**Commemoration of the Reformation**

**Resource 2**

**Slide 1 – Title slide**

**Slide 2 – The Reformation**

**Slide 3 – What was the Reformation?**

The **Reformation** was the 16th century religious, political, intellectual and cultural upheaval that splintered Catholic Europe, setting in place the structures and beliefs that would define the continent in the modern era. It was launched by people who began a broad religious revival and gradually divided into two separate and hostile movements, later known as the Catholic Reformation and the Protestant Reformation. The Reformation, which began as a reaction to Rome’s perceived failure to address corruption within the Church, quickly developed a religious, political and social dynamism.

**Slide 4 – What Caused the Reformation?**

**Slide 5 –** **Causes of the Reformation 1**

Over the centuries the church, particularly in the office of the [papacy](https://www.britannica.com/topic/papacy), had become very involved in the political life of Western [Europe](https://www.britannica.com/place/Europe). The resulting intrigues and political manipulations, combined with the church’s increasing power and wealth, contributed to the weakening of the church as a spiritual force. Abuses such as the sale of [indulgences](https://www.britannica.com/topic/indulgence) (or spiritual privileges) by some of the clergy and other charges of corruption undermined the church’s spiritual authority. These instances must be seen as exceptions, however, as for most people, the church continued to offer spiritual comfort. There is some evidence of anticlericalism, but the church at large enjoyed loyalty as it had before. The political authorities, however, increasingly sought to curtail the public role of the church and thereby triggered tension.

**Slide 6 – Causes of the Reformation 2**

There was a weak Papacy in the late Middle Ages, and as the papacy grew in political and financial power in Europe, it was seen by some to have increasingly lost its moral leadership. The popes claimed a spiritual basis for their worldly power and collected revenue in many ways, including selling indulgences, excommunication and bans. Opposition to the pope grew stronger in the fourteenth century, especially in the universities, colleges and schools, and among the rising middle class in the cities. There was no systematic training for priests, and nepotism - the securing of positions for relatives – was not uncommon.

**Slide 7 - The Reformation**

The Reformation (from Latin reformatio, literally ‘restoration, renewal’), also referred to as the Protestant Reformation, was a schism from the Roman Catholic Church initiated by Martin Luther and continued by Jean (John) Calvin, Huldrych Zwingli, and other early Protestant Reformers in 16th century Europe.

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**Slide 8** **–** **Who?? – The Main Players**

Martin Luther (1483 – 1546) was a German monk and Professor of Theology at the University of Wittenberg. Luther sparked the Reformation in 1517 by posting, at least according to tradition, his "95 Theses" on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. This theses was a list of statements that expressed Luther's concerns about certain Church practices - largely the sale of indulgences - but they were based on Luther's deeper concerns with Church doctrine.

**Slide 9** – **The Catholic Church and the Reformation**

[Luther’s theology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theology_of_Martin_Luther) challenged the authority and office of the Pope by teaching that the [Bible](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bible) is the [only source](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sola_scriptura) of [divinely](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divinity) revealed knowledge from God, thus discounting the traditions of the Church throughout the ages. He also opposed the belief that priests were essential mediators between God and humans by considering [all baptised Christians to be ‘a holy priesthood](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal_priesthood)’.

The Lutheran Bible is a [German language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_language) [Bible translation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bible_translation) from Hebrew and ancient Greek by [Martin Luther](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_Luther). The [New Testament](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Testament) was first published in 1522 and the complete [Bible](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bible), containing the [Old](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Testament) and New Testaments and [Apocrypha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biblical_apocrypha), in 1534. ‘[Apocrypha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biblical_apocrypha)’ comes from a Greek word meaning ‘hidden’ and denotes the collection of [apocryphal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apocrypha) ancient books found in some editions of [Christian Bibles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_Bible). Martin Luther, in his Bible translation of 1534, had them printed at the end of the Old Testament. He stated that they “are not held equal to the Sacred Scriptures and yet are useful and good for reading.” After that, many Protestant Bibles omitted them completely. However, in 1546 the Roman Catholic Council of Trent specifically listed the apocryphal books approved by the Roman Catholic Church as inspired. They are always included in Roman Catholic Bibles and are usually interspersed among the books of the Old Testament.

Luther’s proposals spread rapidly because of the invention of the printing press c.1440 by Johannes Gutenberg in Germany. The invention and [spread of the printing press](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spread_of_the_printing_press) was one of the most influential events in the second millennium.

**Slide 10 – Huldrych (Ulrich) Zwingli 1**

In 1522, Huldrych Zwingli (1484-1531) was a leader of the [Reformation in Switzerland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reformation_in_Switzerland) – he had been ordained a priest in 1506. In Zurich, Switzerland, he challenged the Church over matters of ecclesiastical organisation and doctrine. Like Luther, he started by denouncing indulgences and also shared Luther’s understanding of justification by faith. However, Zwingli parted company with Luther mainly over Eucharistic doctrine. By denying the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, Zwingli made a more drastic break with Christian tradition than did Luther. He was also less compromising in his approach to Scripture and opposed all forms of religious images, including crucifixes. Zwingli rejected the authority of bishops and launched an important Protestant trend – local congregations or communities claiming the right to control their own affairs.

**Slide 11** - **Huldrych (Ulrich) Zwingli** 2 Like Martin Luther, he accepted the supreme authority of the Scriptures, but he applied it more rigorously and comprehensively to all doctrines and practices.

**Slide 12** – **Jean (John) Calvin** Jean(John) Calvin (1509-64) was concerned to achieve not only a more or less thorough renovation, but a systematic rebuilding of the Church – a comprehensive reform of doctrine and life. In contrast to the Lutheran “half measures”, the Reformation was to be carried through consistently, from the abolition of crucifixes, images and liturgical garments to the elimination of the Mass, the organ, singing in church and altars, along with the processions and relics, Confirmation and the Last Rites. The Eucharist was to be limited to four Sundays a year (quarterly). Although he was nearer to Luther than to Zwingli on the Eucharist, his doctrine of eternal pre-destination of a whole part of humankind to damnation met with resistance everywhere.

The [ecclesiastical](http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/03744a.htm) organisation of [Calvin](http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/03195b.htm) was declared a fundamental [law](http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/09053a.htm) of the Republic of Geneva, and the authorities gave their entire support to the reformer in the establishment of his new court of [morals](http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/10559a.htm). [Calvin's](http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/03195b.htm) word was the highest authority, and he tolerated no contradiction of his views or regulations. [Calvinism](http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/03198a.htm) was introduced into [Geneva](http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/09040a.htm) and the surrounding country by [violence](http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/15446a.htm). [Catholic](http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/03449a.htm) [priests](http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/12406a.htm) were banished, and the people oppressed and compelled to attend [Calvinistic](http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/03198a.htm) [sermons](http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/07448a.htm).

**Slide 13** – **The Reformation** This slide indicates that the next lesson (Lesson 3) will begin with the history of the Reformation in England

**Slides 14&15 – Prayer for Christian Unity**