



Useful Books, Bibles and Resources

There are a huge number of resources available to help you in your own Scriptural exploration, as well as to help unpack the Bible with young people... here are some of the ones that we have found the most useful at NYMO.

BOOKS

'Your Bible', by Noel Donnelly

This is described as "the essential companion for all Catholics wishing to learn more about the Bible", giving information in bite-sized portions

'A Bird's Eye View of the Bible', by Mary Williams

A guide for beginners, which looks at the Bible in themes

'Take and Read' by Adrian Graffy

A fantastic series that covers the Gospels and Acts in a new way

'The Writings of the New Testament' by Luke Timothy Johnson

Looks at the meaning of the New Testament writings for today

'Jesus of Nazareth' parts 1 and 2 by Pope Benedict XVI

Aim to restore Jesus' true identity as discovered in the Gospels

'Eat This Book' by Eugene Peterson

Looks at developing a loving relationship with the Bible

'The Drama of Scripture' by Bartholomew and Goheen

Gives a run down of the whole story of the Bible in an accessible way

'Whose Bible is it? A History of Scripture through the Ages' by Jaroslav Pelikan

A detailed look at how the Bible came to be in the way it is nowadays - good for answering tricky questions!

'The Bible Jesus Read' by Philip Yancey

A great introduction to the Old Testament for people who don't really know where to start.

'The Gift of Scripture' - Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

Clearly explains Catholic teaching on the Bible, and gives a short introduction to most of the books of the Bible!

Also, anything written by NT Wright is usually excellent, and helps get to grips with particular books of the Bible - try his '..... for everyone' series (ie 'Mark for Everyone', 'Luke for Everyone' etc)

BIBLES

It's worth noting that there are a wide range of different translations of the bible. Within the Catholic community we have historically used the **Jerusalem Bible** translation and will be familiar with this as it is used in the Liturgy. The **New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)** is currently thought to be a closer translation to the original Hebrew and Greek.

You may like to read the same passage in a more 'fluid' translation such as the **Good News** or **New Living Translations** or even a paraphrase such as **'The Message'** or **'The Street Bible'** (which aren't strictly speaking Bibles, but are useful for re-hearing the essential message again). There is also the **'Student Life Application Bible'**, in the **New Living Translation (NLT)** which has inspirational stories and insights, but also a good amount of background information about each of the books etc. Unfortunately, you won't be able to get hold of a copy with the full Catholic Bible (we have slightly more Old Testament books recognized as authoritative scripture), but we think it's worth the compromise, alongside a standard Catholic Bible.

Elsewhere, see if you can get hold of any kind of **'Youth Bible'** with extra notes and explanations to help readers think. There is a **'Catholic Youth Bible'** published in the States and available in the UK (which avoids the problem of missing texts!), although some of the translation and language feels quite American.

We've also found **'The New Testament'** translated by **Nicholas King** to be an excellent new translation, with interspersed theological reflections, and a really fresh-sounding approach.

STUDY GUIDES

for young people (all published by Scripture Union):

- **'SUBmerge'** is nicely laid out and gives a variety of ways to respond to the text – good for younger teens
- **'Air Lock'** is aimed at more committed mid-teens, and gives relevant life stories
- **'Encounter with God'** is less fussy, and more appropriate for older teens upwards

for adults:

- Many Catholics find **'Magnificat'** or **'Bible Alive'** helpful as a daily prayer guide (both available in many parishes, and in Catholic bookshops)
- Elsewhere, there are tons of different daily reading guides available from Christian Bookshops – we especially like **'Encounter with God'** (published by Scripture Union) and **'New Daylight'** and **'Guidelines'** (both published by Bible Reading Fellowship)