

ENDNOTES

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- 180 Dad obtained copies of Roman coins from the British Museum, inscribed with the words Pontifex Maximus (supreme priest). This was the title given to the Imperial Roman Emperor, Caesar – who, through the procurator, Pontius Pilate, decreed the execution of Christ. RC popes claim to succeed Christ's disciple St Peter, but they also adopt the title of Pontifex Maximus. Dad proposed to ask the priest how the pope could claim both titles. By an extraordinary quirk of history the pope can, and does, represent both Christians and their pagan Roman persecutors. Constantine converted to Christianity in the fourth century, and reconnected the Roman Empire, split under Diocletian 50 years

- earlier. In 380 AD, Emperor Theodosius I made Christianity the official religion, so Christ's executioners became his followers, and the pope represents both. The three crowns of the papal tiara symbolise the Kingdom of Heaven, the Roman Empire and the Vatican. That said, several alternative explanations of its meaning have been published and a dozen or more papal crowns are in existence.
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- 182 CCC, III The Effects of Confirmation, 1303: 'Recall then that you have received the spiritual seal, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, the spirit of holy fear in God's presence.'
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- 184 CCC, II The Sacrament of Holy Orders in the Economy of Salvation, 1548: 'In the person of Christ the Head. In the ecclesial service of the ordained minister, it is Christ himself who is present to his Church as Head of his Body, Shepherd of his flock, high priest of the redemptive sacrifice, Teacher of Truth. This is what the Church means by saying that the priest, by virtue of the sacrament of Holy Orders, acts *in persona Christi Capitis*.' Pius XII, encyclical, *Mediator Dei*: AAS, 39; 1947.
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- 201 These instructions accord with the guidance contained in CCC VII The Acts of the Penitent, 1454, and with the instructions prior to penitential prayers given to school children today, see note 11 above.
- 202 A booth with two compartments in one of which the confessor (priest) sits, behind a separating partition, to hear the confessions of penitents in the other compartment. Some booths have three compartments and the confessor occupies the central compartment. Denominations other than Catholic have diverse arrangements for hearing confessions but all offer God’s absolution from sin. The confessional box was designed by 16th century Cardinal Charles Borromeo, who was alarmed by the many complaints of sexual abuse lodged against priests. Borromeo’s box put a physical partition between penitent and confessor, but priests have continued to abuse their power. Further reading: see note 203 below.
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- 204 Code of Canon Law Book IV, Can. 980: Title IV, The Sacrament of Penance (Cann. 959 – 997) ‘If the confessor has no doubt about the disposition of the penitent, and the penitent seeks absolution, absolution is to be neither refused nor deferred.’
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