

Religious Studies Topic of the Month

January 2023

What effect does the passing of religious leaders have on society?

Topic of the month aims to stimulate discussion at Key Stages 4 and 5 and bring religion to life. This can be achieved by considering religion's relevance in our vast modern world. We have selected a current news article which you may wish to read and integrate into your teaching practice, using the discussion prompts provided.



Disclaimer:

This topic relates to an article, written by Angela Giuffrida for The Guardian* entitled 'Pope Benedict XVI laid to rest as 50,000 pay respects in St Peter's Square'

Introduction

This article refers to the funeral of former pope Benedict XVI.

Link to article: <https://bit.ly/3kxDame>

Discussion prompts

- Why was it significant that Pope Benedict stepped down as Pope?
- What effect might the passing of a Pope have to society as a whole?
- Why might some people regard human life as Holy?
- How could the Bible be interpreted to show life as special?
- How might religious beliefs about life, death and afterlife affect the way people view this event/his death?
- How do the teachings of different faiths vary regarding the topic of 'the existence of a life after death'?

Links to topics on the syllabus:

- Sources of wisdom and authority
- Matters of Life and Death
- The nature of the Church
- Religious Practices
- Living the Religious Life
- Christian Life
- The Bible