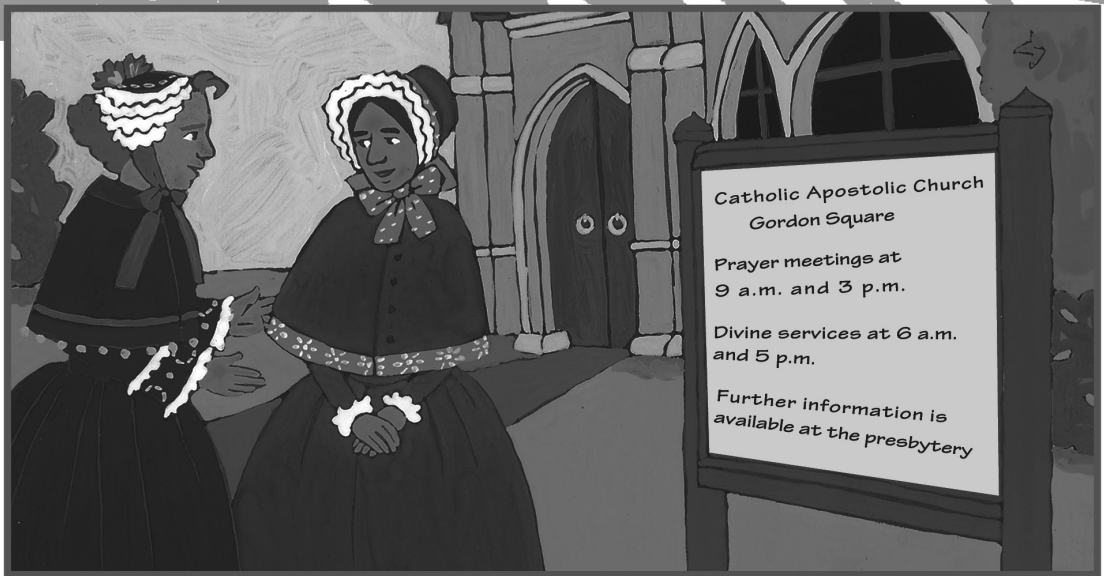


THE DEVELOPMENT
OF THE CATHOLIC APOSTOLIC CHURCH



EXERCISE 1



February 1854: Conspicuous news item in Gordon Square

Two elderly ladies are going for a walk in London's Bloomsbury district, stopping in front of the Gordon Square church.

Read the conversation between Mrs Smith and Mrs Brown with parts given out.



Mrs Smith: Would you believe it? There's a sign here. Did you read what it says?



Mrs Brown: But of course. This has been here for a few days already. I noticed it immediately, and I also inquired about what kind of new church this is. I'm sure you remember this affair with the prophecies and healing the sick! The newspapers were filled with it at the time.



Mrs Smith: Oh, do you mean this Albury tale and Cardale, our lawyer from London? Wasn't it in the papers that he and several other men from various other churches felt they had been called as Apostles for all Christians, and that you can count on Christ's return soon? Well, I don't know.



Mrs Brown: Exactly! And because no one believed them they've formed their own church now.

◀ Theme picture: The central Catholic Apostolic Church at Gordon Square in London was dedicated on 24 December 1853.



Mrs Smith: So that's why it's "Apostolic"! But why "Catholic"? Has it got something to do with the Roman Catholic Church?



Mrs Brown: No, no. I've had that explained to me. The word "catholic" is derived from the Greek word *katholikos*. It means "comprehensive" or "the whole" or also "universal". In this denomination there are Apostles who say they were sent by God for all Christian churches.



Mrs Smith: Do you think we should attend a service sometime?



Mrs Brown: Why not? Yesterday I saw an astonishingly large number of people go in. Here are the starting times. Let's go this evening.

EXERCISE 2



After attending the divine service, the two women have some questions, which they are now discussing with the Angel (rector) of the congregation.



Read the conversation with parts given out.



Mrs Brown: First, I would like to tell you that I liked the divine service very much. What a coincidence that today of all days one of your Apostles was here to conduct the service this evening. Fortunately, we got two empty seats in the front row, so we were able to observe everything carefully.



Angel: I'm happy about that. Were you also able to understand everything?



Mrs Smith: Yes, very well. But tell me, why did the Apostle lay his hands on some of the members at the end and anoint them with oil?

EXERCISE 2



CONTINUED



Angel:

I can believe that. The laying on of hands and anointing is a sacrament or holy act, which only an Apostle performs. This is how the gift of the Holy Spirit is dispensed on those who have been baptized and have reached maturity.



Mrs Brown:

What do you mean by "maturity"?



Angel:

This means that those concerned are at least twenty years old. This rule has its origin in the old covenant. At the age of twenty all male Israelites were able to go to war (Numbers 1: 45). So, at a mature age, the faithful should be aware of their full responsibility before God.



Mrs Smith:

And what's the meaning of the oil?



Angel:

Well, oil for anointing was already well known in the Old Testament. In our church it is used for special holy acts, such as sealing or the ordination of Priests, for example.



Mrs Brown:

Oh, I still have another question. In your church, how are Priests and other ministers ordained?



Angel:

Ordinations of all ministers, from Deacons up, take place through the Apostles or others, who have been commissioned by the Apostles for this. Only the Apostles are sent directly by the Lord and were called through prophets and other believers.

EXERCISE 3

**An unexpected prophecy**

On 30 May 1860, as every year at Pentecost, the Apostles, together with prophets and their closest co-workers, gathered in Albury for a big conference.

Up to that point in time, five Apostles had already passed away:

26 January 1855	Apostle Mackenzie
28 January 1855	Apostle Carlyle
3 November 1855	Apostle Dow
16 September 1859	Apostle Perceval
20 February 1860	Apostle Drummond



At this meeting, the Prophet Geyer, who worked together with Apostle Woodhouse, prophesied the following:

“Yearn for the Apostles who have left your ranks! The Lord gives you two Apostles for the empty seats as a pledge that he will also fill the remaining ones so that you will not break down, namely, Charles Böhm and William Caird who were found to be loyal co-workers.”

Question prompt: How do you think those present reacted?

▲ The Prophet Heinrich Geyer northern Germany

EXERCISE 3



CONTINUED

This is what actually happened afterwards:

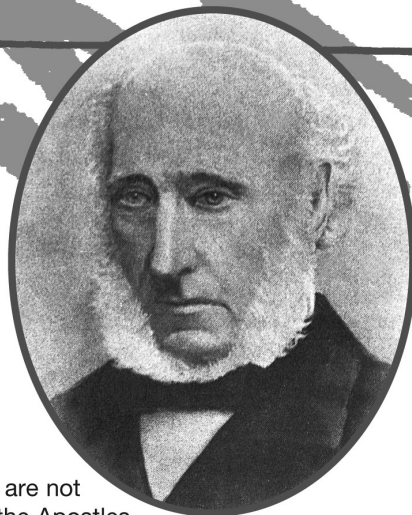
The Apostles ended the meeting to discuss this godly prophecy alone. The various conversations that evening generally expressed happiness about the calling of new Apostles.

The following day the Prophet Geyer was called to Apostle Woodhouse, who asked him the following:

“Are you of the opinion that these two men are now really Apostles?”

Geyer answered, “The Apostles have ordered that prophets are not to form an opinion about the result of their prophecies, but the Apostles are to pass judgement. I only know that these words came from the Holy Spirit, which I am responsible for. Everything else I leave for the Apostles to decide.”

To this Apostle Woodhouse responded, “The Apostles reject this and every other calling of Apostles because the present number of Apostles will be sufficient until Christ’s return.”



▲ Apostle Francis Valentine Woodhouse. He was responsible for northern Germany.

EXERCISE 4



The Bible reports about additional Apostles working in the first Christian congregations. Some of them are cited below.

Read the Bible passages and associate them correctly with the Apostles' names.

The exercise consists of six apostles standing in a row, each holding a sign with their name. Above and below them are six open Bibles, each displaying a specific Bible passage. The goal is to match the apostle to the correct Bible passage.

Apostle	Bible Passage
Saul = Paul	1 THESSALONIANS 1: 1; 2: 7
Barnabas	ROMANS 1: 1
Matthias	ACTS 13: 1-2
JAMES, THE LORD'S BROTHER	1 THESSALONIANS 1: 1; 3: 2
SILVANUS	ACTS 1: 23, 26
TIMOTHY	ACTS 13: 1-2; 14: 14
	GALATIANS 1: 19



CONGREGATION AT GORDON SQUARE CLOSES

Article from *The Guardian* of 23 May 1963

Cathedral for London students

By our own reporter

The Catholic Apostolic Church, Gordon Square, Bloomsbury, London, is to be lent to the Church of England to be used by the Bishop of London's Chaplaincy to University Students. It will become the centre of the work which, for some years, has been carried on at St George's, Bloomsbury Square. Services for university students will start at the Gordon Square church at the beginning of the next academic year in October. Its position in Bloomsbury will, it is hoped, enable the Catholic Apostolic Church to become for London's students the "cathedral" which, in beauty and majesty as well as in size, it resembles. Designed by Raphael Brandon, and built between 1850 and 1853, it has been described as a gem of Gothic architecture, in which the adoption of the Early English style has proved more successful than in any other church of the Gothic revival.

Excommunicated

It dates from the mid-nineteenth century heyday of the sect founded by the followers of the Scottish divine, Edward Irving, who died in 1834, four years after he had been excommunicated by the presbytery of London and the year after he had been deposed from the ministry of the Church of Scotland, in both instances for heresy.

The sect was led by 12 "apostles" who ordained other ministers—including "angels"—who had oversight of local churches.

One of the teachings of the sect was that the Second Coming could be expected soon, and the "apostles" were reluctant to appoint successors.

Irving had for years given much thought to prophecy. By 1828 he was filling churches in London and Edinburgh for his sermons on the Second Coming.

The Catholic and Apostolic Church (its official title) came into being six months after his death, its members seeing themselves as not "in any sense a schism ... from the one Catholic Church, but a separation to a special work of blessing and intercession on behalf of it." It produced its own liturgy in 1842, and the Gordon Square church practised the full ceremonial, with lights, incense, vestments, holy waters, chrism, and sundry other material aids to worship.

THE GUARDIAN Thursday May 23 1963

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