

alcheringa

an aboriginal word
for the 'dreaming'

atheism

the rejection of belief in
God; the belief that
there is no higher being

bishop

a member of the highest
rank of clergy,
responsible for leading a
Christian community

census

an official counting of
the population asking
about ages, religions,
occupations etc.

chaplains

clergy or lay people
authorised to perform special
religious or pastoral functions
to a specific group e.g. school
or hospital

clergy

a group comprising all three orders of ordained ministry; bishops, priests and deacons

corroboree

an Australian aboriginal festive occasion with ceremonial rituals and dancers, often re-enacting myths

creed

a formal but concise statement of religious belief

denominations

large groups of religious congregations united under a common faith and name and organised under a single administration

diocese

a subdivision of the church under the care of a bishop

dispossess

to deprive someone of their possessions

doctrines

beliefs that are set forth by an authority as binding on all members

dogma

a principle, especially as laid down by the authority of a church

ecumenism

the movement towards unity of all the Christian churches

enlightenment

an 18th century European movement which celebrated science and philosophy over religion and superstition

esoteric

a philosophy or belief meant only for the initiated

evangelical

refers to protestant churches who believe in the centrality of the Bible for Christian doctrine and ethics

exorcism

the expelling of evil spirits by the use of holy names

fundamentalism

a belief in the absolute truth of a religious text

genocide

the extermination of a race of people

hijab

the veil worn by
Muslim women

infallibility

exempt from error

kinship

the claiming of a
blood or spiritual
family connection
