**

The “Apostles' Creed” is a prayer of the most important truths of our faith, which have been handed down from the Apostles.

It is the oldest Catechism (teaching) in the Catholic Church.

## **Who were the Apostles?**

The Apostles were the twelve men that Our Lord selected to be the first leaders of His Church. It was not long before the leaders chosen to follow the Apostles came to be called “Bishops”.

**Apostle:** from the Greek word “Apostello” meaning to be sent forth on mission.

The twelve Apostles were:

1. Peter (aka Simon)	7. Thomas
2. Andrew	8. Matthew
3. James	9. James
4. John	10. Simon
5. Phillip	11. Jude
6. Bartholomew	12. Judas Iscariot



Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus and the Apostles replaced Him with Matthias.





## **What is the Nicene Creed?**

The Nicene Creed comes from the two Ecumenical (common) Councils.

325: First Council of Nicaea

381: Amended (changed) at the First Council of Constantinople

The Nicene Creed was created in order to clarify the important truths of the Christian faith. It gives more detail than the Apostles' Creed, but does not add anything that was not already in the faith expressed by the Apostles' Creed.

### **What is unique about the Apostles Creed?**

“He descended (go down) into Hell” tell us where Jesus descended after his death.

**Hell:** the place of the dead.” This includes the holy souls waiting for the Savior.

“The communion (many) of saints” means that all the faithful, whether on earth, in heaven, or in purgatory are all joined together in friendship to help one another in prayer.

**Purgatory:** a place where the soul is made clean from sin before they can enter heaven.

## **What is unique about the Nicene Creed?**

“In accordance with (following) the scriptures” tell us that Jesus’ resurrection is in line with what God promised, as described in the Holy Scriptures (Bible).

“And his kingdom has no end (continue)” describes that when Christ returns, there is to be a new Heaven and a new earth in which justice (right/fair) exists.

The Church is described as:

“one” to remind us that the Church is united in one faith, the same as what Jesus and His Apostles taught.

“holy” because its founder Jesus Christ is Holy. Its teachings are Holy and the Church invites all of us to live a Holy life.

“catholic” because it is universal (same) for all.

“apostolic” because it was founded by Christ on His Apostles and governed by his successors (followers), the Pope and Bishops. They teach what Jesus taught to his Apostles with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

## **Why do we use the Creed?**

When we say the creed we are professing our faith, we are declaring what we believe in.

We are trusting in heart and mind to God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We pray with the whole Church through which we receive the faith.

