

HOW TO BE A LAPSED CATHOLIC

1. STOP GOING TO CHURCH ON SUNDAYS This is the quickest and most effective way to become a lapsed Catholic. Begin in your teenage years. Refuse to get up for Mass on Sunday morning when your parents tell you. Roll over and pull the duvet over your head and scream that you aren't going and you're never going again.
2. HAVE AN IDEOLOGICAL FIGHT WITH THE CHURCH Pick out a ruling and find fault with it. Birth control and abortion are topical. Study the issue thoroughly. Talk to your priest and tell him why you can no longer be a practising Catholic. Repeat what you tell your priest to friends at cocktail parties and clerks at check-out counters. Insist that this is the reason you left the Church and not that you really are not too crazy about going to a penitential service.
3. JOIN ANOTHER RELIGION Be careful not really to join another religion but act like you have. Tell everyone you have decided that New Age is more in tune with the Cosmos. Check Church rulings carefully so you can get back in if the Second Coming gets under way.
4. BECOME AGNOSTIC This is the intellectual approach. Deduce back to the first cause and become incredibly confused. Cease attending all Church functions with the exception of Bingo until you get "faith".
5. DISLIKE YOUR NEW PRIEST You loved Father John or Father Peter and the new guy talks too loud or too soft and is too Italian, too Irish, too English, or too Zulu and never comes to visit or never stops to talk after Mass.
6. HAVE THE CHURCH REFUSE TO MARRY YOU Pick out an atheist and go to the marriage preparation classes. Insist you have no intention of raising your children as Catholics. Tell them you go at it like rabbits every chance you get and the only reason you want to get married in the church is to please your future mother-in-law. Storm out in a huff when they tell you that you will need some further counselling before you get married in the Church.