

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 - The Resurrection of Christ.

Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand,² through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

³ For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures,⁴ and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures,⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died.⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

'Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' *Luke 24:39*

Q. Look at the light yellow boxes. How does this show Christians that Jesus was resurrected from the dead and not a ghost? Why might that be important for them?



The Hail Mary contains the words: "pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death...", the Motto of the Knights of Columbus¹ *Tempus Fugit, Memento Mori*, "Time flies, remember death", St Francis of Assisi spoke of *Death as a sister*, *Canticle of Creatures*,

Blessed John Henry Newman refers to death as *going to sleep and awakening refreshed*, "I went to sleep and now I am refreshed...." *The Dream of Gerontius*.

St Paul speaks of death as 'falling asleep' "In fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of all who have fallen asleep" *1Cor 15:20*

Throughout Christian history death has been seen as not, dying, but going to a new life.

Questions:

1. Can you find any evidence or examples of what Catholics believe about life after death?
2. Why do you think having St. Paul's writing to the Corinthians might be important?
3. Is death something a Catholic Christian should be scared of or sad about?
4. Why does all this information help Catholics believe in Life after Death?

-Gospels -Catechism -Early letters to Christians -Prayers and Christian writers.

St Paul wrote to the early Christian churches he founded. He was explaining to them the important Christian belief in resurrection and life after death.

Life after death centred on a passionate belief that just as **Christ is truly risen from the dead and lives forever**, so will the righteous be raised and live forever with the risen Christ.

Belief in this is an **essential part** of the Christian faith.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches Catholic Christians:

Death is the end of earthly life **CCC1007**

The Church teaches that death is a consequence of sin **CCC1008**

Death has been conquered through the total obedience of Christ **CCC1009**

Church's view of death is that it has a positive meaning. **CCC1010**

Why do Catholic Christians believe in Life after Death?



Death is where God calls a person to be with himself at **the end of one's pilgrimage on earth**. People die only once, there is no reincarnation, one does not return to earthly life in other forms. *Hebrews 9:27*

1 Corinthians 15:35-58 The Resurrection of the Body

But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?"... Not all flesh is alike, but there is one flesh for human beings, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish.⁴⁰ **There are both heavenly bodies and earthly bodies**, but the glory of the heavenly is one thing, and that of the earthly is another... **So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable.**⁴³ It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. **If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body...** flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, ...⁵¹ Listen, I will tell you a mystery! **We will not all die, but we will all be changed,**⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

