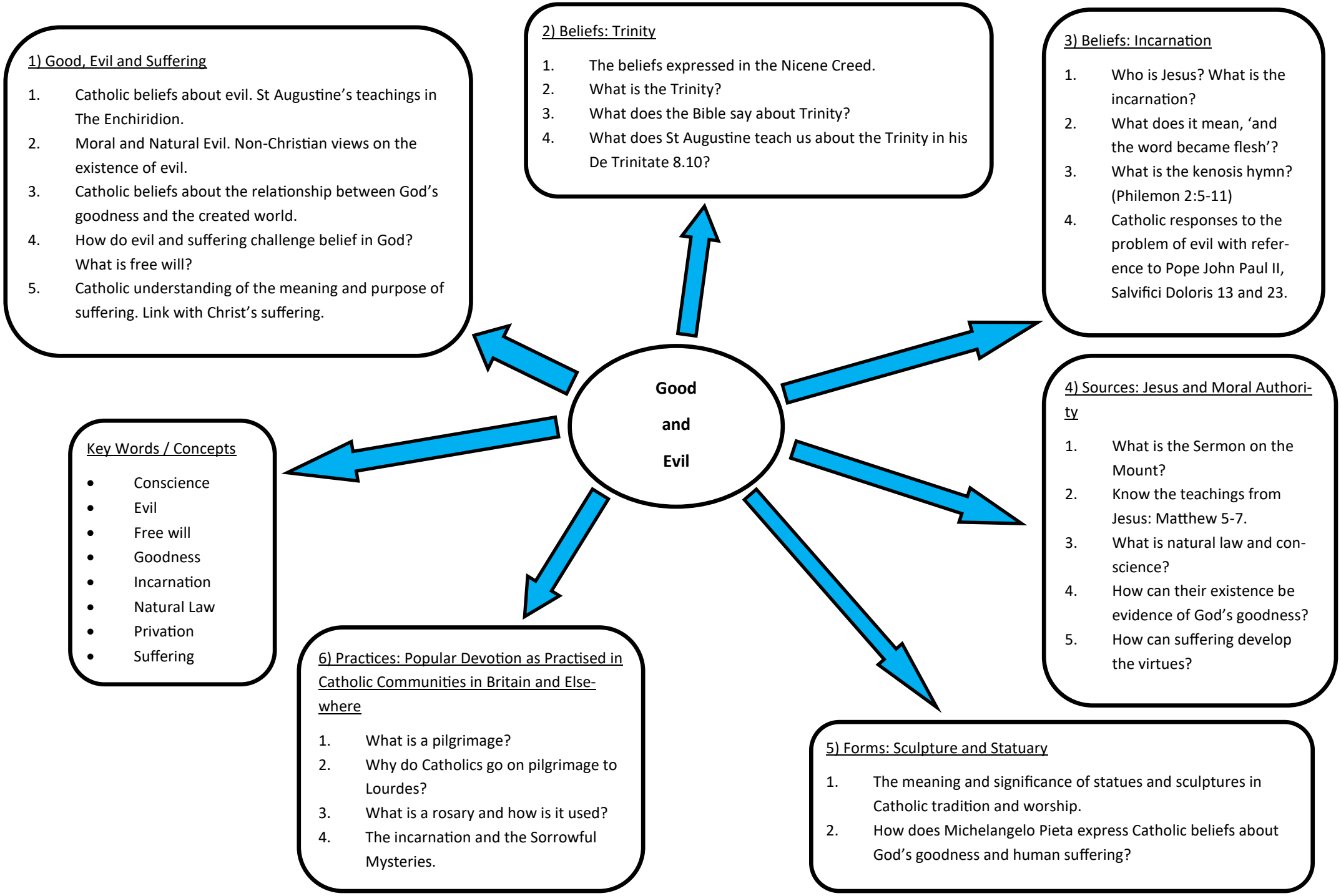
Good and Evil
1) Good, Evil and Suffering
1. Catholic beliefs about evil. St Augustine's teachings in The Enchiridion.
2. Moral and Natural Evil. Non-Christian views on the existence of evil.
3. Catholic beliefs about the relationship between God's goodness and the created world.
4. How do evil and suffering challenge belief in God? What is free will?
5. Catholic understanding of the meaning and purpose of suffering. Link with Christ's suffering.
2) Beliefs: Trinity
1. The beliefs expressed in the Nicene Creed.
2. What is the Trinity?
3. What does the Bible say about Trinity?
4. What does St Augustine teach us about the Trinity in his De Trinitate 8.10?
3) Beliefs: Incarnation
1. Who is Jesus? What is the incarnation?
2. What does it mean, 'and the word became flesh'?
3. What is the kenosis hymn? (Philemon 2:5-11)
4. Catholic responses to the problem of evil with reference to Pope John Paul II, Salvifici Doloris 13 and 23.
Key Words / Concepts
• Conscience
• Evil
• Free will
• Goodness
• Incarnation
• Natural Law
• Privation
• Suffering
4) Sources: Jesus and Moral Authority
1. What is the Sermon on the Mount?
2. Know the teachings from Jesus: Matthew 5-7.
3. What is natural law and conscience?
4. How can their existence be evidence of God's goodness?
5. How can suffering develop the virtues?
6) Practices: Popular Devotion as Practised in Catholic Communities in Britain and Elsewhere
1. What is a pilgrimage?
2. Why do Catholics go on pilgrimage to Lourdes?
3. What is a rosary and how is it used?
4. The incarnation and the Sorrowful Mysteries.
5) Forms: Sculpture and Statuary
1. The meaning and significance of statues and sculptures in Catholic tradition and worship.
2. How does Michelangelo Pieta express Catholic beliefs about God's goodness and human suffering?