

## How present day divisions among Christians arose

### *Henry VIII and the break from Rome*

By the beginning of the 16th century, Europe was torn by wars of a political and religious nature. There was change everywhere. This also affected the Church in Britain. The Pope in Rome was head of the Roman Catholic Church in England as well as throughout the world. King Henry VIII was loyal to the Pope. He had no sympathy with the attacks on the Church by Martin Luther, the founder of Protestantism in Germany. If you look at any British coin you will see, on the 'heads' side, the letters F.D. or Fid. Def. These stand for *Fidei Defensor* which means Defender of the Faith. This title was given to Henry by the Pope in 1521 for writing a book '*Defence of the Seven Sacraments*', against Luther's idea that there were only two sacraments - Baptism and the Lord's Supper.



King Henry VIII.



Catherine of Aragon.

By the late 1520s, however, Henry's feelings were changing towards the Pope. In 1509 he had married Catherine of Aragon, a Spanish princess. They had one surviving child, a daughter, Mary. Henry was desperate for a son to succeed him but, following several unsuccessful pregnancies, Catherine seemed unable to provide him with one. So Henry decided to ask for an annulment of his marriage from the Pope, and to marry Anne Boleyn with whom he had fallen in love.



Anne Boleyn.

For Catholics, a marriage can be declared null (that means not truly a marriage) only if there are good reasons, which prove that the marriage was flawed from its very beginnings. In the teaching of Christ, a valid marriage lasts for a lifetime. In Henry's case, the decision to annul his marriage could only be made under the authority of the Pope. The Pope was not willing to declare Henry VIII's marriage null, as there were no reasons to do so. As a result, relations between the Pope and Henry grew worse. Henry, ignoring the Church, divorced Catherine and married Anne; they had a daughter, Elizabeth.



In 1533 Henry began the break away from the Catholic Church by a series of Acts of Parliament. One such Act, the Act of Supremacy, declared Henry to be 'the Supreme Head of the Church in England'.

Some people were so horrified by Henry's actions that they opposed him by refusing to take the Oath of Supremacy. They were thrown into prison, prepared to endure torture and death rather than deny their conscience.

There are many martyrs from this period: two of the most famous are Sir Thomas More and Bishop John Fisher.



St. Thomas More, King Henry VIII's Lord Chancellor and now Patron Saint of Politicians.

Thomas More, Henry's Lord Chancellor, resigned because he firmly opposed Henry's plans to divorce Catherine and his views on papal supremacy. By resigning, he lost most of his income and lived in relative poverty, in comparison with his earlier lifestyle.

On 14 April 1534, Thomas More was summoned to Lambeth to take the Oath before the King's commissioners. He refused and was sent to the Tower of London, accused of treason. For over a year he could not be persuaded or bribed to change his mind. In July 1535, he was found guilty of treason and sentenced to be hanged, drawn and quartered at Tyburn, although King Henry changed the sentence to beheading on Tower Hill.



The Tower of London where St. Thomas More was imprisoned.

On the scaffold Thomas More declared:

*"I die the King's good servant,  
but God's first".*

Sir Thomas More died on 6 July 1535 and was canonised in 1935.



John Fisher, Bishop of Rochester.

John Fisher was the Bishop of Rochester and he also refused to take the oath. He was sent to the Tower of London on 26 April 1534. A year later, Pope Paul III honoured him by making him a cardinal, but Henry forbade the red hat - the symbol of the cardinal's position - to be brought into England; he was so angry that he declared he would send Fisher's head to Rome instead.



Bishop John Fisher would not accept that the king was the Supreme Head of the Church and was found guilty of treason. Like Thomas More, he was beheaded on Tower Hill.

Between 1536 and 1539 all the monasteries and hospitals run by religious orders were closed down. Much of the monastery land and property was taken into the hands of the State.

### ***Activities***

1. Look at this list of statements. In your exercise book make a list of which are true and which are false. Write down the letter and put 'T' beside it if the statement is true; if it is false put 'F'. There is no need to copy out the sentence.

(a) In the 16th century there was a lot of political and religious unrest in Europe.

(b) The Church in Britain was not affected by what was happening in Europe.

(c) Henry VIII was loyal to the Pope for a long time.

(d) The Pope rewarded Henry for his loyalty.

(e) Martin Luther declared that there were only two sacraments.

(f) The main reason for Henry VIII wanting a divorce was because he fell in love with another woman.

(g) The Pope agreed to grant the divorce.

(h) Henry VIII accepted the Pope's decision.

(i) Henry closed down all the monasteries.

(j) Henry gave the monastery land to the poor.

2. When Henry VIII wanted to divorce Catherine of Aragon and marry Anne Boleyn, both he and the Pope needed to consider the consequences of this decision. In pairs, discuss the consequences.

3. What advice, and reasons for the advice, would you have given to:

(a) Henry?

(b) The Pope?

### ***Research***

4. Find out more about St. Thomas More and St. John Fisher. Chapter 2 of your history of the Church should be about one of them. Use the following points to help you:

(a) Where did the person live?

(b) Why was he put to death?

(c) What was his story?

(d) Why is he remembered today?

### ***Extension***

5. Faced with imprisonment, torture and death, Catholics could have simply said: "It would be better to swear allegiance to the king rather than suffer and be killed." Why didn't they? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have considered more than one point of view.

### ***Glossary***

ANNULMENT, DIVORCE, PROTESTANTISM, CATHOLICS, FLAWED, OATH OF SUPREMACY, CONSCIENCE, HANGED DRAWN AND QUARTERED, CANONISE.

# The Reformation in England and Wales



King Edward VI.

under him still retained Catholic services.

In 1547, his son became Edward VI. He was only nine years old when he became king and he was a Protestant. He supported the Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer, in bringing in the Protestant reforms of the Church in England and Wales.

King Henry VIII eventually had a son, Edward, by his third wife, Jane Seymour. Henry was a Catholic. Although he had become Supreme Head of the Church in England, the Church

In 1549, Parliament issued and made compulsory, the Book of Common Prayer, which replaced the Catholic Missal and changed the liturgy. The English translation of the Bible was also used in church; up to this time it had been in Latin. Protestants felt it was wrong to have pictures and statues. They wanted plain churches and services in English so that they could be understood. They did not want to accept the teaching authority of the Pope in Rome regarding the liturgy and the sacraments.

As the division between Catholics loyal to Rome and Protestants grew, the two groups began to interpret and practice their faith in different ways.

## What difference did the Reformation make?

<u><b>Before Reformation</b></u>	<u><b>After Reformation: Protestants</b></u>	<u><b>After Reformation: Catholics</b></u>
Catholics recognised the Pope as the successor of St. Peter.	The Monarch became the Supreme Head of the Church in England, as set down in Acts of Parliament.	Catholics remained loyal to the Pope and so were considered to be guilty of high treason.
The Missal (in Latin) was used in the Churches.	Book of Common Prayer services were in English.	They continued to celebrate Mass (in Latin) but could only do so in secret. Priests were hunted down and executed.
Catholics recognised SEVEN Sacraments.	Protestants recognised only TWO Sacraments (Baptism and the Eucharist).	Catholics were fined for not attending protestant services on Sundays.
Churches were ornate with statues and stained glass windows.	Protestant Churches were much plainer.	Church buildings were taken over by Protestants.



## Return to the Catholic Church or be punished

When Edward died in July 1553, Henry VIII's daughter by Catherine of Aragon, Mary, succeeded the throne. Mary was a devout Catholic. Catholic bishops were re-instated and the doctrines of the Catholic Church were taught once more. Protestants who did not wish to live under Catholic rule were free to leave the country.



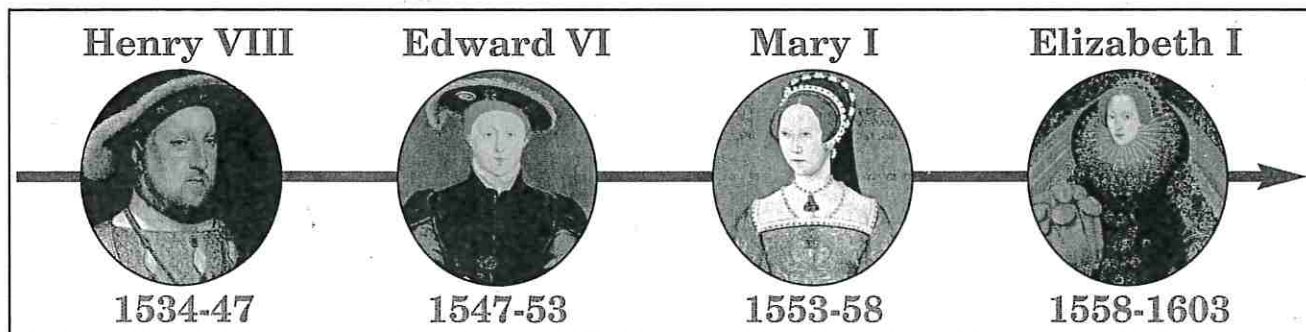
Queen Mary I.

objected to it. As a consequence, around 300 Protestant men and women were burned at the stake, and many more were imprisoned and executed for their faith. Mary reigned for five turbulent years. People had now been forced to take sides: either Catholic or Protestant.

Mary died in 1558 and her half sister, Elizabeth I, became queen. She formulated an Anglican Settlement and fashioned the legal basis of the Church of England. She took the title of 'Supreme Governor of the Realm in Matters Spiritual and Temporal'. The thirty-nine Articles defining Anglican belief were published.

Mary I was determined to re-establish the Catholic Church in England, but many

## Time-line of the Kings & Queens of England



## Conform to the Church of England or be punished



Elizabeth I of England.

In Queen Elizabeth I's reign, two Acts of Parliament, in 1559, called The Act of Supremacy and The Act of Uniformity, gave the monarch full authority over the Church of England

and required all people to conform to it.

In 1570, the Pope excommunicated Elizabeth and the rift between Rome and England was going to be long lasting and severe.

### Punishments for those refusing to give up their Catholic Faith

- (i) If a person spoke against the new religion:
  - they would be fined £700 the first time;
  - £2,800 the second time;
  - their goods and possessions would all be confiscated if they persisted in criticising the Church of England.
- (ii) Everyone was expected to attend the Sunday service in his or her parish church. If they didn't, they would be fined a shilling (5p), which was a day's wages for a skilled worker.
- (iii) In 1563, Parliament introduced the death penalty for anyone convicted a second time of refusing to accept that the Queen was the Supreme Governor of the Church.



About 80% of the population conformed to the Church of England, to avoid the fines or other punishments. Those who remained loyal to the Catholic Church included about 500 priests. They either led a life of secrecy or fled abroad.



Catholic priests being pulled through the streets of London on a cart.

Over 300 Catholics, 123 of whom were priests, were executed during the reign of Elizabeth. The first priest-martyr in this period was Cuthbert Maine. He was pulled behind a cart to the place of execution. There he was hanged. He was cut down while still alive and then torn open and his bowels drawn out of him. Finally he was cut into four parts. This was a particularly gruesome form of execution known as being 'hanged, drawn and quartered' and was reserved for those found guilty of treason.



The gruesome form of execution in which the victim was 'hanged drawn and quartered'.

Catholic priests were not allowed to celebrate Mass or preach in England, but some worked secretly. If they were caught, they could be tortured and executed. This is what one of them - Fr. Edmund Campion - wrote in 1580:

*"In the house where I am, all the talk is of death, fleeing, prison or the ruin of friends; yet they keep going with courage... Nor will this (Catholic) Church fail... Rumours of approaching danger force me to end this letter here."*



Edmund Campion.

Edmund Campion was right to fear for his life. A year later, in 1581, he was captured. On December 1 he was dragged behind a horse to Tyburn Hill in London and there hanged, drawn and quartered.

Despite the dangers, many Catholic families took great risks to hide Catholic priests and built secret compartments in their homes where priests could hide to escape detection. These were known as 'priest holes'.



Father William Weston hid in one when what he called the 'heretics' burst into the house where he had been saying Mass:

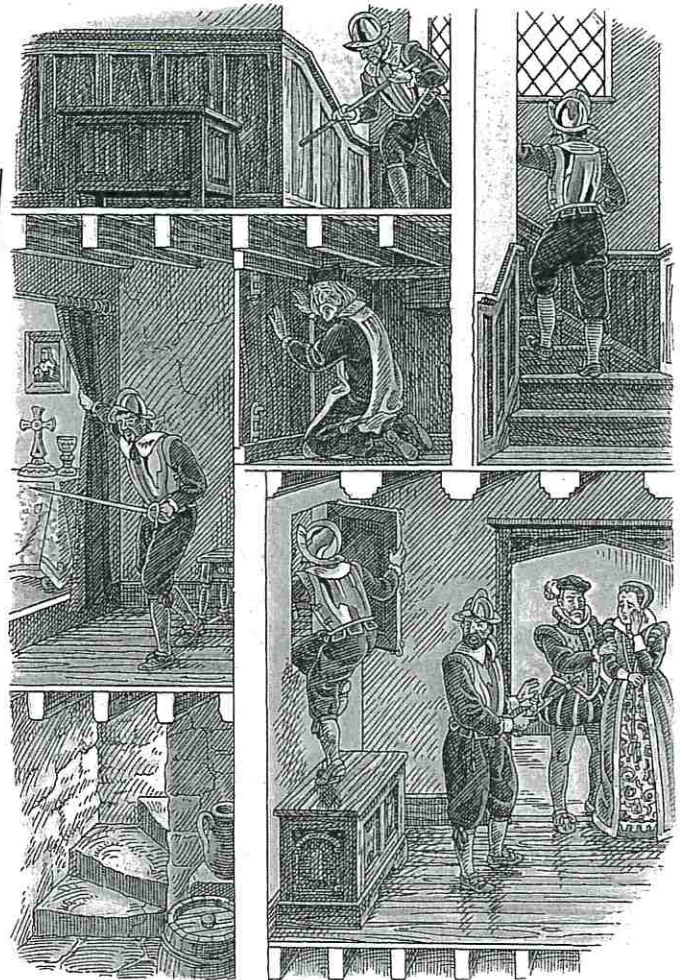
*"From my cave-like hide, I could follow their movements by the noise and uproar they raised. Step by step, they drew closer, and when they entered my room, the sight of my books was an added incentive to their search. In that room there was also a secret passage for which they demanded the key, and as they opened the door onto it, they were standing immediately above my head. I could hear practically every word they said. 'Here, look!' they called out. 'A chalice! And a missal!' Then they demanded a hammer and other tools to break through the wall and panelling. They were certain now that I could not be far away..."*

Fr. John Gerard SJ described how he was once cornered in a house and had to remain literally holed up in a wall for four days without food or water while a team tore up the floorboards and stripped the plaster off the walls around him.

Margaret Clitherow was one of the very courageous women who offered shelter to fugitive priests, hiding them in a special room where she and other secret Catholics could attend Mass.



Margaret Clitherow.



### Activities

#### 1. Match Column A with Column B

COLUMN A	COLUMN B
(i) Who was the monarch who followed Henry VIII?	(a) Mary I
(ii) What did the Book of Common Prayer replace?	(b) Elizabeth I
(iii) Which Church did Mary I belong to?	(c) Edward VI
(iv) Who was the queen who persecuted Protestants?	(d) The Missal
(v) Who was the queen who persecuted Catholics?	(e) Catholic



### **Activities**

2. If you had been alive during the Reformation and a priest seeking refuge knocked at your door, what would you have done? Why?

3. The priests risked their lives and the lives of others.

(a) Why do you think they took these risks? Think about what would happen if:

- there were no priests,
- there were no sacraments,
- there was nobody to hear confessions,
- there was no Mass.

(b) In your opinion, what was the best thing for the priests to have done? Why?

### **Preparation for Group Work**

4. Margaret Clitherow was an ordinary wife and mother who became a martyr for her faith. Read an account of her life. It can be found on [www.tere.org](http://www.tere.org) in the section on 'Support Material'.

### **Group Work**

5. Work in Groups:

(a) Discuss the aspects of Margaret Clitherow's character that you admire and then look at aspects that you do not agree with.

On your own:

(b) In bullet point form, show how Margaret Clitherow's life demonstrates the problems that ordinary people had to face during that time.

6. Choose one of the saints during the period of the Reformation, for example, Margaret Clitherow, Edmund Campion, John Southworth, Ambrose Barlow. Write Chapter 3 of your history of the Church. You should include the following:

- Short introduction describing what it was like to be a Catholic at this time;
- Your reason for choosing this particular person;
- What this person did.

7. Organise a class debate taking one of the Reformation saints you have studied. The motion should be:

"This person could have done more for the Church if he/she had been able to escape and remain free."

### **Research**

8. Find out if there were:

(a) Catholics from your area martyred during the Reformation;

(b) houses in your area which hid Catholic priests, at this time, maybe with a 'priest hole'; or...

(c) places locally where either Protestants or Catholics were executed because of their faith.

Write down your findings.

### **Glossary**

MISSAL, LITURGY, PROTESTANT, SPIRITUAL, TEMPORAL, PRIEST HOLES, HERETICS, CHALICE, SJ, EXCOMMUNICATED.



## Year 7 - The Holy Spirit

### Explore – The courage to be a witness

- the way we live our lives, the way we treat others, and by our words and actions, show if we have an attitude of service.

Read the story about Connor:

Connor was cycling home from school when he saw his elder sister, Kylie, with a group of young people. He knew some of them; they were tough and didn't care what anyone said to them. They were from the local secondary school, where Connor would be going in September. Connor got off his bike and hid behind a parked car where no one could see him. He was fond of Kylie, even though she was always telling him he was stupid. He knew it was only teasing.

As he watched, he wondered why he had stopped. Was it curiosity? Was he spying or was he really concerned about Kylie? He wasn't sure. Kylie was laughing. One of the girls offered her a cigarette which she took. Connor knew his parents would be cross if they found out. Kylie was only fourteen. He could see Kylie shaking her head and beginning to walk away, then another one of the group, a boy, held her arm and started arguing with her. Another girl pushed her, while another got hold of her bag. Kylie grabbed it back and started to run. The group let her go but shouted after her; "You'd better have the money tomorrow!"

Connor didn't know what to do. There were too many in the group for him to tackle. Kylie was walking home now. Connor got home first. His Mother asked him if he had seen Kylie on the way. Before he could answer Kylie arrived home.

Think about the story and answer the questions below

1. How do you think Connor felt?
2. What do you think Connor should do? He was a witness to an incident. What are his choices?
3. What do you think happened next?
4. Who do you think needs courage in this situation?
5. What would you do?
6. Have you ever been in a situation where you have needed courage to witness? What happened?
7. Continue the story, using a storyboard format, including feelings and beliefs which might affect the behaviour of the characters. OR
8. Upload photographs of your story so I can see how you would be a witness – how you would treat others, in your words and actions and in your attitude of service.
9. Watch You Tube video about the story and or read the Bible story:

<https://youtu.be/yVx0NbUSF0U?list=PLX...>

**Luke 24: 44-49 AND Matthew 28: 16-20**

10. How do you think the disciples felt when they heard these words?
11. What did Jesus mean when he said '...the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled?'
12. What do you understand by the disciples being the witnesses of Jesus?
13. Why does Jesus want everyone to be baptised?
14. Why do you think some of Jesus' disciples were in doubt?
15. What mission did Jesus give his disciples?



# Pentecost and the Conversion of Saul

What life-changing experience happened to Saul on the road to Damascus?

## Pentecost



According to Acts (the fifth book of the New Testament), after Jesus was resurrected from the dead, he ascended to heaven. Before his ascension, Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit to come. **About 50 days later, on a day called Pentecost, the disciples were together in a house. The Holy Spirit entered the house and filled the disciples, enabling them to speak in new languages. This experience transformed them.**

When Jesus was arrested, his disciples abandoned him. However, seeing him alive again restored their faith. **After they were filled with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, they were even willing to be tortured or killed for spreading the message that Jesus had died and risen again to save people from their sins.** The disciples performed miracles and preached about Jesus everywhere they went. On one occasion, after Peter preached to a huge crowd, 3000 people were baptised.

## Persecution of the Disciples

As more and more people believed the message that the disciples were spreading, the Jewish leaders became concerned. **Peter and John were beaten and a follower of Jesus called Stephen was stoned to death for blasphemy.** Stephen was the first of many Christians to become a martyr. His stoning was the start of a widespread persecution of Christians. Many followers of Jesus escaped from Jerusalem, but **a Pharisee called Saul** was sent after them. **Saul was passionate about Jewish traditions and hated what he considered to be the blasphemy of this new religion.** However, one day, while travelling along a road to a place called Damascus, **Saul had an experience that changed his life.**



The Stoning of Stephen

## The Conversion of Saul

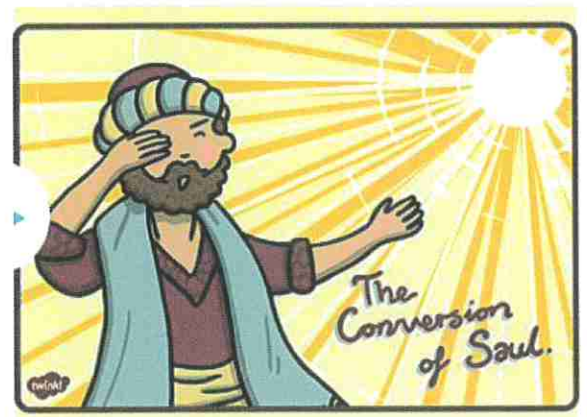
***9** In the meantime Saul kept up his violent threats of murder against the followers of the Lord. He went to the High Priest <sup>2</sup> and asked for letters of introduction to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he should find there any followers of the Way of the Lord, he would be able to arrest them, both men and women, and bring them back to Jerusalem.*

***<sup>3</sup>** As Saul was coming near the city of Damascus, suddenly a light from the sky flashed around him. **<sup>4</sup>** He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul! Why do you persecute me?"*

***<sup>5</sup>** "Who are you, Lord?" he asked.*

***"I am Jesus, whom you persecute," the voice said. <sup>6</sup>** "But get up and go into the city, where you will be told what you must do."*

***<sup>7</sup>** The men who were traveling with Saul had stopped, not saying a word; they heard the voice but could not see anyone. **<sup>8</sup>** Saul got up from the ground and opened his eyes, but could not see a thing. So they took him by the hand and led him into Damascus. **<sup>9</sup>** For three days he was not able to see, and during that time he did not eat or drink anything.*





<sup>10</sup> There was a believer in Damascus named Ananias. He had a vision, in which the Lord said to him, "Ananias!"

"Here I am, Lord," he answered.

<sup>11</sup> The Lord said to him, "Get ready and go to Straight Street, and at the house of Judas ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is praying, <sup>12</sup> and in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come in and place his hands on him so that he might see again."

<sup>13</sup> Ananias answered, "Lord, many people have told me about this man and about all the terrible things he has done to your people in Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> And he has come to Damascus with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who worship you."

<sup>15</sup> The Lord said to him, "Go, because I have chosen him to serve me, to make my name known to Gentiles and kings and to the people of Israel. <sup>16</sup> And I myself will show him all that he must suffer for my sake."

<sup>17</sup> So Ananias went, entered the house where Saul was, and placed his hands on him. "Brother Saul," he said, "the Lord has sent me—Jesus himself, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here. He sent me so that you might see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." <sup>18</sup> At once something like fish scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he was able to see again. He stood up and was baptized; <sup>19</sup> and after he had eaten, his strength came back.

### **Saul Preaches in Damascus**

**Saul stayed for a few days with the believers in Damascus. <sup>20</sup> He went straight to the synagogues and began to preach that Jesus was the Son of God.**

<sup>21</sup> All who heard him were amazed and asked, "Isn't he the one who in Jerusalem was killing those who worship that man Jesus? And didn't he come here for the very purpose of arresting those people and taking them back to the chief priests?"

Having two names was quite common in New Testament times. Saul is also called Paul in the Roman Bible – Paul is his Roman name and Saul is his Jewish one.

### **Quiz questions**

1. What happened on Pentecost?
2. What did the experience do to the disciples?
3. What were the disciples willing to do?
4. How were the first Christians persecuted?
5. Who was Saul?
6. What happened to Saul on the road to Damascus?
7. How did Saul manage to see again?
8. What happened to Saul once he could see again?
9. Where did Saul go after this experience and what did he do there?
10. What was common in New Testament times?

### **Literacy task**

- a) Look at our key words box. Write a sentence or paragraph that includes all of the words. It must make sense!

**Conversion:** Changing from one set of beliefs to another  
**Gentiles:** A name given to non-Jews in the Bible  
**Martyr:** Someone who dies for his or her beliefs  
**Pentecost:** The day on which the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit  
**Persecution:** Discrimination against a group

**Challenge task (optional)**—To this day, people around the world are being persecuted for their beliefs. Why do you think this is still happening?





## Emancipation

It was almost 200 years before Catholics in Britain were able to practise their Faith freely again, without fear of persecution. By the end of the 18th Century, there were very few of them left; they had very little influence in State affairs or politics, and were no longer seen as a threat.



Cardinal John Henry Newman.

John Henry Newman (1801-1890) was originally an Anglican (a member of the Church of England). But he became a Roman Catholic in 1845, and went on to be made a Cardinal. He described what it was like for Catholics at that time:

*"No longer the Catholic Church in the country; nay, no longer, I may say, a Catholic community, but a few adherents of the Old Religion, moving silently and sorrowfully about, as memorials of what had been."*

*There, perhaps, an elderly person, seen walking in the streets, grave and solitary, and strange though noble in bearing, and said to be of goodly family, and a "Roman Catholic". An old-fashioned house of gloomy appearance closed in with high walls, with an iron gate, and yews, and the report attaching to it that "Roman Catholics" lived there; but who they were, and what they did, or what was meant by calling them Roman Catholics, no one could tell - though it had an unpleasant sound, and told of form and superstition."*

The Relief Acts of 1778 and 1791, and the Emancipation Act (1829), allowed Catholics almost total freedom.

### Benefits to Catholics from the passing of the Emancipation Act

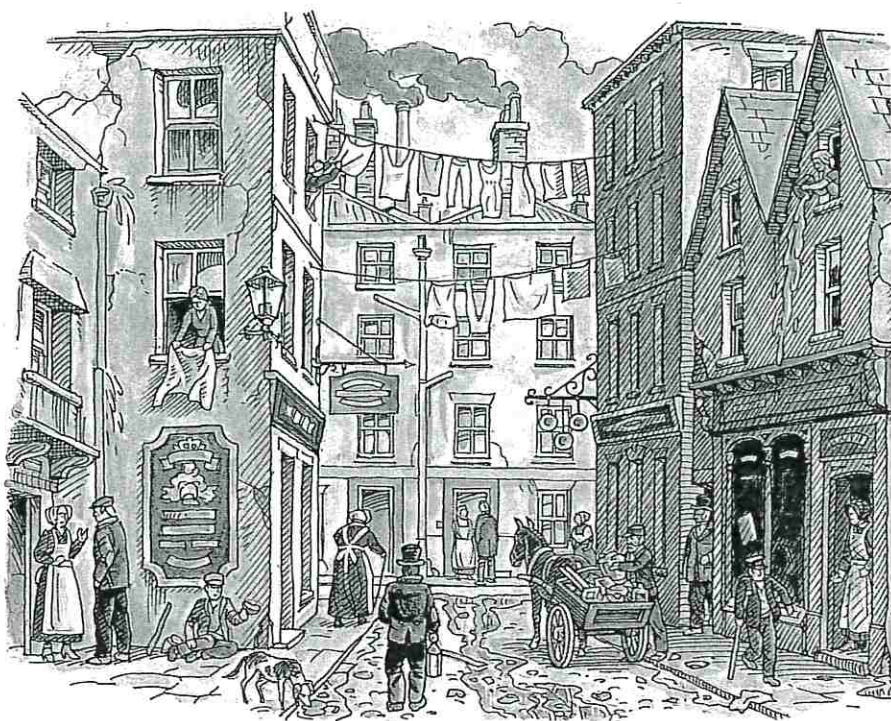
- It was no longer illegal to be a Catholic. They didn't need to fear arrest or punishment.
- Catholics were allowed to build churches and worship in them.
- They were allowed to vote.
- They were allowed to stand as Members of Parliament. Five Catholic MPs were elected in the General Election of 1830.
- The Roman Catholic Church could run its own affairs, without interference from the State.



The number of Catholics began to grow until, in 1850, Rome decided that England and Wales could once again be divided into dioceses with a bishop in each one.



Cardinal Nicholas Wiseman.



Nicholas Wiseman was the first Archbishop of Westminster to be appointed. He made it clear that the Catholic Church would not be a threat to government or politics, but that it would condemn the appalling conditions that some people lived in:

*"The labyrinth of lanes and courts, and alleys and slums, nests of ignorance, vice, depravity, and crime, as well as of squalor, wretchedness and disease; whose atmosphere is typhus, whose ventilation is cholera; in which swarms a huge and countless population, in great measure, nominally at least, Catholic; haunts of filth, which no sewage committee can reach, dark corners, which no lighting boards can brighten..."*

### **Activities**

1. Today in England, we are able to practise our faith, free from fear of persecution. Imagine that a regime opposed to Christianity took over and you were not allowed to practise.
2. Write Chapter 4 of your story of the history of the Church in England. The title should be 'Emancipation'.

### **Research**

- (a) What would change for you and your family?
- (b) What difference would it make to your life?
3. There are still restrictions on Catholics in England today in relation to the government and the monarchy. Find out at least two of them.

### **Glossary**

EMANCIPATION, ADHERENTS, SUPERSTITION.