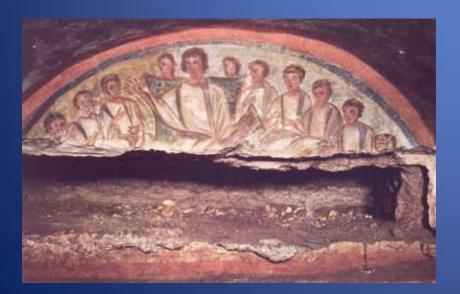


### Early Christian Catacombs Suzie Markland Session #5





### What is a catacomb?

Catacombs are subterranean human passageways for religious practice. Any chamber used as a burial place can be described as a catacomb, although the term is more commonly associated with the Roman empire.

# History of catacombs



#### Appian Way, Rome

How the transition from cremation to burial resulted in the creation of catacombs

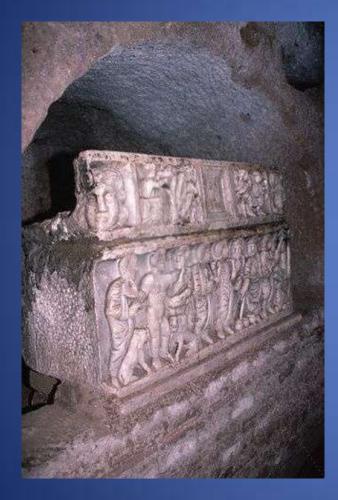
- 1. Practical necessity
- 2. Strengthen Christian community
- 3. Belief in resurrection

### Uses of catacombs



### Place for pilgrimage- Catacomb of San Sebastiano.

## Catacomb layout



Sarcophagus in the catacombs of Saint Callistus in Rome



Arcosolium in DomitiliaTomb Of Veneranda



Loculiin San Callisto

### Catacomb symbolism & decoration



Rome, Catacomb of St. Sebastian- funeral inscription with Christian symbols. Rome, Catacombs of St Marcellinus and Peter-Jonah is vomited out.



### Sacromonte, Spain



Left- St Cecilio, the patron saint of Grenada, Spain Below- The forged Los Plomos del Sacromonte lead plates.



### Summary

When? Catacombs first emerged in the first half of the second century when Christians began burying their dead underground.

Why? They believed in burial as opposed to cremation due to their beliefs in resurrection and to provide a place for Christian symbolism and unity. Often used simple symbols and frescoes to depict biblical messages and scenes.

Used for? In addition to burials, catacombs were used as places of pilgrimage and are also argued to have been hiding places for persecuted Christians.