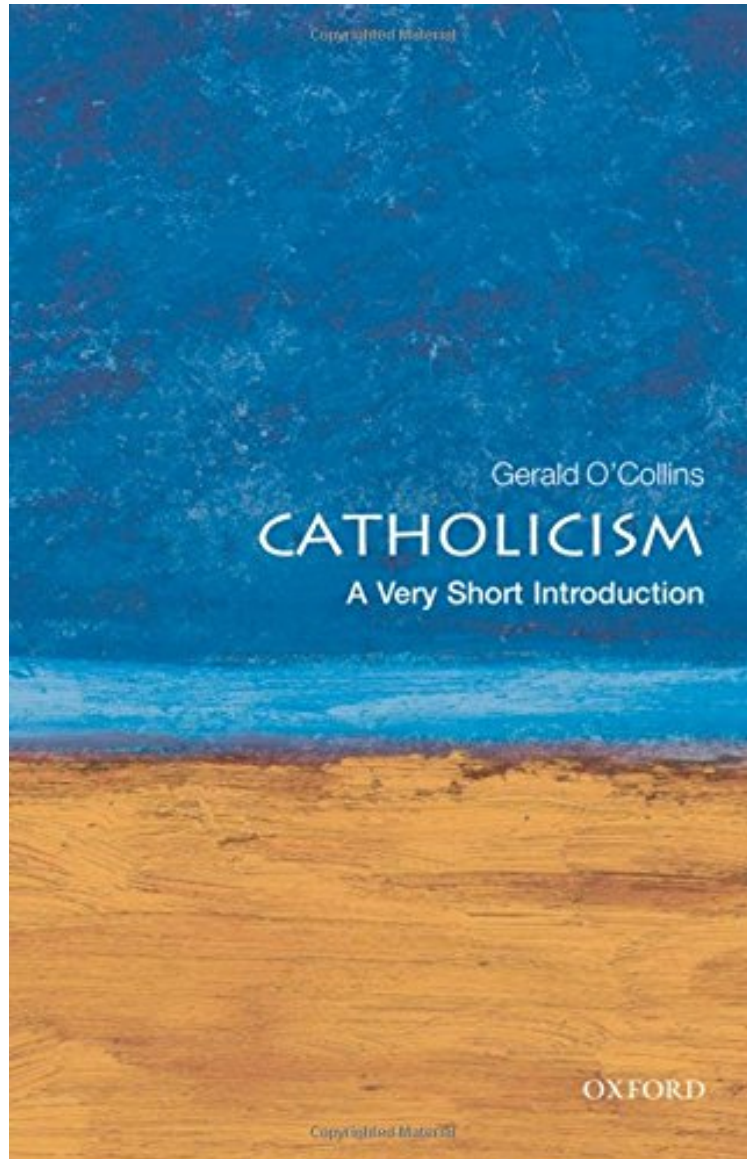


# Catholicism: A Very Short Introduction

*Gerald O'Collins*

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**Gerald O'Collins : Catholicism: A Very Short Introduction** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Catholicism: A Very Short Introduction:

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Introduction series does exactly as the title says; a great way to learn something new today! 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Read This Book By Jesse S Brown These "Very Short Introductions" are worth reading. I didn't become a Catholic through reading it but I feel better about the Catholic church.

Despite a long history of external threats and internal strife, the Roman Catholic Church and the broader phenomenon of Catholicism remain a vast and valuable presence into the third millennium of world history. What are the origins of the Catholic Church? How has Catholicism changed and adapted to such vast and diverse cultural influences over the centuries? What great challenges does the Catholic Church now face in the twenty-first century, both within its own life and in its relation to others around the world? In this Very Short Introduction, Gerald O'Collins draws on the best current scholarship available to answer these questions and to present, in clear and accessible language, a fresh introduction to the largest and oldest institution in the world. O'Collins explains clearly and concisely where the Catholic Church comes from, what it believes and practices, the sacraments and the Church's moral teaching, and where it is heading. The book also includes a timeline of events in the history of Catholicism and useful suggestions for further reading. About the Series: Combining authority with wit, accessibility, and style, Very Short Introductions offer an introduction to some of life's most interesting topics. Written by experts for the newcomer, they demonstrate the finest contemporary thinking about the central problems and issues in hundreds of key topics, from philosophy to Freud, quantum theory to Islam.

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