**RELIGIOUS BELIEFS OF CATHOLIC CHRISTIANITY**

**WITHIN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES OF BELIEF**

{NOT EXHAUSTIVE}

**CATEGORY OF BELIEF: Ultimate Reality**

**The beliefs (ideas) that ultimate reality is:**

God

One divine being

Creator of All

Created everything good

Created humans in God’s own image and blessed them

God is all powerful (omnipotent), all knowing (omniscient), all present (omnipresent), all loving, all merciful, all just, all good, transcendent (above/beyond human experience), immanent (present and apparent in the universe and sustaining the universe)

God is Trinitarian in nature (three coequal persons in one God)

A Trinitarian God whose nature is relational, based on and in love

God became incarnate in the second person of the Trinity, Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is both fully divine and fully human

**CATEGORY OF BELIEF: Nature and Purpose of Human Life**

**Because of the beliefs about ultimate reality, the beliefs about the nature and purpose of human life are that:**

Humans are creatures, created in the image and likeness of God

Humans were created good and have been **blessed** by God

Human nature is good and should be used to be creative in God’s dominion

Humans have free will, the ability to choose

Humans were created from and by love

Humans were created for love

Humans were created to establish the Reign of God on Earth

Humans were created to ultimately spend eternity with God in paradise

**CATEGORY OF BELIEF: Meaning of Suffering**

**Because of the beliefs about ultimate reality, the beliefs about the meaning of suffering are that:**

Suffering is an unavoidable part of the human condition

Suffering can have a meaning and purpose

Suffering brings humans into solidarity with the suffering of Jesus the Christ

Suffering is a consequence of original sin

Suffering is part of the human condition

Suffering is God’s punishment for doing wrong

Suffering can be redemptive and transformative

**CATEGORY OF BELIEF: Death and the Afterlife**

**Because of the beliefs about ultimate reality, the beliefs about death and the afterlife are that:**

Death is not an end but a new beginning

Christ is the path to salvation and entry into heaven

Entry into heaven is reliant on the ethical choices made during the person’s life

Heaven is eternity embraced in the presence of God (beatific vision)

God’s plan is for humanity to enter the communion of saints after death

Sin is an impediment to salvation and may lead to purgatory

Hell is an eternity in the absence of God

The human tendency to sin is a consequence of original sin

The dead will be resurrected

There will be a day of judgement at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ

The afterlife in heaven will be an experience of the Reign of God

God will reign for eternity in a reality of peace, justice, harmony and love.

**CATEGORY OF BELIEF: Relationship between Ultimate Reality and Humanity**

**Because of the beliefs about ultimate reality, the beliefs about the relationship between ultimate reality and humanity are that:**

The relationship is that of Creator and Creature

The Creator has a loving relationship with humanity

God’s relationship with humankind is one of steadfast love

The relationship between God and humans was established in the covenant relationship between God and Abraham

This relationship has been revealed through the covenants made with the Hebrew people throughout their history

There were promises made by God to humanity as part of the covenant relationship

God promised a Messiah to save humankind

The relationship between God and humanity was significantly established in a new and everlasting covenant through the person of Jesus Christ

The relationship between humans and God is to be one of loving obedience to God’s covenant

**CATEGORY OF BELIEF: Relationship between Humans**

**Because of the beliefs about ultimate reality, the beliefs about the relationship between humans are that:**

Humans because they are created in the image of a loving God, must baserelationships between humans on love.

Humans have been offered the example of the life of Jesus Christ. They must be another Christ in the world by modelling their relationships with each other on the teachings and actions of Jesus Christ

The relationship between humans must be marked by service, forgiveness, charity, inclusivity, self-sacrifice and peace

**CATEGORY OF BELIEF: Relationship between Human Life and the rest of the Natural World**

**Because of the beliefs about ultimate reality, the beliefs about the relationship between human life and the rest of the world are that:**

Humans are created in the image of God, therefore must be co-creators with God

Humans are entrusted to be creative carers

Humans must practice responsible stewardship

Humans must find in nature revelation of God