Learning Objective:
To learn about the Roman Catholic Church and its teachings during Tudor times.
Think about the UK today.

Which three religions do you think have the most followers in this country?

Do you or your family follow a religion?
The 2011 census in the UK showed that the three main religious groups were:

- Christianity
- Islam
- Hinduism

A further 1/4 of the population described themselves as having no religion.
What about 500 years ago during Tudor times? Would you get the same answer? Why/Why not?

Which religion do you think was followed in Britain during the Tudor period? Think, pair, share with your partner.
The Tudors followed the Christian faith.

During the Tudor period, the population of the country would have to follow the religion of the reigning monarch. This meant that whatever the King or Queen believed, the people had to believe, and they wouldn’t have much choice!

They believed that the King or Queen was chosen by God. Therefore disagreeing with them was a sin and an act of treason. You may have even been executed for it!
At the beginning of the Tudor period, King Henry VII was on the throne. He, like many before him, was a Roman Catholic.

This branch of Christianity was widely believed in across the country.

The Pope, who was over 1000 miles away in Rome, was head of the Roman Catholic Church.
Catholic churches were ornately decorated with gold, jewels, statues, paintings and stained glass windows. This was to show the glory of God and pay respect to him.

Most Catholic churches displayed a crucifix on the specially decorated altar.
A crucifix has the body of Christ upon it. Christians use a crucifix to remember Jesus dying for their sins and his sacrifice for them.

A cross does not have a body on it. Christians use this to remember Jesus’ resurrection.
At the time all Bibles were written in Latin. Only specially educated people, like the priests and bishops who led the churches, were able to read them. The services were also held in Latin, meaning a lot of people didn’t understand them without the help of a priest or bishop.
Like the monarchs, the pope, priests and bishops were thought to have been chosen by God, though they were not as important as a king or queen.

In Tudor times only men were allowed to be leaders within the Church and they were not allowed to be married. They believed they were married to the Catholic Church.

To show their special position, they wore elaborate and expensive clothing. They helped connect people with God and his will.
Part of worshipping as a Roman Catholic is to celebrate Holy Communion. This is a re-enactment of the Last Supper and the sharing of a holy meal.

With the blessing of a priest, Catholics believe that the bread and wine they are being fed become the body and blood of Christ. This is another form of sacrifice he made for them, and helps them remember his sacrifice on the cross. Celebrating this meal brings them closer to God and unites Him with them.
After a Catholic has been baptised, if they commit a sin they must confess their sin to a priest in church in a series of three acts.

First is contrition.
The person must feel sorry for what they have done.

Second is disclosure.
They must admit to doing something wrong.

Third is satisfaction.
They must serve penance. This is doing something to make it right, or to regain the grace of God.
A priest will never reveal what they have heard during a confession. They will offer advice to the person on how to serve penance and make amends after the confession. This might be to ask for forgiveness in prayer or making a special prayer. They may also make things right through service to a neighbour or charity work.

In Tudor times, the priest may have suggested paying money to the church as an act of penance.
Think to yourself...

Has there ever been a time where you’ve done something which wasn’t right?

Did you admit that you had done something wrong?
Are you sorry for what you did?

How did you (or how could you) make it better?
Is saying sorry always enough?

Think, pair, share with your partner