

# COMMUNION OF SAINTS

These are lines from the Apostles' Creed:

What does 'communion' mean?  
What does 'communion of saints' mean?

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints...

## Communion of Saints

Communion means 'complete union'. To believe in the 'communion of saints' is to believe that everyone in the Church is linked with one another. No-one is alone.

**Catholics believe that there are three states of the Church:**

- the Church on earth, the Church journeying to God,
- the Church in triumph, the saints in heaven with God,
- the Church still suffering - the holy souls in purgatory being made clean for heaven.



- believers on earth can help each other by prayers and support;
- the saints in heaven pray for us;
- the holy souls in purgatory need our prayers, but also pray for us too.

These three states are linked:

**What is a saint?** Do this quick quiz before you go any further. Pick one of the two options.

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| <p>1 <i>All Christians are called to be saints.</i><br/>Some Christians are called to be saints.</p>   | <p>5 <i>Some saints are well known, other saints are known only to God.</i><br/>Saints are only those people with a St. in front of their name.</p>                                       |
| <p>2 <i>Being a saint means being 'truly yourself' as God made you to be.</i><br/>Being a saint means being 'someone else', someone who seems holier than you.</p> | <p>6 <i>Saints are ordinary people with ordinary faults and temptations to cope with.</i><br/>Saints are special people who don't have the faults and temptations of ordinary people.</p> |
| <p>3 <i>You can be holy whilst living an ordinary life in the world.</i><br/>You cannot be holy and live an ordinary life in the world.</p>                        | <p>7 <i>Great sinners can become great saints.</i><br/>Great saints were never great sinners.</p>   |
| <p>4 <i>Being a saint usually means doing little things well for love of God.</i><br/>Being a saint means usually means doing 'big things' for God.</p>            | <p>8 <i>Saints learn to love God and their neighbour.</i><br/>Saints learn to follow rules carefully.</p>   |

## To do

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| <p>1 Use the quiz answers to help you write what it means to be a saint. Keep these in mind when you try 2(a).<br/>(The answers <i>in italics</i> were correct.)</p> | <p>2 a) Put 'Saint' in front of your first name.<br/>b) Write a short story of your life, a life in which you became a saint.</p> |
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