

### Christian Unity:

Until about 1530 the Church in England and Wales was Catholic. Then came a time of change in the world. People were beginning to have new ideas about what it meant to be a Christian. There were many arguments about religion. Many people split away from the Catholic Church because they wanted to reform it and were called reformers. A number of different Christian Churches were created.

In more recent times, Christians have tried to re-unite the Churches by emphasising what they have in common and not their differences. The Churches are united through Jesus Christ and made one by the Holy Spirit. Through the Sacrament of Baptism, all Christians are called to share Jesus' mission, but Christians carry it out in different ways.

All Christians are journeying towards God and towards unity, remembering Jesus' words that *'they may all be one.'* This movement towards Christian unity is called ecumenism and all Christians have a responsibility through prayer and discussion to carry out Christ's commandment to 'love one another'. We do this through spreading the Good News and promoting justice and peace in the world in which we live. In January each year a *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity* is said throughout the dioceses. (from 18<sup>th</sup> January to 25<sup>th</sup> 2021)

This is one of the prayers said during the week:

*God our Father,  
you reveal to us your love through Christ  
and through our brothers and sisters.  
Open our hearts so that we can welcome each other  
with our differences and live in forgiveness.  
Grant us to live united in one body,  
so that the gift that is each person comes to light.  
May all of us together be a reflection  
of the living Christ.*



What do you think this picture illustrates?

### Activity:

➤ Research different Christian denominations e.g. Methodist, Baptist, Anglicans and Pentecostal. Ask the questions:

- When did this Christian denomination begin?
- Who is its leader? Who leads the worship?
- What do you notice that is special or different about it?
- How do people worship?
- What do they believe?
- What is the same?
- What is the mission?

➤ Create a collage to celebrate the mission that all Christians have in common.

At the end of all the work you have done on **MISSION**, you might like to think of how we are called to carry on Christ's work today and how you can live out Jesus' mission in a simple way each day. Perhaps you could write your own prayer to ask God's help to do this.

*As a family, gather and read the scripture below:*

**'Christ is like a single body,  
which has many parts; it is  
still one body, even though  
it is made up of different  
parts.**

**In the same way, all of us,  
whether Jews or Gentiles,  
whether slaves or free, have  
been baptised into the one  
body by the same Spirit,  
and we have all been given  
the one Spirit to drink.**

**All of you are Christ's body,  
and each one is a part of it.'**



**based on 1 Corinthians 12: 12-17, 21, 27  
(Come & See)**

*Say this prayer together:*

We pray for all those who carry on the work of Jesus and for inspirational leaders who do great work in the service of others.

We thank God for all Church leaders and the work they do leading Christians towards God and towards unity.

We pray that Pope Francis may continue to lead the Catholic Church following the example of Peter.

We pray for Archbishop Malcolm and Bishop Tom who lead our Archdiocese, that they may continue to guide all our parish families.

We pray for all priests and deacons who lead our parish families

We pray for all Christians, remembering that we are all one in Jesus Christ. AMEN!

*You may also like to say together the prayer that you wrote.*

**Remember to pray for unity among Christians everywhere so that we can all  
live out Jesus' mission together.**

