



Renewing Our Faith

Jesus—Part 1

I BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST, HIS ONLY SON OUR LORD

Who is Jesus Christ?

Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, True God and True Man.

The name Jesus means in Hebrew “God saves.” This name was given by the Angel Gabriel at the Annunciation, which expresses (shows) both his identity and his mission.

Annunciation: God’s announcement to Mary through the Archangel Gabriel that she was chosen to be the Mother of God.

God's name is made present in the person of His Son, Jesus, Our Saviour. It is the divine (holy) name that alone brings salvation (safe) and, now because God became man, all can pray in His name.

What does Christ mean?

Both the Greek word "Christ" and the Hebrew word "Messiah" means "the Anointed One."

Anoint: the act of putting oil on someone as a sign that God is giving his strength, power and healing to him.



In the Old Testament God sent the prophet Samuel to “anoint” David to be King. Samuel blessed David by pouring oil over his head. The anointing shows that God chose David to be King and gave him the spirit of God (1 Samuel 16: 1-13).

Jesus is the Christ because he is consecrated (made holy) by God and “anointed” with the Holy Spirit for His redeeming (saving) mission. From the name Christ comes our name of Christian, because we are followers of Christ.

Redeem: to buy back

How was Jesus Christ known to be the “Son of God”?

The title “Son of God” symbolises the unique (special) and eternal relationship of Jesus Christ to God his Father. He is the only Son of the Father and He is God himself.

Jesus Christ was known to be the “Son of God” because God the Father proclaimed him as such at His Baptism and His Transfiguration when God said, “This is my Son, the Beloved. I am well pleased with Him. Listen to Him.” (Matt 17:2-5)



Transfiguration: the glorious change in Jesus appearance (look) when he revealed something of his divinity (holy) to Peter, James and John.

Why Jesus is called “Lord”?

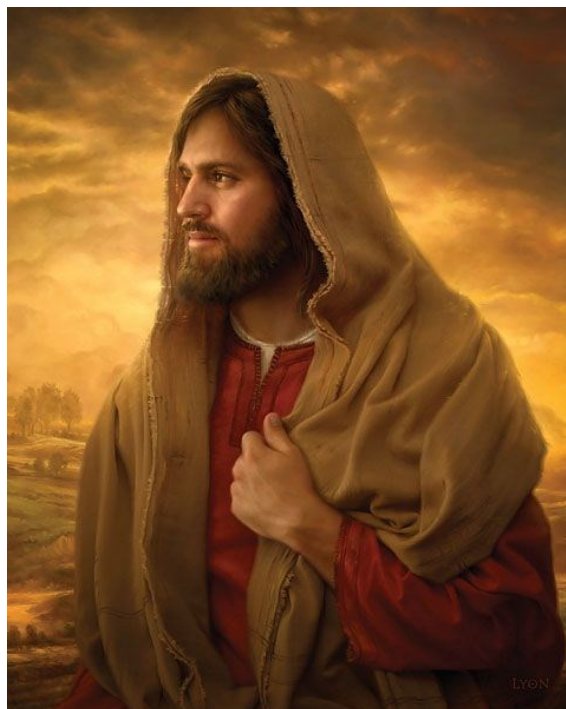
The title “Lord” indicates (shows) Jesus’ authority shown by his power over nature, illnesses, demons, death and sin. He is the “Lord” of the world and of history. He is Truth and Love. Only Jesus can save us when we love and obey Him.

In the Gospel of John, Thomas encounters (sees) Jesus and witnesses the holes in His hands and in His side, Thomas confesses **“My Lord and My God.”** Thomas shows honour to Jesus and trust in Him. In this way, Thomas proclaims that Jesus is the “Lord”. (Jn 20:28)

Why has Jesus been given so many names?

These names that Jesus has been given remind us of the connection we have with Our Lord.

Jesus is called the “Son of David” to show that He is the Redeemer (Saviour) promised to the Jews. He is also called the “Lamb of God,” because He was so meek (patient) and humble (respect), and suffered death so patiently. And He made Himself the sacrifice for our sins, in obedience to His Father.



HE (JESUS) WAS CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY

Incarnation: when God took on human flesh (body, mind and soul) and became man in the person of Jesus Christ to achieve the salvation of God's people.

Is Jesus Christ both True God and True Man?

Yes, Jesus is both God and Man. The Son of God became Man by taking on (through) a human body and soul in the pure womb of the Virgin Mary, by the work of the Holy Spirit. He has a body and a soul as we do, but he is still God. Jesus is one Divine (Holy) Person, truly God and truly man.

Why did the Son of God become Man?

The Son of God became man because he wanted to save us from sin.



The Gospels give us many glimpses (examples) of a Saviour who was fully human: getting tired, celebrating, feeling angry or fearful and suffering. For exam-

ple, Jesus enjoyed the company of the little children and sweated drops of blood in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus took part in our human life. As St Paul says he was “like us in all things but sin.” (Hebrews 4:16)

Are there two natures in Jesus Christ?

Yes, Jesus Christ has two natures: a divine nature (God's Spirit) and a human nature (human body and soul). However, he remains only one person.

Nature: what a thing is. When we ask, "What are you?", we answer "I am a human being." (When we ask, "What is earth?", we answer "The earth is a planet.")



Person: who someone is. When we ask, “Who are you?”, we answer, “I am Mr Jones.” (When we ask “Who are man and woman?, we answer, “Man and woman are people.”)

These questions are simple (easy) to answer but when you ask Jesus “What are you?” or “Who are you?” he could answer, “I am God and man.” The truth of Jesus with two natures (God’s spirit & human body and soul) is difficult to understand because it is a mystery. A mystery is something that our human minds cannot completely understand. It is God who revealed it to us and we still don’t really understand it. It is not against our understanding, but our understanding is limited.



What does the phrase “conceived by the Holy Spirit” mean?

Conceived by the Holy Spirit means that Jesus began to exist (lived) by the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of His mother, Mary, the blessed Virgin. This event happened when the Archangel Gabriel announced to Mary that she was chosen by God to be the Mother of Jesus. This event is called the Annunciation.

From the day the Archangel Gabriel appeared to Mary, she knew her life would never be the same again. One day Mary was an unknown girl in the country village; the next day she was the Mother of the Saviour. Her people had been waiting for the Saviour for a long time.

Mary is the Mother of God's own Son. God had given her a great gift which we call the Immaculate Conception (Mary free from the first sin).

What is the Immaculate Conception?

The Immaculate Conception is the special honour that God gave to Mary by which she was free from Original Sin (first sin) from the first moment of her life.

The Church celebrates this Holy Day on the 8th December, every year.

Immaculate: spotless; free from any stain, something that is perfectly pure.

Conception: the moment a new human life begins to exist in a woman; the moment she

What is Original Sin?

Original Sin is the first sin of Adam and Eve disobeying (ignored) God. Because of Original Sin (first sin), humans were separated from God and denied (not allowed) entry into heaven. Because of Original Sin, we are all born without the gifts of God that allow us to live with Him. We are weak and are easily tempted away from God, because of Original Sin

Why was Mary free from Original Sin?

God preserved (protected) her from Original sin. Her soul was “full of grace” from the moment of her conception. Mary had the ability to do always what God wanted and to never offend (hurt) him by sin. Because God created Mary free from sin, and she always chose to do God’s will. Mary was worthy to become the Mother of Jesus.

What is St Joseph’s role?

We know that St Joseph was not Jesus’ real father, but he was chosen by God to be the foster father and guardian (protector) of Jesus and the husband of Mary.

Where was Jesus Christ born?

Mary gave birth to Jesus in a town called Bethlehem, the town from



Joseph's family history. Jesus was born in a stable and was placed in a manger. The shepherds and the wise men were the first ones to come and adore the Lord.

Manger: a box that holds; feed for animals

Where did the Holy Family go after Jesus was born?

Mary and Joseph presented Jesus to the Lord in the Temple in Jerusalem. (Lk 2: 22-38)

Then, they fled to Egypt because King Herod wanted to destroy this new-born King (Jesus). They stayed there until Herod died and God told them they could return to Nazareth. (Matt 2: 13-23)

Then, when Jesus was twelve years old, He went with his parents to Jerusalem and stayed in the Temple, talking about God with the priests and teachers. (Lk 2: 41-52)

How did Jesus spend his hidden years (private life)?

Jesus hidden life is from the time when he returned from Egypt until his baptism in the Jordan River.

During this time Jesus was doing manual labour (work), living in the local community, and submitting (giving) himself in obedience to (following) the Jewish Law and to Mary and Joseph.

When did Jesus begin his public ministry?

Jesus' public life begins with his Baptism by John the Baptist in the River Jordan.

(Matt 3: 13-17) Then he spends forty days in solitude (alone) in the desert, praying, fasting, and being tempted by the devil.

(Matt 4: 1-11) Jesus came back from the desert and preached the Kingdom of God to the poor, sinners and those in the world who are considered unimportant. He taught the people about heaven and the way to get to heaven.



He used parables (stories) that explained the Kingdom of God.

Parables: a story that is used to teach a lesson about the Kingdom of God.

Jesus also performed many miracles to prove He was the Saviour and the Son of God.

Miracle: something wonderful that is done by the power of God. It is something that only God can do (supernatural).

With a word or a touch, he healed people of blindness, leprosy, and many other diseases. Jesus could also heal people who were possessed (controlled) by the devil. By witnessing these things, people could see that Jesus shared God's power in a special way.

Possessed: the devil controls a person's speech and actions that the person has no power to stop it.

How long did Christ live on earth?

Christ lived on earth about 33 years and led a most holy life in poverty and suffering. By doing this He showed us the way to Heaven by his teaching and his example. Jesus Christ wished to be poor to teach us to be humble and not to place our happiness in riches, honours, and the pleasures of the world.

