



### Modern Christian Martyrs from the Abbey's West Front, 1998

11-18 activity – Christianity in 10 objects



Take a look at this statue.

Do you recognise who is in this picture? Examine his clothes. Does that give you any clues?

Focus in on the hands, which are in two very different positions. What do you think each position means?

This image shows one of the modern Christian martyrs that stand above the door on the West Front of Westminster Abbey. Martyrs are people that stood up for causes they believed in. Their Christian faith shaped how they understood the world and what was important to them. The modern martyrs were people who believed that the world could be better and wanted to create change in the world.

#### Talk with others

What makes martyrs admirable? Why are their stories important? Who has power in the stories of martyrs? Can someone choose to be a martyr? What choices are available to martyrs when it comes to their beliefs? What choices are available to us when it comes to our beliefs and values?



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### **Activity: Create an artwork about your values**

Martyrs often have similar characteristics and ways of behaving. This might be about how treat other people, such as showing empathy, or about the standards they hold themselves too, such as always being honest. These traits are called values.

Think about how your friends or family would describe your traits. Are you kind? Do you consider other people's opinions and feelings? Do you think about how your behaviour affects others? Are you a good friend?

Why not create an artwork as a reminder to yourself of your values? You could use a phrase or a slogan as part of your design. Rhyme or alliteration might help make it more memorable.

Think about how you can represent your values. This could be a colour or texture, a figure or symbol.

Remember, artwork doesn't have to be hung on a wall. You might create something that could be easily carried, like a badge or a placard, or something which exists online.

### **Extension**

Reflect on your experience of making this artwork. Do you feel more or less connected to your values? How do you feel when you look at the artwork? Has it helped you connect to anyone with similar values?

Share your experience on Facebook or Twitter using #WAbbeyFun