SYDNEY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

2026

Year 8 Religious Education Test

Q1 Which belief is expressed in the Sign of the Cross?

(A) the Communion of Saints

(B) the Resurrection of the body

(C) the Holy Trinity

(D) the forgiveness of sins

Q2 In Matthew 6: 9–13, Jesus teaches his disciples how to pray. Which prayer did he teach?

(A) the Glory Be

(B) the Hail Mary

(C) the Angelus

(D) the Our Father

Q3 A sacred and binding relationship initiated by God, in which God freely commits himself to his people, promising love, life and blessing, while calling his people to respond with faith, obedience, and trust is known as a

(A) mandate.

(B) covenant.

(C) sacrament.

(D) agreement.

Q4 Choose the **BEST** word to complete the statement.

> Every human person, created in the image of God, has the natural right to be recognised as a ___?___ and responsible being.
>
> CCC 1738

(A) smart

(B) strong

(C) capable

(D) free

Q5 Lawrence was sitting in his Religious Education class, learning about how the Catholic faith helps guide actions and decision-making. He asked his teacher, “What right does the Church have to tell us how to live our life?”

What is the **BEST** response that his teacher could give?

(A) You go to a Catholic school; therefore, you must learn this.

(B) The Church has many rules you must learn to follow, or you won’t go to heaven.

(C) The Church was set up by Christ to teach in His name.

(D) For Confession, it is important to know when you are not following Church teachings.

Q6 Which significant event is celebrated every year by Christians on 25 December?

(A) the Resurrection of the Lord

(B) the Nativity of the Lord

(C) the Ascension of the Lord

(D) the Presentation of the Lord

Q7 Read the following information and complete the statement that follows.

According to the Pintupi people from the Western Desert region of central Australia, the Tingari were the ancient creational figures that moved through the country making landforms and performing ceremonies as they went.

This is an example of a/an

(A) creation story.

(B) ritual story.

(C) initiation story.

(D) kinship story.

Q8 What is the essential symbol used in the Sacrament of Baptism?

(A) oil

(B) water

(C) candle

(D) white garment

Q9

Shirley is a student who has just moved to Sydney from the country. She is shy and finds it difficult to make friends. Penelope notices Shirley sitting alone and tells her friends that she would like Shirley to join their group. The friends asked why, and Penelope said, “If I was lonely, I’d appreciate someone looking out for me.”

Penelope’s actions **BEST** demonstrate the

(A) Beatitudes.

(B) Decalogue.

(C) Golden Rule.

(D) Great Commandment.

Q10 Read the following Scripture passage and answer the question.

"But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

MATTHEW 6:6

What is Jesus teaching Christians in this passage?

(A) that quiet spaces are required for prayers to be answered by God

(B) to pray privately and sincerely, focusing on their relationship with God

(C) to expect material rewards when praying

(D) that public acts of prayer and devotion should be discouraged

Q11 Read the following scenario and answer question 11.

At school, Cathy gets to pray, go to Mass and support others in need through social justice programs like Project Compassion. This helps Cathy to understand what it means to belong to a Catholic community.

Which of the following is true of Catholic schools?

(A) Catholic schools are similar to other schools, apart from Religious Education classes and religious activities.

(B) Catholic schools help people live their faith through prayer, worship and care for others.

(C) Catholic schools are mainly identified by the social justice programs they run.

(D) Catholic schools are focused on individuals and how they can live a life in prayer.

Q12 Choose the words that **BEST** complete the statement.

The instruction to "be fruitful and ___1___ ", or to "subdue and have ___2___ over" creation is a call to participate in God's life-giving creativity and ___3___.

(A) 1. increase
2. power
3. responsibility

(B) 1. multiply
2. domination
3. enjoyment

(C) 1. grow
2. authority
3. witness

(D) 1. multiply
2. dominion
3. responsibility

Q13 What am I?

I am a type of prayer. I am one of the most common and heart-felt types of prayer. There is always a need expressed through my prayer. People ask for things through my prayer. An example of my type of prayer is, "Lord, please help me to stay calm and focussed in my test today."

I am a prayer of

(A) Thanksgiving.

(B) Intercession.

(C) Petition.

(D) Praise.

Q14 Read the following scenario and answer question 14.

> Cyril is a good student. He is academically bright and achieved excellent grades at primary school. Since moving to a larger high school, Cyril has found it harder to compete for the top grades. Cyril's friend Boris said he knew how to use AI to get better grades in his assessment tasks without being detected by his teachers. He offers to help Cyril.
>
> Cyril considers Boris' offer, but also asks his parish priest, footy coach and his Aunt Dorothy what he should do. Ultimately, Cyril decides not to use the AI solution.

In following his faith, consulting trusted adults and weighing up his options carefully, Cyril sought ways to form and follow his

(A) emotions.

(B) instincts.

(C) feelings.

(D) conscience.

Q15 Which statement **BEST** explains how the New Testament is connected to the Old Testament in Christian belief?

(A) The New Testament replaces the Old Testament, making its teachings no longer relevant.

(B) The New Testament tells completely new stories to replace the stories of the Old Testament.

(C) The New Testament shows how God's promises and covenants in the Old Testament are fulfilled through the life and teachings of Jesus.

(D) The Old Testament was written for Jewish people only, while the New Testament was written for Christians only.

Q16 A Catholic school celebrates Mass with its local parish and supports the work of organisations such as Caritas Australia and St Vincent de Paul.

What does this show about the school community?

(A) It has links with the wider mission of the Church.

(B) Its Catholic identity comes from the organisations it works with.

(C) It works with parishes for special liturgical events.

(D) Its Catholic identity is enhanced by the amount of money raised.

Q17 What am I?

I am holy.
I am designed to be special.
I am set apart from other days.
I am designated for a purposeful break from work to shift from “doing” to “being”.
I am the fourth commandment.
I am a weekly opportunity to pause, reflect and celebrate God’s gift in creation.

I am the

(A) last day of the week.

(B) Sabbath.

(C) Mass.

(D) Eucharist.

Q18 Choose the words that **BEST** complete the statement.

The complete Rosary consists of four sets of ___1___. They are known as the ___2___, Luminous, Sorrowful and ___3___.

(A) 1. Mysteries
2. Joyful
3. Glorious

(B) 1. Stories
2. Hopeful
3. Triumphant

(C) 1. Stories
2. Joyful
3. Heavenly

(D) 1. Mysteries
2. Eternal
3. Glorious

Q19 Read the following Scripture passage and answer question 19.

> 'So he told them this parable: “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbours, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost.’"
>
> LUKE 15:1–7

What is Jesus teaching in this parable?

(A) Those who follow rules are rewarded.

(B) Community happiness is more important than individual pursuits.

(C) It is better to fend for oneself than to depend on others.

(D) He seeks out the lost.

Q20 Read the following Scripture passage and answer question 20.

> 'When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.'"
>
> GENESIS 22:9 –12

What does this passage suggest about Abraham's relationship with God?

(A) He is obedient to God because he knows God will not punish him.

(B) He is willing to trust God completely, even at great personal cost.

(C) He follows God because he is afraid of Him.

(D) He acts as God's messenger to the nation of Israel.

Q21 Read the following statements and answer the question.

Statement 1	The early Christian communities faced hardships such as imprisonment, opposition and persecution for preaching in the name of Jesus.
Statement 2	Imprisonment, opposition and persecution belong to the ancient world, and Christians today no longer face serious hardships for their faith.

Which option **BEST** describes the two statements?

(A) Both statements are true.

(B) Both statements are false.

(C) Statement 1 is true and statement 2 is false.

(D) Statement 1 is false and statement 2 is true.

Q22 Read the statement to answer question 22.

At Mass, parishioners were urged to consider how their parish could respond to the illegal control or movement of people to exploit them, known as human trafficking.

Human trafficking is an example of

(A) desperate people trying to earn a living.

(B) population control in poor countries.

(C) the presence of evil in the world.

(D) an issue that only exists in developing countries.

Q23 Read the following two Scripture passages and complete the sentence.

> 'And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone.'
>
> MATTHEW 14: 23

> 'In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed.'
>
> MARK 1: 35

These two scripture passages depict Jesus using prayer to

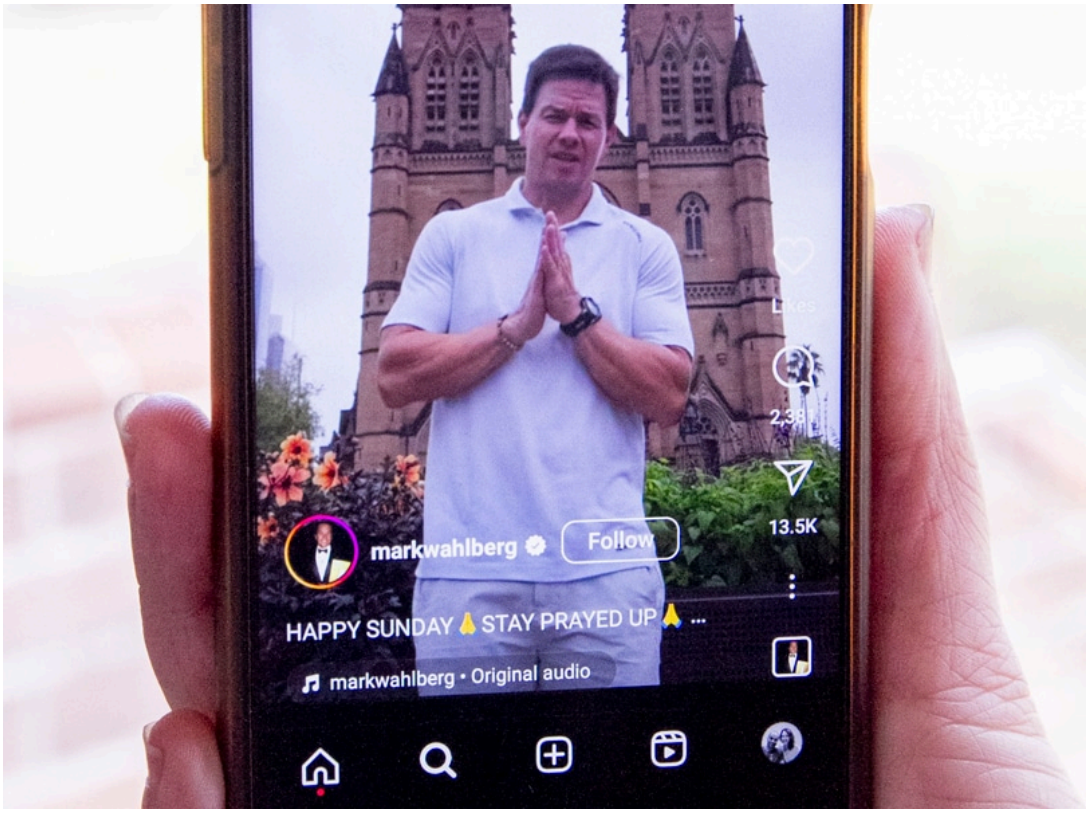
(A) find solitude in remote places.

(B) experience quietness.

(C) find emotional comfort in difficult times.

(D) seek closeness to, and connection with, God.

Q24 Read the following quote and answer question 24.



Actor Mark Wahlberg at St Mary's Cathedral. Image: The Catholic Weekly

> "Anything that's good in my life is because of my faith," he said. "A lot of people get in trouble, go to jail and find God, and the minute they don't need God anymore, they're gone. But I spend a good portion of my day thanking God for all the blessings that have been bestowed on me. If it all ended today, I'd be happy. I've had such an amazing journey."
>
> The Catholic Weekly

What does the reflection by Mark Wahlberg suggest about his personal relationship with Jesus?

(A) that a person must experience times of hardship to find God

(B) that people can use faith to get out of difficult situations when required

(C) that faith is vital to a happy life

(D) that faith can be strengthened through fame

Q25 Read the following statements and answer question 25.

Statement 1	The Stations of the Cross are traditionally prayed during the liturgical season of Advent.
Statement 2	Each Station of the Cross reflects a part of Jesus' life: his birth, death and resurrection.

Which option **BEST** describes the two statements?

(A) Both statements are true.

(B) Both statements are false.

(C) Statement 1 is true and statement 2 is false.

(D) Statement 1 is false and Statement 2 is true.

Q26 The Old Testament presents significant events for the Israelites including the Exodus from Egypt, the trials in the desert, the giving of the Law on Mt Sinai, and entry into the Promised Land.

These are **BEST** described as

(A) nomadic experiences.

(B) individual experiences.

(C) communal experiences.

(D) travelling experiences.

Q27 What is the purpose of a Catholic school's particular charism?

(A) to guide the school community in a distinctive way of following Christ and sharing in the mission of the Church

(B) to preserve the founder's values distinct from the Gospel and the mission of the Church

(C) to keep the history and traditions of the school by worshipping a Christian figure

(D) to give the school a unique identity in order to shape the wider mission of the Church

Q28 When we pray with Scripture using Lectio Divina, we are

(A) listening deeply to God's Word and reflecting on how it speaks to our lives.

(B) memorising Bible verses.

(C) singing psalms.

(D) reflecting on the Catechism to interpret the message of the Bible.

Q29 Read the following Scripture passage and answer question 29.

> 'You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden the human heart, oil to make the face shine, and bread to strengthen the human heart.'
>
> PSALM 104:14–15

What does this passage reveal about God's relationship with creation?

(A) God expects people to survive by relying on the natural world.

(B) God created the world and remains in control of it.

(C) God provides for the needs of living things and sustains human life.

(D) God considers humans and animals to be of equal importance in creation.

Q30 Read the quote and answer question 30.



> "I also ask our parish clergy… to restore kneelers in every church where they are missing".
>
> Archbishop Anthony Fisher, Pastoral Letter 2026.

What does kneeling symbolise at church?

(A) comfort during long periods of prayer

(B) reverence before Christ in the Eucharist

(C) obedience to a Church custom

(D) respect for the priest

Q31 Read the Scripture passage and answer question 31.

> ‘‘But even if you do suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed.’’
>
> 1 PETER 3:14

What does this passage say about the nature of Christian life?

(A) Sometimes you will face hardships in doing what is right, but God will reward you.

(B) Ultimately, if you do what is right, you cannot physically suffer.

(C) Suffering is allowable, as long as it is for religious reasons.

(D) Favour with God relies on experiencing suffering.

Q32 Read the following statements and answer question 32.

Statement 1	The Catholic Bible developed from oral traditions, early Jewish scriptures, and Apostolic writings compiled by the early Church.
Statement 2	The Church finalised the 73 books of the Bible in the late 19th century at councils such as Hippo and Carthage.

Which option **BEST** describes the two statements?

(A) Both statements are true.

(B) Both statements are false.

(C) Statement 1 is true and statement 2 is false.

(D) Statement 1 is false and statement 2 is true.

Q33 Study the image and answer question 33.



Which explanation **BEST** explains why this symbol is important in Catholic worship?

(A) It ensures Catholics focus on the suffering of Jesus and the cruelty of the Roman soldiers.

(B) It gives Catholics a sacred image to honour during prayer and worship.

(C) It helps Catholics remember the story of Jesus' death in Christian history.

(D) It draws Catholics into closer union with Jesus through his death and Resurrection.

Q34 Read the following text to answer question 34.

God is the source of creation and all that is good. Because we have free will, we are called to make wise decisions and stay faithful to God, as Moses taught.

Select the Scripture passage which **BEST** aligns to the statement above.

(A) ‘you shall not turn to the right or to the left.’

DEUTERONOMY 5:32

(B) ‘then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being.’

GENESIS 2:7

(C) ‘For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.’

PSALM 36:9

(D) ‘Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him.’

DEUTERONOMY 30:19–20

Q35 Why are Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist known as the Sacraments of Initiation?

(A) They mark the beginning of belonging to the Church and taking part in its life and mission.

(B) They are the simplest sacraments to understand and celebrate in the Catholic tradition.

(C) They are designed for children and young people who are still learning the faith.

(D) They are designed to prepare Catholics for important milestones in adulthood.

Q36 Study the graphic and answer question 36.



Source: To Know, Worship and Love

Which option does **NOT** belong in this decision-making process?

(A) moral values.

(B) societal expectations.

(C) ethical judgements.

(D) principal beliefs.

Q37 Choose the words that **BEST** complete the statement.

The Bible is the ___1___word of God, comprising 73 canonical ___2___ that form a single, infallible record of ___3___.

(A) 1. inspired
2. books
3. Revelation

(B) 1. recorded
2. statements
3. Revelation

(C) 1. recorded
2. books
3. Salvation

(D) 1. inspired
2. statements
3. Salvation

Q38 Read the Scripture passage and historical source, and then answer question 38.

> "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
>
> ACTS 1:8

> ‘The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church.’
>
> Tertullian

Which statement is supported by both sources?

(A) The early Church grew through the quiet example of believers who followed Christ despite having to hide from their enemies.

(B) The early Church grew because believers were willing to fight wars against those who opposed their faith.

(C) The early Church depended mainly on witness protection and public approval.

(D) The early Church was shaped by people who proclaimed Christ and remained faithful even to death.

Q39 Which action demonstrates the virtue of **temperance**?

(A) limiting the use of social media during the day and only checking it at night

(B) speaking up bravely to tell the truth despite risking criticism from peers

(C) making a final decision for long-term good over short-term benefit

(D) ensuring that every group member gets an equal chance to contribute

Q40 Read the following quote and answer question 40.

> "Let us ask the Lord to grant us the grace to imitate Our Blessed Mother in her total 'yes' to the Lord, and so open our hearts to his will for our lives."
>
> Pope Leo XIV

Which Marian Feast is Pope Leo referring to?

(A) the Immaculate Conception

(B) the Annunciation of the Lord

(C) the Visitation

(D) the Assumption of Mary

Q41 Choose the option which **BEST** completes the statement.

Part of being human and Christian means that you have rights. The right to be treated justly is one of these rights. Another of these rights is the right to

(A) choose when to end life.

(B) refuse to attend school.

(C) do something if it feels good.

(D) express oneself respectfully.

Q42 Choose the word that **BEST** completes the statement.

God is ___?___ in the Scriptures in a gradual way, through events, deeds and words and in the person of Jesus Christ.

(A) revealed

(B) described

(C) portrayed

(D) referenced

Q43 Read the following Scripture passage and answer question 43.

> ‘Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house, you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little.” And he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”’
>
> LUKE 7:44–48

By comparing Simon’s actions with the woman’s, what is Jesus’ message?

(A) Displays of emotion are better than quiet acts of faith.

(B) The Pharisee’s actions were acceptable because he followed the normal customs of his culture.

(C) A person who showers expensive gifts to show their love should not be mocked.

(D) The woman’s actions show deeper love because she recognises the importance of what she has received.

Q44 The Church remains missionary in every age by

(A) focussing on those who already belong to her.

(B) celebrating the small group of leaders who share the Gospel with others.

(C) recognising that the Church is renewed in Christ and by sharing the Gospel with others.

(D) encouraging believers to express their faith in actions rather than words.

Q45 Read the quote and answer question 45.

> “Holiness is not the luxury of a few people, but a simple duty for you and me.”
>
> Saint Teresa of Calcutta

What is Saint Teresa suggesting in this quote?

(A) Holiness can be achieved if you have been ordained as a priest.

(B) Holiness can be achieved if you have committed your life to congregational living.

(C) Holiness requires constant determination in every aspect of your life.

(D) Holiness is a call and a responsibility for all people.

Q46 Which option **BEST** describes the meaning of ‘sacrament’?

(A) an encounter with Christ that gives God’s grace

(B) a ritual which reminds Catholics of the important events in the life of Jesus

(C) a celebration of the Church which builds the faith of the community

(D) a sign which uses symbols and actions to show God’s love

Q47 Read the following scenario to answer question 47.

During a Year 9 Religious Education class, students are exploring the concept of creation and humanity's role within it. The teacher shows a documentary about a rainforest ecosystem, highlighting how deforestation in one area led to soil erosion, loss of animal habitats, and changes in local climate patterns. After the documentary, the class discusses how human actions can influence the natural world.

What does this tell you about creation?

(A) Creation is interdependent; what we do in one part can affect other parts.

(B) Creation is resilient; our actions have an impact; however, the consequences are limited.

(C) Creation is independent; with care, each part of creation can stand on its own.

(D) Creation is adaptable; despite human actions, creation will evolve to adapt to a future world.

Q48 St Carlo Acutis (1991–2006) is widely seen as a modern model of holiness. His life showed how an ordinary young person can live the Gospel in extraordinary ways.



Which of the following is **NOT** an example of how St Carlo Acutis lived a Christian life, exemplifying saintliness?

(A) St Carlo centred his whole life through encountering Jesus in the Eucharist, which shaped every decision he made.

(B) St Carlo was highly skilled in computers and used this gift to spread the teachings of Jesus.

(C) St Carlo was a typical baptised teenager who attended Mass and enjoyed life with his friends.

(D) St Carlo was diagnosed with leukaemia when he was 15 and offered up his suffering for the Pope and for the Church.

Q49 Read the following **TWO** quotes and answer question 49.

> ‘The world exists for everyone, because all of us were born with the same dignity.’
>
> Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti, no. 118

> ‘For 60 years, Caritas Australia has been working with communities around the world to confront the challenges of poverty. Through locally-led programs, we work with all people towards a world where all can thrive and reach their full potential.'
>
> https://www.caritas.org.au/

What do Pope Francis and Caritas Australia advocate?

(A) global cooperation that prioritises innovation and progress for the sake of human advancement

(B) commitment to recognising the inherent worth of every person and supporting initiatives that empower all people to flourish

(C) prioritising assistance for those who demonstrate potential for success, ensuring resources are used efficiently

(D) supporting efforts that uplift individuals within their community, ensuring care is provided locally before extending it globally

Q50 Choose the words that **BEST** complete the statements.

The ___1___ , or the books of the Law, are attributed to Moses and outline the covenant, moral principles, and 613 religious/civil laws for ancient Israel.

The ___2___ books are a collection of Old Testament writings about major stages in the covenant history of Israel: the conquest and settlement of Canaan, the period of the Judges, the rise of the Monarchy, the Divided Kingdom, the Exile, and the Return.

The ___3___ serve as the foundational narrative of Jesus Christ's life, ministry, death and resurrection.

___4___ literature in the Bible is a genre of prophetic writing that uses vivid, symbolic imagery and angelic messengers to reveal divine plans for end-time judgment and salvation.

(A) 1. Pentateuch
2. Historical
3. Gospels
4. Apocalyptic

(B) 1. Canons
2. Wisdom
3. Gospels
4. Covenantal

(C) 1. Pentateuch
2. Wisdom
3. Revelation
4. Apocalyptic

(D) 1. Canons
2. Historical
3. Revelation
4. Covenantal

*** End ***