

Catholicism

What does the tradition say

about life after death?

- Our lives are measured in time.
- Life has a limited time span.
- That the body dies.
- Death is the end of earthly life.
- The soul lives on after death.
- We come from God and return to God.
- Jesus died, rose from the dead, ascended into heaven, will come to judge the living and the dead.
- Communion of saints.

Scripture

- *Hope does not disappoint; having been justified by his blood, we will be saved from God's anger through him.* Romans 5:5-11.
- *We have an everlasting home in heaven.* 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10.
- *We shall see God as he really is.* 1 John 3:1-2.
- *There will be no more death.* Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7.
- *I am the resurrection and the life.* John 11:17-27.
- *There are many rooms in my Father's house.* John 14:1-6.
- *All who eat this bread will live forever; and I will raise them up on the last day.* John 5:1-58.
- *Come, you whom my Father has blessed.* Matthew 25:31-46.
- *Today you will be with me in paradise.* Luke 23:33, 39-43.

Teachings

- Death is a consequence of sin.
- Passing through death makes it possible for us to experience the fullness of God's life.
- Death has meaning because of Christ's resurrection.
- Death is transformed by Christ.
- Life is changed not ended.
- Jesus death and resurrection conquered death.
- That there is life after death.
- There is a resurrection of the body.
- There is a resurrection of the dead for judgement.
- There is a final judgement on the 'Last Day' when Jesus will return.
- People will be judged according to their faith in Christ and their actions.
- The meaning of our life is found in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus celebrated in the Eucharist.
- In our life we are free to accept or reject God's love.

More Teachings

- Purgatory:
- After death because of the effects of sin some may need to go through purification to be ready for complete union with God (2 Maccabees 12:46).
- It is a process rather than a place.
- Heaven:
- People who die in God's grace will meet God "face to face" (1 Corinthians 13:12).
- Experience the fullness of God's life and love (1 John 3:2; 1 Corinthians 2:9).
- Communion of Saints.
- Hell:
- God continually offers his love and forgiveness.
- Hell is the state of total separation from God.