

# Who is Jesus?

Nobody can deny that Jesus was a historical figure from 2000 years ago. That Jesus is the Son of God however is disputed by many yet is a fundamental belief of the Catholic faith. That small baby who was born to a virgin in a manger many years ago is the most significant event to occur in the Catholic story. This man who grew up to be a healer, a teacher, a miracle worker changed the world for the better in the message that He taught and the example that He provided. Nobody can deny that the teachings of Jesus of loving one another, of forgiveness, of care for our fellow human beings is not to be listened to. His love and concern for those who were poor, sick or outcasts was paramount to His teachings that we are ALL loved by God unconditionally.

**“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”**

**John 3:16 NRSV**

**“In Jesus, God took on our mortal human flesh, shared our earthly lot, our sufferings, and our death, and became one like us in all things but sin.”**

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We read of the story of Jesus in the Gospels and throughout the Acts of the Apostles. Through reading these accounts of His life we are drawn into an amazing story of love, forgiveness and sacrifice. An image of someone who knew who He was and who lived in a way that was true to His origin as Son of God and teacher, guide and friend to us all.

*“It is Jesus that you seek when you dream of happiness; He is waiting for you when nothing else you find satisfies you; He is the beauty to which you are so attracted; it is He who provoked you with that thirst for fullness that will not let you settle for compromise; it is He who urges you to shed the masks of a false life; it is He who reads in your heart your most genuine choices, the choices that others try to stifle. It is Jesus who stirs in you the desire to do something great with your lives, the will to follow an ideal, the refusal to allow yourselves to be ground down by mediocrity, the courage to commit yourselves humbly and patiently to improving yourselves and society, making the world more human and more fraternal.” St Pope John Paul II*

