

school of the word



An introduction to the Bible, based on the Sunday readings

What is it?

An introduction to the Bible. The Word of God was never more important - pastorally, liturgically, spiritually. **SCHOOL OF THE WORD** addresses this need in a practical way by being focused on the Sunday readings.

Content

The Gospel reading is the most important in the minds of most people and the priest. This programme begins with six modules on the Gospel readings. Because of the special link between the

first reading and the Gospel, the second six modules explore the Old Testament, as it is offered on Sundays. Finally, the third set of six modules presents the second reading—mostly St Paul.

Close to the Sunday experience

The modules follow a planned sequence, of course, but there is considerable flexibility, so that the readings coming up at the time of teaching are used. In this way, it is hoped to encourage the participants by staying as close as possible to their regular experience of the readings at Mass.

1 The Gospel

6 modules

Contents

The current context of faith
How the readings “work”
What is a Gospel?
The Gospel of Mark
Who is the “Jesus” of Mark?
Mark on being a disciple

2 The Old Testament

6 modules

Contents

Our roots in the Jewish Bible
How the OT readings “work”
The Pentateuch
History of Israel
Prayer: the Psalms
Justice: the Prophets

3 The Epistle

6 modules

Contents

Introduction to St Paul
How the 2nd reading “works”
St Paul and women
1 Thessalonians (1)
1 Thessalonians (2)
Romans

Has it been used anywhere?

Quite a few parishes and clusters have experienced the full programme over 18 months. It is being offered in the Autumn in Ballinteer, Rush, Kilquade, Donaghmede, Celbridge and Ballyboden.

How to use it?

To get the best value out the programme, you need about 40 or 50 people. Ideally, this could be done jointly between *neighbouring parishes*, or in a *cluster* or at *deanery* level. There is no charge.

Rolling it out

Any 6 modules could be delivered in different ways:

- (a) six evenings, once a week
- (b) three evenings, with two presentations at a time
- (c) two or three Saturday mornings

This is a taught course and for each session there is a handout. Early booking is practical.

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