

Catechism Course 2021
Clondalkin
12 The Church

The word Church (latin : ecclesia) means assembly. It is the Assembly of the people before God.

The Church was founded by Christ. He gathers disciples, he sets apart the 12 apostles to have special offices in the Church as the first bishops, and Peter, the first Pope, is the rock upon which the Church is to be built.

Jesus commissions the Church to spread the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

The Church is guided and sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

The Church is a mystery: it is not just a man-made institution.

The Church has both a visible reality (buildings, organisations etc) and an invisible reality (the work of the Holy Spirit).

The Church is the universal Sacrament- it makes Christ present.

There are a number of ways to understand the Church.

-as the People of God

-as the Body of Christ

Further Reference

Catechism 147-195 748-810

Read Matthew 16:18-19, Colossians 1:13-29

Joseph Ratzinger, Called to Communion

Steve Ray, Upon this Rock (also plenty of videos by him on youtube)

Charles J., The Theology of the Church