The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)

Introduction to the Catechism of the Catholic Church — RCIA Programme Saint Mungo's

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) is a comprehensive summary of what the Catholic Church believes, celebrates, lives, and prays. It draws upon Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, and the living Magisterium of the Church. The Catechism presents the faith in its fullness, showing the unity and coherence of the truths revealed by God.

"This catechism is offered to every individual who asks us to give an account of the hope that is in us."
— Pope St. John Paul II, *Fidei Depositum*

Purpose of the Catechism

- To provide a clear and authentic reference text for teaching Catholic doctrine.
- To promote a deeper understanding of the faith among believers.
- To serve as a guide for catechesis, formation, and personal study.
- To help all members of the Church grow in faith, hope, and charity.

The Catechism connects what we learn in RCIA to the universal faith of the Church.
It ensures that Catholic belief is understood as part of a continuous and living Tradition, faithfully handed down through the centuries.

The Four Pillars of the Catechism

1. The Profession of Faith | What we believe | The Creed, God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and the Church.
2. The Celebration of the Christian Mystery | How we worship | The liturgy and the seven sacraments.
3. Life in Christ | How we live | Moral life, commandments, and the pursuit of virtue |
4. Christian Prayer | How we pray | The Lord's Prayer and the life of prayer in the Church |

These four parts reflect the rhythm of Christian life: *believe, celebrate, live, and pray.*

How to Use the Catechism

- Approach it as a guidebook of faith, not as a textbook.
- Use the index and paragraph references to explore topics.
- Read small sections prayerfully, allowing time for reflection.
- Pay attention to Scripture references and footnotes that connect Church teaching to the Word of God.

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The Catechism of the Catholic Church — Full Breakdown

Prologue (Paragraphs 1–25)

Theme: The life of man — to know and love God

- Explains why the Catechism exists, its structure, and purpose.
- Covers human longing for God, divine revelation, faith, and transmission of faith.

Part One: The Profession of Faith (The Creed)

Paragraphs 26–1065

Section One: "I Believe" — "We Believe" (26–184)

- **26–49:** Man's capacity for God
- **50–141:** God comes to meet man (Revelation and Scripture)
- **142–184:** Man's response to God (Faith)

Section Two: The Profession of the Christian Faith — The Creeds (185–1065)

- **185–197:** The Creeds and their importance
- **198–231:** I believe in God the Father Almighty (Trinitarian faith)
- **232–267:** The Holy Trinity
- **268–354:** The Father — Creator of Heaven and Earth
- **355–421:** Man — in the image of God, fallen and redeemed
- **422–682:** Jesus Christ — His incarnation, passion, death, and resurrection
- **683–747:** The Holy Spirit
- **748–945:** The Holy Catholic Church
- **946–962:** Communion of Saints
- **963–975:** Mary, Mother of Christ and of the Church
- **976–987:** The forgiveness of sins
- **988–1060:** The resurrection of the body and life everlasting
- **1061–1065:** Amen — the conclusion of the Creed

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Part Two: The Celebration of the Christian Mystery (The Liturgy and the Sacraments)

Paragraphs 1066–1690

Section One: The Sacramental Economy (1066–1209)

- **1066–1075:** Introduction to liturgy and mystery
- **1076–1109:** The Holy Spirit and the Church in the liturgy
- **1110–1134:** The sacramental nature of the Church
- **1135–1209:** The liturgical celebration and its forms

Section Two: The Seven Sacraments of the Church (1210–1690)

- **1210–1211:** Overview
- **1212–1284:** Baptism
- **1285–1321:** Confirmation
- **1322–1419:** Eucharist
- **1420–1498:** Penance (Reconciliation)
- **1499–1532:** Anointing of the Sick
- **1533–1600:** Holy Orders
- **1601–1666:** Matrimony

- **1667–1679:** Other sacramentals and blessings
- **1680–1690:** Christian funerals

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Part Three: Life in Christ (Moral Life)

Paragraphs 1691–2557

Section One: Man's Vocation – Life in the Spirit (1691–2051)

- **1691–1715:** The dignity of the human person
- **1716–1729:** The Beatitudes and human vocation
- **1730–1748:** Freedom and responsibility
- **1749–1802:** Morality of human acts and passions
- **1803–1832:** The virtues (theological and cardinal)
- **1833–1845:** The gifts and fruits of the Spirit
- **1846–1876:** Sin and mercy
- **1877–1948:** The human community, social justice, and the common good
- **1949–2051:** The moral law and grace (Old and New Law)

Section Two: The Ten Commandments (2052–2557)

- **2052–2082:** Introduction and unity of the Decalogue
- **2083–2141:** The First Commandment
- **2142–2167:** The Second Commandment
- **2168–2195:** The Third Commandment
- **2196–2257:** The Fourth Commandment
- **2258–2330:** The Fifth Commandment
- **2331–2400:** The Sixth Commandment
- **2401–2463:** The Seventh Commandment
- **2464–2513:** The Eighth Commandment
- **2514–2533:** The Ninth Commandment
- **2534–2557:** The Tenth Commandment

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Part Four: Christian Prayer

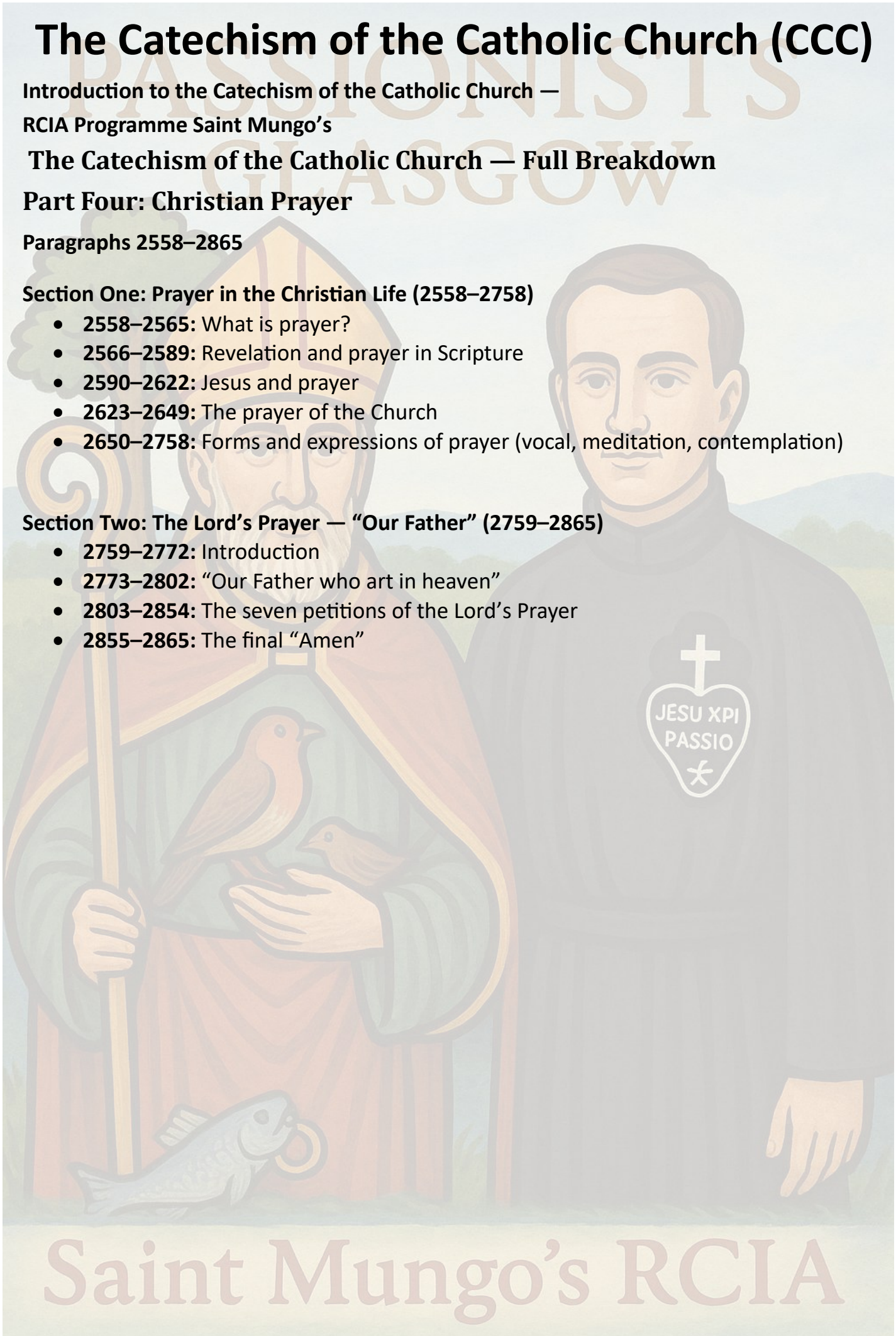
Paragraphs 2558–2865

Section One: Prayer in the Christian Life (2558–2758)

- **2558–2565:** What is prayer?
- **2566–2589:** Revelation and prayer in Scripture
- **2590–2622:** Jesus and prayer
- **2623–2649:** The prayer of the Church
- **2650–2758:** Forms and expressions of prayer (vocal, meditation, contemplation)

Section Two: The Lord's Prayer — "Our Father" (2759–2865)

- **2759–2772:** Introduction
- **2773–2802:** "Our Father who art in heaven"
- **2803–2854:** The seven petitions of the Lord's Prayer
- **2855–2865:** The final "Amen"



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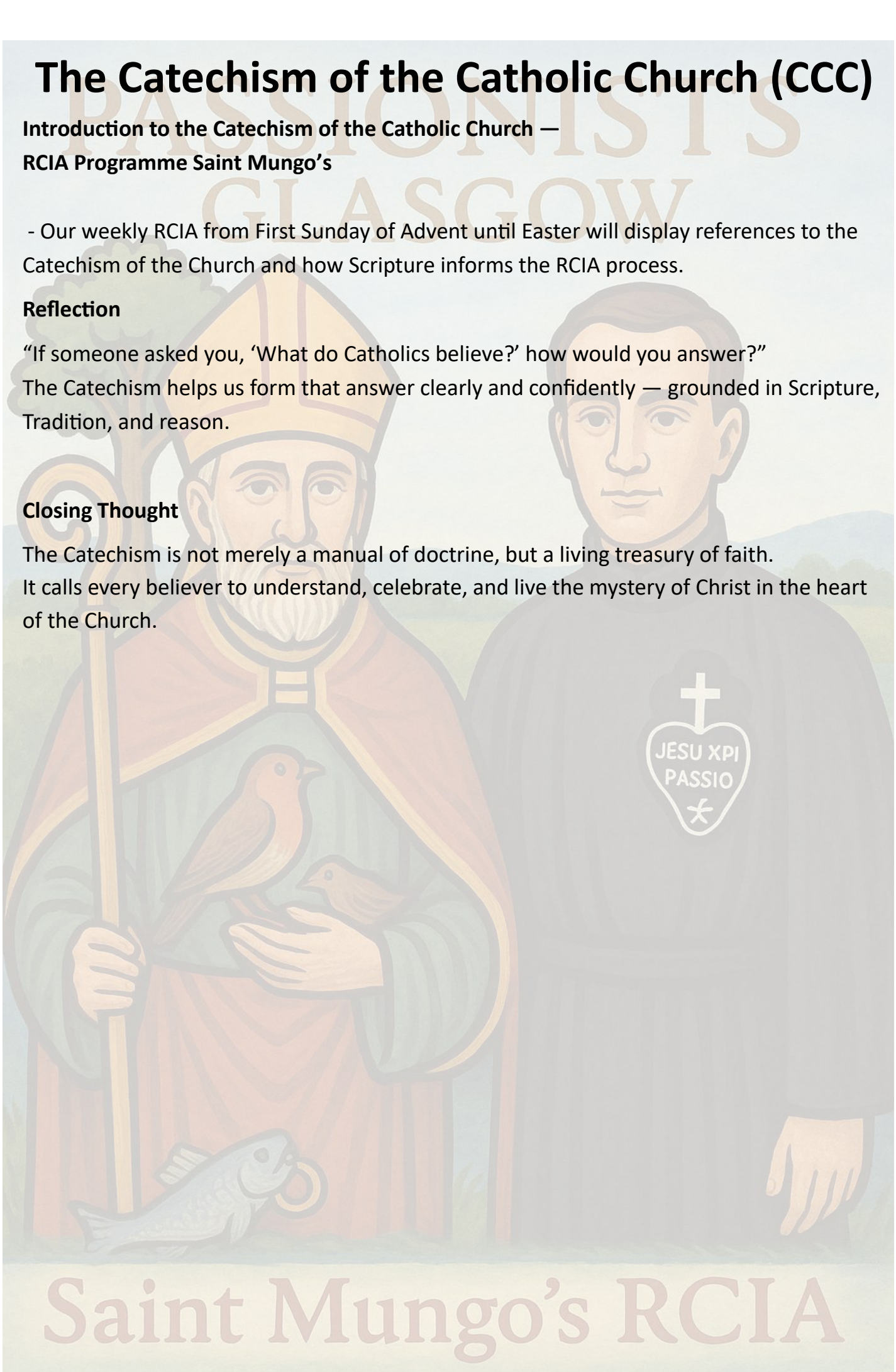
- Our weekly RCIA from First Sunday of Advent until Easter will display references to the Catechism of the Church and how Scripture informs the RCIA process.

Reflection

"If someone asked you, 'What do Catholics believe?' how would you answer?"
The Catechism helps us form that answer clearly and confidently — grounded in Scripture, Tradition, and reason.

Closing Thought

The Catechism is not merely a manual of doctrine, but a living treasury of faith.
It calls every believer to understand, celebrate, and live the mystery of Christ in the heart of the Church.



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