Tolerance

Tolerance means allowing everyone to have their own religious beliefs.

It is key to solving problems like sectarianism.

It is respecting people and allowing them to have their own religious beliefs and practises without interference from others.

For tolerance we need:

- **Communication**: talk, listen and respect.
- **Education**: learn about other people’s beliefs and way of life to understand them better.
- **Government**: make laws to stop unequal treatment of different groups
Ecumenism: a movement to help all Christian Churches become more united & peaceful.

- Helps Christians **focus on what unites them** rather than what divides them.
- They can **pray together** (week of prayer for Christian Unity in January).
- They can join together to **promote awareness of justice issues** (during Lent).
- They can **fundraise together** for charity and share each other’s church buildings when the need arises.
- They can also **attend ecumenical services** (joint act of worship for Christians).
Examples of Ecumenism

- **Ireland:** Corrymeela, Co. Antrim

- **International:** Taize, France
Corrymeela, Northern Ireland

- **Founded by Rev Ray Davey in 1965.**
- It is an Ecumenical community in Co. Antrim.
- Davey took over a house with a view to heal the social, political and religious divisions in Northern Ireland.
- He had been a prisoner of war & recognised the need to establish peace and unity between communities.
- **Corrymeela Today:** offers people from all backgrounds the opportunity to come together to share experiences (conferences & gatherings).
- People from different Christian communities come together to form good relationships, get to know each other in the hope of changing attitudes.
- It has a Mixed Marriage Association for families of people who have married a member of a different religion.
Taize in France

- Founded by Brother Roger Schultz in the 1940s.
- It is an Ecumenical community in France.
- Taize Today: Every summer thousands of young people (aged 17-30) travel to Taize.
- People who work there are from all different Christian communities.
- People visit so they can pray and think about their lives.
- They help out with cooking and cleaning.
- Gather in study groups to learn about Christian Faith.
- Pray together in church – they pray and sing three times a day.
- Discussion groups are held to talk about their life and beliefs. Listen to each other and respect each other.
Christian Unity Week

+ Takes place in **January** every year
+ **Christians** from all backgrounds meet and pray together
+ Parishes organise **Ecumenical Prayer Services** (including people from Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox backgrounds)
+ Organised by clergy & lay people
+ Includes: prayers, music & hymns, Bible readings & a homily (sermon)
Inter Faith Dialogue

Inter-Faith Dialogue: open and honest discussions between the 5 major world religions.

- It involves leaders and members of different world religions meeting and talking about religion.
- They respect and try to understand each other’s beliefs.

Interfaith Dialogue aims to:
- to promote contact between the major world religions
- build trust between people of different faiths
- develop respect and tolerance for different points of view
- to prevent religious conflict
Activities promoting Inter-Faith Dialogue:

- **World Day of Prayer for Peace**: 1986, 1993 and 2002: Pope John Paul II invited religious leaders from all over the World to Assisi in Italy. Met for day of prayer for world peace.

- **Inter-Faith Services** in schools and local communities. On special occasions Christians, Jews, Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists get together to pray in their own way eg. after Sept 11 disaster in 2001

- Inter-Faith Services include: prayers, music & hymns, readings from sacred texts & a homily (sermon)
Inter Faith Dialogue

Organisations promoting Inter-Faith Dialogue:

+ **Council of Christians and Jews** set up in Britain and Ireland to promote good relations.

+ **Three Faiths Forum** set up in Ireland to create links between Christians, Jews and Muslims.