

# ROMAN CATHOLICISM TODAY

## ~~~Key events, movements, people~~~

### **First Vatican Council (Vatican I) 1869-70**

- defines papal infallibility and makes it a binding dogma

### **Second Vatican Council (Vatican II) 1962-5**

- revolutionises Roman Catholic theology and worship

### **Neo-Thomism**

- revamped theology of Thomas Aquinas, greatest of the medieval theologians.  
Pope Leo XIII in 1879 declares him *the* great theologian of the Church

### **Council of Trent**

- 16<sup>th</sup> century Roman Catholic council that reacts to the Protestant Reformation

### **Modernism**

- Roman Catholic movement in closing part of 19<sup>th</sup> century, on into early 20<sup>th</sup>, which in large measure seeks to reform Roman Catholic theology along the lines of Friedrich Schleiermacher (1768-1834), the father of Liberal Protestantism

Friedrich von Hügel (1852-1925)

George Tyrrell (1861-1909)

Alfred Loisy (1857-1940)

Maurice Blondel (1861-1949)

⇒ Leading Roman Catholic Modernists

### **Pope Pius X (pope 1903-14)**

- condemns Modernism in his decree *Lamentabili* and his encyclical letter *Pascendi dominici gregis* (both 1907). Describes Modernism as the "synthesis of all heresies"

### **John Henry Newman (1801-1890)**

- Roman Catholic theologian. Not a Modernist, but sets forth influential idea about "development" of doctrine within the Church. Used by enemies of Neo-Thomism to open up the Church to new thinking.

### **"Nouvelle Théologie" (the "New Theology")**

- new liberalising movement with Roman Catholic theology after 1<sup>st</sup> World War. Also known as "Ressourcement" (going back to the sources).

Karl Rahner (1904-1984)

Hans Urs von Balthasar (1905-88)

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955) ⇒ Leading Nouvelle Théologie figures

Henri de Lubac (1896-1991)

Yves Congar (1904-95).

**John XXIII (pope 1958-63)**

- summons Vatican II. Open to Nouvelle Théologie.

**Aggiornamento**

- "updating" the Church.

**Traditionalists**

- most conservative group in Roman Catholicism. They reject Vatican II. Some are followers of French archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, some are old-fashioned Neo-Thomists and devotees of the Council of Trent, some are "sedevacantists" (no true pope since Pius XII)

**Radical Liberals**

- those who want to carry forward a more extreme and far-reaching interpretation of Vatican II. Often act in defiance of the reigning orthodoxy. A representative figure would be theologian Hans Küng (b.1928). Magazine *Concilium*.

**Conservative Liberals**

- representatives of a more moderate interpretation of the Nouvelle Théologie. e.g. Joseph Ratzinger (b.1927), the current pope Benedict XVI. Magazine *Communio*.

**Exclusivism**

- no salvation outside Christianity or the Church

**Pluralism**

- Christ not the only Saviour

**Inclusivism**

- Christ the only Saviour, but explicit faith in Him not necessary; He saves all people of good-will, of any faith or none. This is now official Roman Catholic doctrine, e.g. in the Catechism