

Number	Talk(s) and Series & Speaker	Description	Number of sessions
<p>Single/individual talks could all be expanded if required into a morning or afternoon session for a Saturday or Sunday. This might also be more manageable/attractive for parishes if they want to put on one-off events rather than a longer course.</p>			
<p>Bible Studies</p>			
1	Celebrating Paul in the Pauline Year by Fr Peter Edmonds SJ	<p>Titles of sessions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conversion or Call? The 'revelation to Paul' on the Damascus Road. 2. A letter for all: his earliest and best? The First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians. 3. The power of God for salvation: the gospel of the Letter to the Romans 	3
2	Finding Your Way through the Old Testament by Brian Purfield	<p>For some the Hebrew scriptures are a closed book. The Old Testament is in fact a library of seventy-two books: poetry, songs, letters, allegories, history, law and lots more! In this talk/short series, Brian Purfield outlines the major and minor books and offers a plan for a pleasurable and profitable reading of the Old Testament. The talk/series looks at the four major sections of the Old Testament: the Pentateuch, the Historical Books, the Wisdom Books and the Prophetic Books. Hopefully making God's Word more familiar and less bewildering.</p>	2-3
3	Reading the Scriptures and preparing for Holy Week by Fr John Deehan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When we read the Scriptures 2. Scripture Readings in Context <p>These two talks are suitable for people who may be starting to read the Scriptures in Lent and find them perplexing. The first talk tries to clear the ground - what do we think we are doing when we read the bible? We look at the Scriptures as God's word, his self-revelation; the importance of reading the Scripture in context; the stories at the heart of the Old Testament and New Testament, and conclude by considering what the great Saints and teachers of the Church have said about the Bible. In the second talk we compare and contrast the account of Jesus' Passion that we will hear on Palm Sunday with the account in John that is read on Good Friday. We consider why they are different and how each gospel tells the story with quite different emphases.</p>	2
4	Talks on Mark, the Gospel for 2009 by Peter Edmonds SJ	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The drama that is the gospel of Mark. 2. The portrait of Jesus in the gospel of Mark. 3. The Disciples in the Gospel of Mark 4. The 'Little People' in Mark's gospel. 	1-4
5	Talks on St Paul by Peter Edmonds SJ	<p>The talks available on Paul are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encounter with Christ at his conversion. "God was pleased to reveal his Son to me". 2. The First Letter to the Thessalonians. The First Christian writing; "Comfort one another with These Words". 3. The Letter to the Galatians. "Most free lord of all... most dutiful servant of all"; the Freedom and Obligation of the Christian. 4. The Letter to the Philippians. "Have this mind among yourselves which was in Christ Jesus". 5. The First and Second Letters to the Corinthians. Libertines, Enthusiasts, Ascetics; The Marks of a True Apostle. 6. The Letter to the Romans. "Who will Deliver Me from This Body of Death?" 	1-6
6	The Bible and biblical themes by Fr Peter Burrows	<p>Fr. Peter is able to offer a variety of talks on Sacred Scripture - how to read it, specific biblical books (Jonah, Ruth, etc.), parables of the New Testament, Old Testament theology, Jesus the Messiah, principles of Creation and the Gospel of John - or any other theme desired.</p>	1-9
7	The Bible and biblical themes by Rev. D. J. Heimer	<p>Fr. John is able to offer a variety of talks on the New Testament.</p>	1-4
8	The Bible and its place in Christian Life by Fr Peter Edmonds SJ	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the Bible? 2. The Bible in the Catholic Church? 3. Praying the Bible. 4. The Bible in the Liturgy. <p>These talks are for Catholics who want to know more about the Bible but do not know how to approach it and may even feel threatened by it. The aim is to encourage a knowledge and love of the Bible that will bear fruit in a richer Christian life. The first aim is to learn what sort of book the Bible is and what it contains. We then consider what the Catholic Church has been teaching about the Bible over the last century. We then examine how the Bible has been used in personal prayer and how we can pray it in our own lives. Finally, we discuss how the Church uses the Bible in its public worship and how this can be made more profitable for each of us.</p>	1-4

9	The Book of Revelation by Fr Peter Edmonds SJ	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The setting of the book and seven letters. 2. Visions of heaven and of Christ. 3. The seals, the trumpets and the bowls. 4. The victory of God and his saints and the new Jerusalem. <p>The Book of Revelation is little known by Catholics. It is however the final book of our Bible, even its final chapter, and it is not a good idea to ignore the final chapter of a book. Many are put off by its extravagant imagery, its violence and general aura of mystery. But once the situation of the author and his audience is understood and the type of writing recognised, the book has much to teach us today about God, about Christ, about the Church, and about Christian fidelity in a hostile world. An informed understanding of the book, based on a step by step reading, helps us deal with its frequent misuse for religious and political purposes.</p>	1-4
10	The Gospel of John in the Lectionary by Fr John Deehan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. John the Easter Gospel. Community and Storyline. 2. John at Christmas. John in ordinary Time (chapters 1 and 2). 3. John in Lent and Holy Week. 4. John in Eastertide. <p>This course can be a series of 8 one hour talks, 4 two hour sessions, or modified to suit parish needs. It aims to offer the audience some background and context, both biblical and liturgical, from which to hear and understand the passages from the Fourth Gospel read during the major moments of the church year, at Christmas, Lent and Easter. Of all the Gospels, John helps us meet the risen Lord through story and symbolism. We will touch on many of the memorable passages that we listen to at Mass as the liturgical year proceeds.</p>	3
11	The Gospel of Mark by Brian Purfield	<p>The Gospel Readings for Year B of the liturgical year (2009) are taken from Mark. This talk/series of talks is an opportunity to study, reflect and pray on some key passages of this Gospel in order to understand the Gospel more deeply and the challenge of discipleship today.</p>	1-4
12	The history of Biblical Exegesis and Interpretation by Fr Richard Parsons		1
13	The year of Luke in the Lectionary by Fr John Deehan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The four gospels - 4 manuals for different aspects of the process of Christian initiation. The Community of Luke. 2. Luke: the Gospel for Mission, Advent and Christmas. 3. The Gospel Readings for Sundays 3-12 in Ordinary Time. The Readings for Lent. 4. Sundays 13-33 in Ordinary Time. The Passion and Resurrection narratives. <p>A series of 4 talks that could be modified to suit parish needs. The main themes are that Luke's God is a faithful God and that Luke's community is one preparing for mission to the wider world. To be ready for mission the community must be ready to cross boundaries and embrace strange and alien people, as the Lord did.</p>	1-4
Faith			
14	Contemplating Jesus with Pope Benedict XVI by Fr T. McGuckin STD	<p>Pope Benedict XVI's book, <i>Jesus of Nazareth</i> (published 2007), is a surprising bestseller. His study/contemplation of Jesus begins with an absorbing Introduction: "An Initial Reflection on the Mystery of Jesus". Here the Holy Father writes in a refreshingly personal way. The body of the work proceeds to consider Jesus "From the Baptism in the Jordan to the Transfiguration". We are presented with numerous very spiritual and practical insights. This unusual publication of a Pope truly deserves our consideration.</p> <p>The Person of Christ, Mary and the Saints, the core Kerygma proclaiming Christ, evangelisation today</p>	1
15	Credo. Basics of Catholic Belief. by Fr Digby Samuels		1
16	Why be a Catholic? By Fr S. Wang	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The beauty of the Catholic Church: Jesus has not left us alone. 2. The beauty of Catholic teaching: Jesus has not left us without his guidance. 3. The beauty of Catholic lives: Many different vocations, many different saints. Many people are puzzled or even scandalised by the Catholic Church. It can seem like a big institution with a lot of money and power, but with very little relevance to real Christian life. This course will look at the true significance of the Catholic Church: It is the place where Christians find their true home; where they are nourished by Christ's Word and by his Sacraments; where his authentic teaching is handed on and interpreted. It is the place where Christians discover their deepest vocation, to love God and their neighbour, and to serve him in some particular vocation. 	4
17	Knowing God by Fr S. Wang	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Knowing God through Reason and Revelation. 2. Knowing God through the Scriptures. 3. Knowing God through the Christian Tradition and through the Church. <p>Many people wonder whether there is a God and how we can know him. This course looks at the Catholic understanding of how we come to know God. We can know about his existence by using our reason; but we only know him fully because he has stepped into our world and revealed himself to us in Jesus Christ. This unique revelation is not just a thing of the past, it is handed on to each age, in the Scriptures, in the Christian Tradition, and in the ongoing teaching of the Church.</p>	3

18	Christology through Art by D. Klein	Using Art, the participants will reflect on the nature of Jesus Christ, particularly with how the divine and human are related in his person. Although this study of the inter-relationship of these two natures is the foundation of Christology, some essential sub-topics will be included: the Incarnation, the resurrection, and the salvific work of Jesus.	1
19	Mary ark of the covenant by Chris Connor	In this talk we shall explore how Mary's role is already foreshadowed in the Old Testament, and how she exercises her maternal intercession in the Church	1
20	Peter Prime Minister of Christ's Kingdom by Chris Connor	The Church teaches that "The New Testament is hidden in the Old, and the Old Testament is only fully unveiled in the New". In this talk we shall look at how the Old Testament reveals the intention of Christ that the role of Peter was to continue throughout the history of the Church	1
21	The place of the Catholic Church in God's plan by Fr. Stephen Wang	Many people are puzzled or even scandalised by the Catholic Church. It just seems like a big institution with a lot of money and power, but with very little relevance to real Christian life. This course will look at the true significance of the Catholic Church: It is the place where Christians find their true home; where they are nourished by Christ's Word and by his Sacraments; where his authentic teaching is handed on and interpreted. It is the place where Christians discover their deepest vocation, to love God and their neighbour, and to serve him in some particular vocation.	1
22	Does God Exist? Reasons for believing by Fr. Stephen Wang	Many people wonder whether there is a God. And some believers answer that we must simply have faith - as if our belief in God is simply a blind leap of faith, without any rational foundation. The Catholic tradition, on the other hand, insists that there are good reasons why we should be open to God's existence, and these reasons will make sense to those who are interested in finding answers to the big questions. This talk will present some of the most important arguments for God's existence, and show how these arguments continue to be relevant in a world saturated with knowledge about the human person and the universe.	1
23	What did Vatican II say? by Fr. Dominic Robinson SJ	1. Vatican II on the Church 2. Vatican II on Faith and Truth 3. Vatican II on Christian Unity 4. Vatican II on the Church's relation with non-Christians The teaching of the Second Vatican Council (1962-65) has affected our lives as Catholics in so many ways over the last 40 years. While interpretations of the Council's Teaching continue to be debated and discussed, this major event in the Church's history continues to excite us and to nourish our faith and life as Catholics in the new century. This course invites us to look at 4 core areas of the Council's teaching, asking the question of each, "What did the Council really say?", and showing the continuity between the Church's teaching before Vatican II and the more recent documents of John Paul II and Benedict XVI. Please note that each talk may also be given singly.	4
24	Renewal of Eucharistic Faith and Devotion: teachings of John Paul II and Benedict XVI by Fr. Terrence McGuckin	Pope John Paul II constantly emphasised the central importance of the Eucharist in the life of the Church and at the heart of our faith. Throughout his pontificate of 27 years, he gave to the Church profound teaching reflections, instructive and inspirational. Among the writings are: The Holy Eucharist (1980), Ecclesia de Eucharistia (1983) and Abide With Us Lord, inaugurating the Year of the Eucharist (2004-5) in the course of which Pope John Paul died. Pope Benedict XVI, since becoming Pope in 2005, has similarly promoted the importance of renewed reflection on this sacrament of sacraments, especially with Sacramentum Caritatis, an Exhortation both enriching and uplifting.	2
25	Salvation, Grace and our lives as Catholics by Fr. Dominic Robinson SJ	1. The Human Person: Made in the Image and Likeness of God 2. Salvation in Jesus Christ 3. The Catholic Doctrine of Grace 4. Grace and the Call to Holiness: the Teaching of Pope Benedict XVI This series invites us to reflect on key aspects of our Catholic faith which affect us all as human beings whose origin and goal is the God who made us, offers us his redeeming love through the sacrifice of the Son, and calls us ever closer to himself. How do we understand ourselves as creatures made in his image and likeness? What does the Church teach about our salvation? What do we mean by grace? Most importantly, how does it affect our lives as Catholics? In addressing this question, the series ends by presenting some reflections from Pope Benedict contained in his first encyclical letter Deus Caritas est (God is Love).	4
Morality			
26	Call to Conversion and Imaginative Shock in 'The Sermon on the Mount' by Dr. Anna Abram	What kind of ethics is presented in the Sermon on the Mount? Is it elitist? Perfectionist? Impossible? This session (in the form of a workshop) will attempt to work out the Wisdom of this crucial text by addressing the following questions: What does Christ teach us about happiness? What are we to make of Christ's metaphors, allegories and parables? What impact Jesus' sayings have or should have on us? How to apply them? What 'wise advice' do we get and on what topics?	1
27	How to Be Happy: The True Meaning of Christian Morality by Fr. Stephen Wang	Christian morality gets a bad press: It seems like a list of rules imposed upon us, that go against our freedom and our desire for happiness. But in the Catholic tradition, Christian morality is the way to true happiness. It helps us to be who we are meant to be; it helps us to overcome false ideas about the meaning of human life; and it helps us to find what we are truly searching for - the peace and joy that come from loving God and loving our neighbour. This course will look at the nature of morality; the meaning of the Commandments and the moral teaching of Christ and of the Church; and the place of conversion and conscience in the Christian life	1
28	Let Your Conscience Be Your Guide - what does this mean? by Dr. Anna Abram	Conscience from what it is not. One of the most common errors in thinking about conscience is to mistake it for what some Freudian psychologists mean when they speak of the 'superego'. The superego is the result of the authority over us. It has an important place in the formation of conscience but only as a passing stage. What is the mature / well-formed conscience? In addressing this question we will make use of the fable of Pinocchio by Carlo Collodi and the story of Sir Thomas More	1