

metaphysical

supernatural;
beyond that which is
real or physical

Methodists

a protestant denomination that
came into being through the
preachings of John and Charles
Wesley and George Whitefield in
the 1700s

mysticism

the search for an
experience of oneness
with the supreme being

nominal

in name only; not
real or actual

pagan

an ancient polytheist

pantheism

the view that God is present in everything and everything is God

parish

the local administrative unit, with church and ordained minister, made up of one or more congregations and having fixed geographical boundaries

pluralism

the acceptance that more than one faith has validity

polytheism

the belief that there are many gods

Presbyterians

a non-conformist Scottish denomination who believe that presbyters or elders should lead each church

prophesying

the speaking of a prophet; the foretelling of future events

reconciliation

the process of restoring friendly relations

referendum

the referral of political questions to the electorate

reincarnation

the belief that the soul of a person can be reborn into another lifetime

Roman Catholic

the largest and oldest branch of Christianity; the Church of Rome

sectarian

a narrow and excessive allegiance to a particular religious group

secularism

a belief system that rejects religion, or the belief that religion should not be part of the affairs of the state or part of public education

syncretisation

the blending of religious or other beliefs

synod

an official gathering of Christian clergy who meet and discuss church affairs and policies

terra nullius

a British law claiming that empty land may be lawfully settled and colonised by the Crown

theologian

a person skilled in the study of religion

tjukurrba

an aboriginal word for the 'dreaming'

totem

a natural object, especially an animal or bird, used as an emblem of a clan or individual

trinity

the Christian understanding of God as Three in One: Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Uniting Church

a denomination formed in the 1970s joining the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian churches

Vatican

the smallest independent state in the world, where the Pope and Roman Catholic Church authorities are based

xenophobia

a deep-seated fear of strangers and people that are 'different' or foreign
