### Christianity

### Christians believe that Jesus is the son of God. He was born approximately 2000 years ago. Christianity considers life to be a gift from God and are there by challenged to live a good and just life. The 4 Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John report that Jesus made a special effort to seek out the outcasts and the needy and he identified himself with these people. His example is the model for how they are to live their lives.

**Love for Enemies**

### 27 “But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. 29 If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. Luke 6:27-29

**Is this easy to do?**

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Number in the world: 2.1 billion

Sacred Text:: Bible

Place of Worship: Church or Cathedral

**Symbol: The Cross**

**THE APOSTLE'S CREED**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of [heaven](http://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5593) and earth; and in [Jesus](http://www.catholic.org/clife/jesus) Christ, His only Son, our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, is seated at the [right](http://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=10046) hand of [God](http://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5217) the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy [Catholic](http://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=2678) Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and [life](http://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=7101) everlasting. Amen.

**Do you believe? Can you say this with confidence?**

31 “When the Son of Man comes as King and all the angels with him, he will sit on his royal throne, 32 and the people of all the nations will be gathered before him. Then he will divide them into two groups, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will put the righteous people at his right and the others at his left. 34 Then the King will say to the people on his right, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father! Come and possess the kingdom which has been prepared for you ever since the creation of the world. 35 I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your homes, 36 naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me.’ 37 The righteous will then answer him, ‘When, Lord, did we ever see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? 38 When did we ever see you a stranger and welcome you in our homes, or naked and clothe you? 39 When did we ever see you sick or in prison, and visit you?’ 40 The King will reply, ‘I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important of these followers of mine, you did it for me!’

**The Final Judgment**

41 “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Away from me, you that are under God's curse! Away to the eternal fire which has been prepared for the Devil and his angels! 42 I was hungry but you would not feed me, thirsty but you would not give me a drink; 43 I was a stranger but you would not welcome me in your homes, naked but you would not clothe me; I was sick and in prison but you would not take care of me.’ 44 Then they will answer him, ‘When, Lord, did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and we would not help you?’ 45 The King will reply, ‘I tell you, whenever you refused to help one of these least important ones, you refused to help me.’ 46 These, then, will be sent off to eternal punishment, but the righteous will go to eternal life.”

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| Works of Mercy | Identify Verse where this is located in the Gospel of Matthew |
| Feed The Hungry | **Verse 35** |
| Give drink to the thirsty |  |
| Welcome the stranger |  |
| Cloth the naked |  |
| Shelter the homeless |  |
| Visit the sick |  |
| Visit the imprisoned |  |

From Matthews Gospel reading the Church asks us to accept and live the following works of mercy

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| Work of Mercy |  | How we can live this today |
|  |  |  |
| Feed the hungry | People are encouraged to contribute to agencies that assist the poorEncouraged to fast | Join St Vincent de Paul |
| Give drink to the thirsty | Look after the physical needs of self and others. |  |
| Clothes the naked | Refer to those who need to be clothed or those stripped of human dignity and power |  |
| Shelter the homeless | Street People, RefugeesAlso means offering a sense of belonging to others around you |  |
| Visit the sick | Many people do not leave their homes due to illness. They may need companionship |  |
| Visit the imprisoned | Those in jail or in a private prison or turmoil |  |
| Welcome the stranger | We all know what it feels like to go into a group where we know few people.How can you be a person of welcome? |  |
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**Are you familiar with any of these denominations?**

**Can you find these churches in your suburb?**

There are many denominations of the **Christian Church**. The Catholic Church is just a branch.

Others within the community are

**Anglican**

**Uniting**

**Presbyterian**

 **Baptist**

**Lutheran**

**Pentecostals (Elizabeth Seton born into this faith)**

**Greek Orthodox**

**Salvation Army and Assembly of God**