

AN EVENING

FOR PARISH

READERS

Brian Purfield



OUTLINE

- **PART I: Liturgy & Sacred Scripture**
- *The Liturgy of the Word*
- *The Lectionary*
- *The Liturgical Year*
- *God's Word in our Daily lives*

OUTLINE

- **PART II: The Bible**
- *What is the Bible?*
- *What's in the Bible?*
- *Resources for Deepening Understanding*

LITURGY & SACRED SCRIPTURE

- **The Liturgy of the Word**
- **Vatican II's *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*:**

“[Christ] is present in his Word, since it is he himself who speaks when the holy Scriptures are read in the Church.” [SC 9]

LITURGY & SACRED SCRIPTURE

- **The Lectionary**
- *“The treasures of the Bible are to be opened up more lavishly, so that a richer share in God’s word may be provided for the faithful. In this way a more representative portion of holy Scripture will be read to the people in the course of a prescribed number of years.” (SC 51)*

LITURGY & SACRED SCRIPTURE

- *3 year cycle of readings:*
- *Year A: Matthew*
- *Year B: Mark & John*
- *Year C: Luke*

- **First Reading: OT / Acts of Apostles**
- **Second Reading: NT Letters**
- **Gospel**

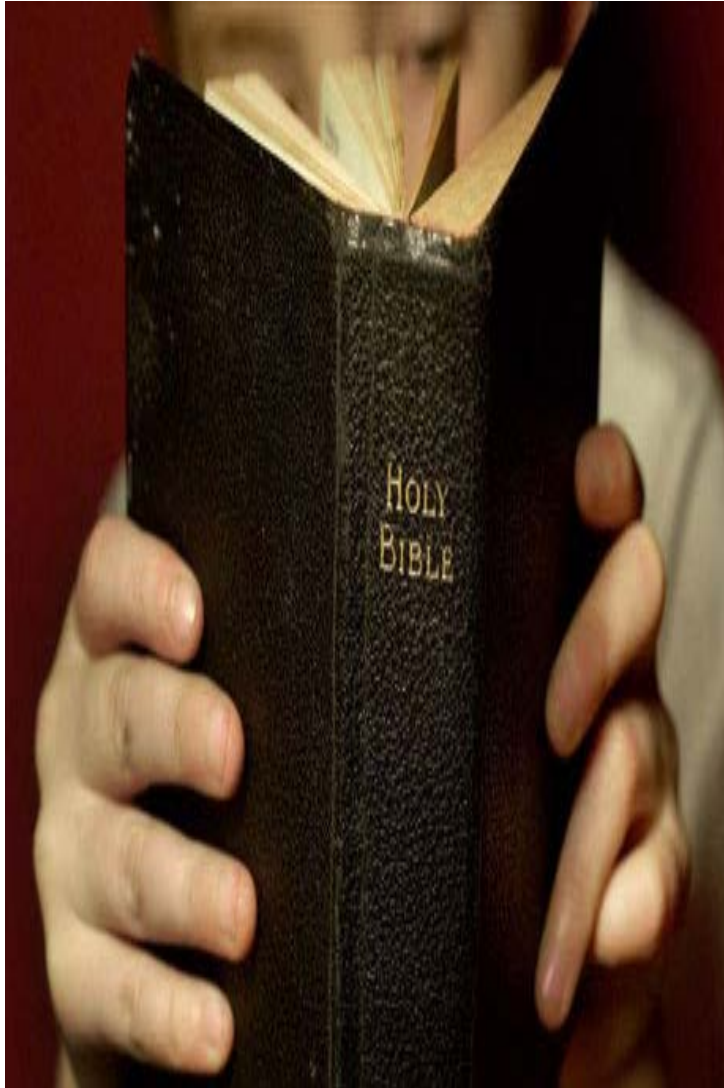
LITURGICAL YEAR

- The goal of liturgical renewal:
“fully conscious, & active participation in liturgical celebrations” (SC 14).
- **Chronos** – the time we mark by clocks & calendars
- **Kairos** – the eternal moment of God’s saving work

GOD'S WORD IN OUR DAILY LIVES

- *“The surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus”* (Phil 3:8).
- *“an empty preacher of the Word of God outwardly, who is not a listener to it inwardly”* (Dei Verbum 25).
- *“When you read the Bible, God speaks to you; when you pray, you speak to God”* (Verbum Domini 86).

THE BIBLE



- **What is the Bible?**
- **What's in the Bible?**

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

- *“All Scripture is inspired by God & useful for refuting error, for guiding people’s lives & teaching them to be upright. This is how someone who is dedicated to God becomes fully equipped & ready for any good work.”*
(2 Tim 3:16-17)

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

- *"Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction."* (**Deus Caritas Est I, 2005**).
- **The Word of God in human language**
Dei Verbum 13

TWO GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **The Bible is both the Word of God & the words of human beings**
- **The Bible is not a book – it's a library.**

BIBLE - LIBRARY

- **Biblical authors use:**

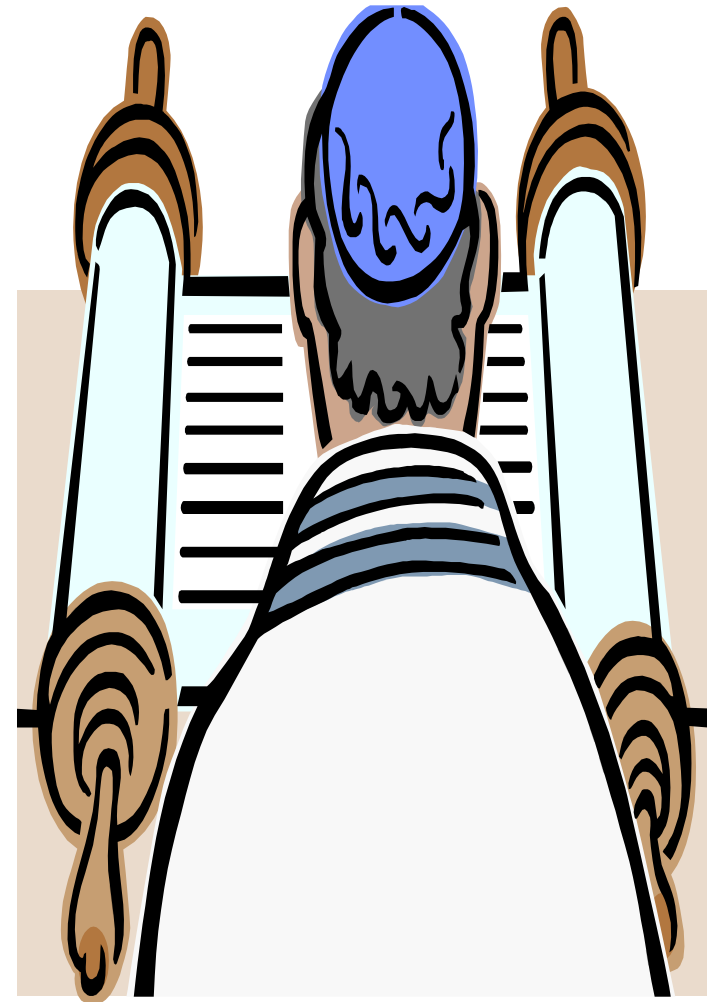
- **History**
- **Poetry**
- **Prophecy**
- **Didactic fiction**
- **Myth**
- **Gospel**



THE CONTENT OF THE OT

TaNaK

- **THE LAW** – *Torah*
- **THE PROPHETS**
– *Nevi'im*
- **THE WRITINGS** -
Ketuvim



WHAT'S IN THE NT?

- **A collection of 27 writings**
- **Different literary genres**
 - **4 narratives about Jesus – Gospels**
 - **1 narrative on the early church – Acts**
 - **21 letters**
 - **1 Apocalypse**
- **Composed approx. 50-120 AD**

USEFUL RESOURCES?

- **A Bible!**
- **Benedict XVI, *Verbum Domini* [The Word of the Lord], 2010**
- **Dept. of Evangelisation & Catechesis (BCEW), *The Word of the Lord: Discovering Verbum Domini*, CTS 2013 – A Study Guide for parishes to promote Scripture. [£4.95]**
- **BCEW, *The Gift of Scripture*, CTS, 2005; 2010 – Understanding *Dei Verbum* & other Church documents on Scripture. Re-issued to coincide with *Verbum Domini*. [£3.95]**
- **Eileen Clare Grant, *Understanding the Story of the Bible: An Introduction to Salvation History*, CTS, 2013 [£2.50]**
- **Daniel J Harrington SJ, *How Do Catholics Read the Bible?* Sheed & Ward Books, 2005.**

USEFUL RESOURCES?

- **Online Bible:** www.catholic.org/bible/
- **Bible Search Engine:** www.bible.catholic.net/
- **Introduction to the Bible:** A PowerPoint presentation on the background & basics of the Bible: www.saintpaulsvergennes.org/
- **A very useful website is the Electronic New Testament Educational Resources by Felix Just SJ:** www.catholic-resources.org/

USEFUL RESOURCES?

- **Scripture from Scratch: A Journey through the Bible**

Tuesday, 18 February 2014 from 19:00 to 20:30 (GMT)

