**Sermon Notes – Sunday 27th November**

**‘I believe in the holy catholic Church**

**The communion of saints**

**The forgiveness of sins’**

What word comes to mind when you hear the word, ‘Church’?

How might others in our community respond to the word, ‘Church’ and why is that? In our series on the Apostle’s Creed we are looking at the nature of the Church:

* Holy and catholic
* The communion of saints, past and present
* The carriers of the good news of sins forgiven
1. **What does Ephesians 5:25-27 tell us about the love of Christ for the church and his intended purpose for her?**
* How do we, the people of God fulfil that purpose? What limits our ability to fulfil that purpose?
* What do you understand about the nature of the church being catholic (with a small ‘c’)?
* What has been your experience of being part of or experiencing church in other parts of the world (when on holiday)?
1. **What do you understand by the expression, ‘a communion of saints’?** Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27
* What strikes you about the need for unity in the body?
* Read John 17:20-23 Jesus prayed for his followers to be ‘one’. What threatens our unity and how can we work to protect it?
1. **Why do you think, ‘the forgiveness of sins’ is included in the words of the creed?**
* What is sin? How do you define it? Can we become too casual in our tolerance of sin? In what way does sin:

 **stain, spoil, spread and separate** (as I explained it in the sermon)?

* What does it mean to you to be forgiven?
* How might you share that gift with others through inviting them to one of our Christmas services?

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