

TIMELINE OF CATHOLIC CHURCH

ANTIQUITY:

c.4 BC Birth of Jesus Christ, in Bethlehem. **c.30 AD** Death of Jesus Christ. **c.33** Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2). **c.33** Stephen - First Christian martyr (Acts 7).

c.60 First Gospel published (often thought to be that written by Mark). **c.67-68** Apostles Peter and Paul martyred in the reign of the Roman emperor Nero. **From 70** Centre of Christianity moves to Antioch, Alexandria and Rome. **c.90** Book of Revelation and Gospel of Saint John written. **161-80** Widespread persecution of Christians under Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius. Severe persecutions also occurred under the emperors Decius (**249-251**) and Diocletian (**284-305**).

312 Roman emperor Constantine receives a vision of a flaming cross with the words '*In hoc signo vinces*': 'By this sign conquer'. Defeats rival Maxentius at the Battle of Milvian Bridge. **313** Edict of Milan issued by Constantine - Christianity becomes a legal religion within the Roman empire. **325** Constantine calls the first ecumenical council at Nicea. **381** Roman emperor Theodosius makes Christianity official religion of empire. **391/92** Other religions forbidden.

c.382 Saint Jerome begins a translation of the Bible into Latin.

MIDDLE AGES:

787 Ecumenical council at Nicea ends the controversy over the use of icons in worship.

800 Charlemagne is crowned emperor of the Holy Roman Empire by Pope Leo III.

1054 Great Schism - Eastern Orthodox and Western Catholic churches separate. From mid-11C Gregorian Reform named after Gregory VII (1073-1085)

1095 Pope Urban II authorises the first Crusade to recover the Holy Land from Moslems.

1099 Crusaders conquer Jerusalem. **1187** Jerusalem recaptured by a Moslem army led by Saladin.

1204 Sack of Constantinople during the fourth crusade.

1209/1226/1244 Albigensian Crusade. **1215/23** Papal approval of the Dominican and Franciscan mendicant ('begging') orders. **1230/31** Creation of Holy Inquisition. **1266-73** Thomas Aquinas writes his great work of systematic theology: *Summa Theologiae*.

1305 Papacy moved to Avignon following a dispute with Philip IV of France. **1378** Following the return of the Papacy to Rome, rival claimants (Antipopes) emerge. Dispute ends in **1417** with election of Martin V.

1453 Constantinople falls to the Ottoman Turks.

MODERN TIMES:

1517 Martin Luther posts his 95 theses in Wittenburg, Germany; beginning the Protestant reformation.

1521 *Diet of Worms* - Luther's final breach with the Catholic church.

1534 Act of Supremacy passed - Henry VIII becomes supreme head of the English church.

1545-63 Council of Trent - Roman Catholic counter reformation. **1611** Publication of the King James Version of the Bible.

CONTEMPORARY TIMES:

1854 Dogma of the Immaculate conception proclaimed by the Roman Catholic church. **1870-1** First Vatican council. Dogma of Papal infallibility proclaimed. **1950** Dogma of the Assumption of Mary proclaimed by the Roman Catholic Church. **1962-5** Second Vatican council. Major reforms in the Roman Catholic church are initiated.