

The Catholic Church Today

The Church has grown and developed since the early days. However, in certain ways the Church is the same. The Church is the way Jesus is still present in today's world.

In the Church of today believers encounter Jesus, his teaching and his mercy. They receive his forgiveness,

strength and life in the Eucharist and other sacraments.

A New Testament writer said that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. Since the Church is his Body, the Church in essence is also the same yesterday, today, and right to the end of time.

The Church – yesterday, today, to the end of time

Conversion

To join the Church, an older person must still be turn from sin to God.

Belief

That person must still accept the faith of the Church expressed in the *Creed*.

Baptism

Baptism is still the doorway into the Church, the family of God.

Eucharist

This is the Eucharist or the Mass is still the most important worship of the Church.



Stay together

The Holy Spirit unites Catholics all over the world. They accept the Church's faith, worship and moral teaching as coming from Jesus.

Pray together

The Mass is the great prayer of the Church. The Church prays together in other ways too, (e.g. *the Divine Office*).

Share

'Share' means that the joys, pains and needs of the Church in one place should be felt by the whole Church.

Apostles

The Church is still led by the successors of Peter and the other apostles – the Pope and the other bishops.

To do

Copy the table, putting in the details correctly.

Early Church	Both	Catholic Church today

CREED - a summary of the Church's faith
MORAL TEACHING - teaching about what is right and wrong
DIVINE OFFICE - hymns, psalms, readings and prayers daily said or sung by the Church

- Details**
- a small, but growing, number of believers
 - about 1 billion believers
 - in small groups in cities around the Med. Sea
 - to be found in every corner of the earth
 - led by apostles or by elders who knew the apostles
 - led by the successors of the apostles
 - celebrating the Eucharist
 - praying and sharing together
 - united by one Spirit, one faith and one baptism