

## List of resources for Lent:

One way of observing Lent is to commit to going deeper in faith through reading. The following recommendations are books that offer the opportunity for formation as we journey through this season.

### Lent with words from Pope Francis:

(All of pope Francis' writing are available on the Vatican website accessible freely electronically [here](#).)

- Pope Francis, *I Am Asking in the Name of God: Ten Prayers for a Future of Hope*, SPCK Publishing (3 Oct. 2023). 160 pages ISBN-10 : 0281089973 ISBN-13 : 978-0281089970.

In his most challenging and outward-facing book yet, Pope Francis reflects on ten vital issues the world is facing today. *I Am Asking in the Name of God* is an unflinching and inspiring work that celebrates the tenth anniversary of Francis' papal election and encompasses his hopes and dreams for the Church and for all humanity.

- Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum: Om the Climate Crisis*, Catholic Truth Society (5 Oct. 2023), 40 pages ISBN-10 : 1784697729 ISBN-13 : 978-1784697723.

*Laudate Deum* is an apostolic exhortation by Pope Francis on the climate crisis that relates directly to his first encyclical, *Laudate Si*. Here, however, the pope's concern is focused directly on the climate crisis that affects all people, but especially those who are poor. In his directness, the pope does not hold back from critiquing problems coming from industry, economists, and those in positions of power who ignore the climate.

- Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti: On Fraternity and Social Friendship*, Our Sunday Visitor (30 Oct. 2020), 200 pages, ISBN-10 : 1681927799 ; ISBN-13 : 978-1681927794.

In his third encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti* ("All Brothers"), Pope Francis reflects on a topic of great importance: human solidarity and friendship. Pope Francis first greeted the world with the words *fratelli e sorelle* -- "brothers and sisters" -- following his election to the papacy. In this encyclical, he continues to address all men and women as his brothers and sisters, calling us to consider what our common brotherhood requires of us.

- Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia: On Love in the Family*, Catholic Truth Society; First Edition (20 April 2016), 160 pages, ISBN-10 : 1784691224 ; ISBN-13 : 978-1784691226.

In his groundbreaking work on modern family life, *Amoris Laetitia: On Love in the Family*, Pope Francis continues to guide and lead the Church, calling us to be a sign of mercy and encouragement for families of all shapes and sizes.

- Pope Francis, *Laudato Si: On Care For Our Common Home*, Catholic Truth Society; UK ed. edition (2015), 116 pages, ISBN-10 : 1784690708 ; ISBN-13 : 978-1784690700.

In his encyclical *Praise Be to You (Laudato Si')*, Pope Francis challenges all people to praise God for his glorious creation and to work to safeguard her. The encyclical letter takes its name from St. Francis

of Assisi's *Canticle of the Creatures*, which depicts creation as "a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us".

- Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium The Joy of the Gospel*, Veritas Publications (5 Dec. 2013), 143 pages, ISBN-10 : 1847305423 ; ISBN-13 : 978-1847305428.

The first Apostolic Exhortation from Pope Francis. The Joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew. In this Exhortation I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church's journey in years to come.

- For the synthesis report of the first session of the Synod on Synodality see [2023.10.28-ENG-Synthesis-Report.pdf \(synod.va\)](#)
- Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, Declaration *Fiducia Supplicans*: On the Pastoral Meaning of Blessings, 18 December 2023. [Declaration Fiducia Supplicans On the Pastoral Meaning of Blessings \(18 December 2023\) \(vatican.va\)](#)

## Unpacking the themes of Lent:

### Contemporary theology and spirituality:

- Alison, James, *Knowing Jesus*, SPCK (1 Mar. 2012), 128 pages ISBN-10 : 0281065039 ISBN-13 : 978-0281065035.

This classic book asks what it is to know Jesus. It will enable thinking Christians to ask new questions about their faith, their reading of the New Testament, and the theology of redemption.

- Bartlett, Anthony, *Signs of Change: The Bible's Evolution of Divine Nonviolence*, Cascade Books (11 Mar. 2022), 256 pages, ISBN-10 1666703729 ; ISBN-13 : 978-1666703726.

The Bible has many stories, but really there are only *two*. There is a story of violent humanity, and there is the story of a self-giving, nonviolent God. In this present work, Bartlett supplies a rich seam of biblical evidence with gripping essays on Old Testament books and their evolution of transformative signs and new meaning. Accounts of the life of Jesus and the teaching of Paul make the change exponential, bringing to definitive expression the inbreaking of the nonviolent divine. *Signs of Change* creates a theological masterstroke, showing step-by-step how semiotic evolution leads human existence to the truly saving knowledge of a nonviolent God.

- Beattie, Tina, *The Last Supper According to Martha and Mary*, Christabel Press; 2nd edition (19 Mar. 2001), 156 pages, ISBN-10 : 1739974409 ; ISBN-13 : 978-1739974404.

This intriguing book offers a fictional account of the Last Supper as narrated by sisters Martha and Mary. Lyrical, dramatic, strongly rooted in time and place, it imagines what it was like to be among the anarchic group of followers gathered around Jesus on the night before his death. Outside, Jerusalem broods in darkness, but what passions, hopes and fears swirl among the friends gathered in an upper room, as tensions rise and a terrible sense of foreboding creeps through them?

- Cone, James H., *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*, Orbis Books; Reprint edition (30 Mar. 2013), 224 pages, ISBN-10 : 1626980055 ISBN-13 : 978-1626980051.

The cross and the lynching tree are the two most emotionally charged symbols in the history of the African American community. In this powerful work, the father of Black theology explores these symbols and their interconnection in the history and souls of black folk.

- Coppeland, M. Shawn, *Knowing Christ Crucified: The Witness of African American Religious Experience*, Orbis Books (USA) (20 Dec. 2018), 160 pages, ISBN-10 : 1626982988 ; ISBN-13 : 978-1626982987.

*Knowing Christ Crucified* is a powerful reading of the Cross of Jesus, both as it is written in scripture and in the experience of the poor and oppressed—particularly in the history of black people in America, from the time of slavery up to the present. Beginning with the "dark wisdom of the slaves," Shawn Copeland shows how enslaved people found in the story of Jesus both an affirmation of their humanity and a repudiation of a system that held them in bondage. She goes on to explore some of the challenges to human living in a world shaped and directed by white supremacy. And finally, she presses the meaning of solidarity in the concrete circumstances of American life. These challenging essays reflect her efforts to read the book of the cross, and to grapple with what it might mean "to take up the cross daily and follow Jesus" with those crucified in our time.

- Gooder, Paula, *Women of Holy Week: An Easter Journey in Nine Stories*, Church House Publishing (15 Dec. 2021), 96 pages, ISBN-10 : 1781402892 ISBN-13 : 978-1781402894.

In the style of her bestselling *Phoebe*, Paula Gooder uses her extensive biblical expertise to retell the events of the Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension through the eyes of nine female characters she imagines accompanying Jesus during these momentous days. Accompanied by nine colour illustrations, each story brings to life the tension, drama and shock of the events of Holy Week, banishing any over-familiarity and helping readers enter into the Passion narrative in a deeper, more meaningful way. Originally given as a series of addresses at Southwark Cathedral during Holy Week 2021, these nine stories are for all who long to encounter Jesus afresh through the Easter Story.

- Halík, Tomas, *The Way of the Cross: Meditations on Encountering Jesus*, Paulist Press (7 Mar. 2023), 48 pages, ISBN-10 : 080915627X ISBN-13 : 978-0809156276.

Halík challenges us with this new *Via Crucis*, rooted in the Gospel and addressed to believers and nonbelievers alike. He invites readers to a real encounter, one with Jesus in our present world. "Jesus and his cross are not something external to our lives, they are not an event that ended in the past, they must not be the object of our sentimental piety. Jesus does not invite us on the Way of the Cross to regret, but to change our mentality and our actions." Endorsements "Tomáš Halík is one of the most insightful voices in contemporary Catholicism."

- Halík, *Touch the Wounds: On Suffering, Trust, and Transformation*, University of Notre Dame Press (1 Mar. 2023), 160 pages, ISBN-10 : 0268204896 ISBN-13 : 978-0268204891.

One of the most important voices in contemporary Catholicism, Tomáš Halík argues that Christians can discover the clearest vision of God not by turning away from suffering but by confronting it. Halík calls upon us to follow the apostle Thomas's example: to see the pain, suffering, and poverty of our world and to touch those wounds with faith and action. Weaving together deep theological and philosophical reflections with surprising, trenchant, and even humorous commentary on the times in which we live, Halík offers a new prescription for those lost in moments of doubt, abandonment, or suffering. Rather than demanding impossible, flawless faith, we can look through our doubt to see, touch, and confront the wounds in the hearts of our neighbors and—through that wounded humanity, which the Son of God took upon himself—see God.

- Halík, *I want you to be: On the God of love*, University of Notre Dame Press (15 Aug. 2016), 200 pages, ISBN-10 : 0268100721 ISBN-13 : 978-0268100728.

In *I Want You to Be*, Halík examines the connection between faith and love, meditating on a statement attributed to St. Augustine—*amo, volo ut sis*, "I love you: I want you to be"—and its importance for contemporary Christian practice Halík's distinctive style is to present profound insights on religious themes in an accessible way to a lay audience. As in previous books, this volume links spiritual and

theological/philosophical topics with a tentative diagnosis of our times. This is theology written on one's knees; Halik is as much a spiritual writer as a theologian. *I Want You to Be* will interest both general and scholarly readers interested in questions of secularism and Christianity in modern life.

- Horan, Dan, *The Way of the Franciscans: A Prayer Journey through Lent*, SPCK Publishing (8 Nov. 2021), 126 pages, ISBN-10 : 0281083177 ; ISBN-13 : 978-0281083176.

The Way of the Franciscans is a lovely Lent book for 2022 that offers a practical introduction to Franciscan spirituality, and the many distinctive and dynamic approaches to prayer, contemplation and action found within it. Split into six chapters, with each focusing on a key Franciscan spiritual master and their way of prayer, The Way of the Franciscans is the perfect guide to help you prepare for Easter and deepen your spirituality throughout Lent. As well as exploring the history of the different Franciscan spiritual traditions and how they are united in their focus on living according to the Gospels, it offers practical, applicable guidance for making Franciscan spirituality part of your everyday prayer life.

- Horan, The Last Words of Jesus: A Meditation on Love and Suffering, St Anthony Messenger Press, U.S. (4 Dec. 2013), 128 pages, ISBN-10 : 1616364092 ; ISBN-13 : 978-1616364090.

Much has been written on the last words of Jesus, the traditional phrases taken from Scripture that depict the final moments of Jesus's life as he dies on the cross. In this new take on the last words, author Dan Horan brings a fresh perspective to this time-honored meditation as he challenges readers to look at their lives through the lens of Jesus's suffering and death. Yet interlaced with suffering, the focus throughout is on the immense love of God for human beings, shown in the gift of Jesus, God made flesh. In his preface, Horan writes: "In a world that remains irrevocably shaped by the suffering of the human condition, the misunderstanding between groups and cultures symbolized by the horrific events of September 11, we need to hear Christ's words anew. He gives us a different look into these words by drawing on works by other noted scholars and spiritual writers, then fashioning a view of these phrases that's contemporary and thought-provoking. An ideal Lenten companion, especially during Holy Week, The Last Words of Jesus will also serve as a useful meditation throughout the year on the deep love Jesus bore for us in taking on the human condition.

- Ineson, Emma, *Failure: What Jesus Said About Sin, Mistakes and Messing Stuff Up*, SPCK Publishing (15 Dec. 2022), 242 pages, ISBN-10 : 0281087849 ISBN-13 : 978-0281087846.

At the start of this wonderfully humorous and encouraging book - which will end at the cross - it's suggested that our tendency to lump all kinds of failure together could be a bit unhelpful. A more nuanced understanding of what sort of failure we're dealing with might just allow us to make friends with it and respond more appropriately. This idea leads us 'Towards an (Imperfect) Theology of Failure', based on key Christian thinking, and Emma poses the question of whether sin is an individual or corporate thing. Looking at the church, we consider, what is God's purpose for it? And in the light of key concerns such as safeguarding and racial justice, how might we re-examine concepts of success and recognize and measure failure? As the book draws to an end, we are reminded of our calling to live life to the full, to take risks despite our fears. We are bound sometimes to fail! Yet gazing at Jesus - who looked like the greatest failure of all - we may discern in the heartache, vulnerability and humility of failure, the glory of the cross.

- Johnson, Elizabeth A., *Creation and the Cross: the Mercy of God for a Planet in Peril*, Orbis Books (1 Feb. 2019), 258 pages, ISBN-10 : 1626983097 ISBN-13 : 978-1626983090.

In this fresh creative approach to theology, Elizabeth Johnson asks how we can understand cosmic redemption in a time of advancing ecological devastation. In effect, how can we extend the core Christian belief in salvation to include all created beings? Immediately this question runs into a formidable obstacle: the idea that Jesus's death on the cross was required as atonement for human sin - a theology laid out by the 11th-century theologian St. Anselm. Constructing her argument (like Anselm) in the form of a dialogue, Johnson lays out the foundations in scripture, the teachings of Jesus, and the

early Church for an understanding that emphasizes the love and mercy of God, showing how this approach can help us respond to a planet in peril.

- Kyler, John T, *Search Me: A Way of the Cross in Solidarity with the LGBTQ Community*, 24 pages, ISBN-10 : 1940414326, ISBN-13 : 978-1940414324.

*Search Me: A Way of the Cross in Solidarity with the LGBTQ Community* acknowledges shared human experience as a means to grow in relationship with God. Each of the traditional stations of the cross, the events leading up to Jesus' death and resurrection, are paired with reflections from members of the LGBTQ community. These honest and vulnerable words invite readers to pray the reality of the Paschal Mystery in a new way.

- Radcliffe, Timothy, *Stations of the Cross*, Bloomsbury Continuum (3 Oct. 2019), 432 pages, ISBN-10 : 1472970209 ISBN-13 : 978-1472970206.

During Lent we are surrounded by visual reminders of Jesus' last hours. In *Stations of the Cross*, renowned author and spiritual master Timothy Radcliffe, OP, offers readers a thoughtful meditation on this powerful devotion. Through word and image Radcliffe offers a profound experience of reflecting on the Stations of the Cross that is both visually and spiritually inspiring. With each reflection, he draws from stunning art commissioned by award-winning liturgical artist Martin Erspamer, OSB. *Stations of the Cross* is perfect Lenten reading by an author well regarded for his spiritual writings. It is a beautiful invitation to deeper meditation and richer contemplation of this solemn season of prayer and penance.

- Simmonds, Gemma, *The Way of Ignatius: A Prayer Journey through Lent*, SPCK Publishing (15 Nov. 2018), 96 pages, ISBN-10 : 028107531X ISBN-13 : 978-0274691654.

In this introduction to the spiritual life, Gemma Simmonds shows that everyone can find prayer a rewarding experience. She explores the story and prayer tradition of Ignatius of Loyola, together with the contribution of the seventeenth-century Yorkshire woman, Mary Ward. A guide for Lent and the rest of the year, *The Way of Ignatius* helps us to pray with the Scriptures in an imaginative way. To aid reflection and discussion, there are questions at the end of each chapter.

- Wansbrough, Henry, *40 Days and 40 Ways: Daily Meditations for Lent - Year B*, Catholic Truth Society (8 Jan. 2018), 144 pages, ISBN-10 : 1784695521 ; ISBN-13 : 978-1784695521.

During Lent the Church puts before us special readings for each day, helping us to prepare for the great events of Holy Week, which culminates with the resurrection of Our Lord. Using insights from a lifetime of scriptural scholarship, Henry Wansbrough uses the daily readings to provide timeless and inspiring meditations for the forty days of Lent and each of the Sundays (Year B) of the season. Each meditation ends with a suggested action to help the reader apply the message of scripture to daily life. These acts will revive a desire for God's spirit to empower us to follow Christ more fully, not only during the forty days of Lent, but throughout the whole year.

- Wansbrough, Henry, *The Passion and Death of Jesus*, Darton Longman & Todd Ltd; 1st ed. edition (January 1, 2004), 136 pages, ISBN-10 : 0232525102 ; ISBN-13 978-0232525106

In this authoritative but accessible guide to the passion narratives, Wansbrough takes inexperienced readers through the many complexities, nuances, and disputed readings of the last days of Jesus to reveal the central story of the Christian faith.

- Williams, Rowan, *God With Us: The Meaning Of The Cross And Resurrection - Then And Now*, SPCK Publishing (19 Jan. 2017), 112 pages, ISBN-10 : 0281076642 ; ISBN-13 : 978-0281076642.

From the pen of one of our greatest living theologians, here is a fresh and compelling introduction to the foundation story of the Christian faith. Full of illuminating theological insights, and with questions for discussion or personal reflection at the end of each chapter, this is the perfect book for all those who want to deepen their understanding and appreciation of the heart of the gospel.



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## Perhaps this Lent you might want to learn more about how we can work for social justice?

- Horan, *Engaging Thomas Merton: Spirituality, Justice, and Racism*, Orbis Books (10 Nov. 2023) 400 pages, ISBN-10 : 1626985448 ; ISBN-13 : 978-1626985445.

*Engaging Thomas Merton* is based on contemporary engagements with the work and legacy of Thomas Merton that highlight the enduring relevance of his thought in addressing the pressing concerns of our time.

- Horan, *A White Catholic's Guide to Racism and Privilege*, Ave Maria Press (3 Sept. 2021) 224 pages, ISBN-10 : 1646800761 ; ISBN-13 : 978-1646800766.

In *A White Catholic's Guide to Racism and Privilege*, Horan speaks prophetically to what has become a gnawing unease for so many. With candid critique and reflection, Horan helps us make sense of crucial issues such as:

- The difference between what sociologists call common-sense racism and systemic racism.
- What is meant by white privilege and how it contributes to racial injustices.
- The Catholic Church's teachings about racism, how those can still be developed, and what those teachings require of us.
- Combatting racism in our everyday lives.

As a white man, Horan shows his fellow white Catholics how to become actively anti-racist and better allies to our Black brothers and sisters as we work against racism in our culture and in the Church. He offers us the hope and surety of the Gospel, the wisdom of Catholic tradition, and some practical ways to educate ourselves and advocate for justice.

- Jennings, Willie James, *The Christian Imagination: Theology and the Origins of Race*, Yale University Press (30 May 2011), 384 pages, ISBN-10 : 0300171366 ; ISBN-13 : 978-0300171365.

A ground-breaking, magisterial account of the potential and failures of Christianity since the colonialist period. Why has Christianity, a religion premised upon neighbourly love, failed in its attempts to heal social divisions? In this ambitious and wide-ranging work, Willie James Jennings delves deep into the late medieval soil in which the modern Christian imagination grew, to reveal how Christianity's highly refined process of socialization has inadvertently created and maintained segregated societies. A probing study of the cultural fragmentation—social, spatial, and racial—that took root in the Western mind, this book shows how Christianity has consistently forged Christian nations rather than encouraging genuine communion between disparate groups and individuals. Weaving together the stories of Zurara, the royal chronicler of Prince Henry, the Jesuit theologian Jose de Acosta, the famed Anglican Bishop John William Colenso, and the former slave writer Olaudah Equiano, Jennings narrates a tale of loss, forgetfulness, and missed opportunities for the transformation of Christian communities. Touching on issues of slavery, geography, Native American history, Jewish-Christian relations, literacy, and translation, he brilliantly exposes how the loss of land and the supersessionist ideas behind the Christian missionary movement are both deeply implicated in the invention of race. Using his bold, creative, and courageous critique to imagine a truly cosmopolitan citizenship that transcends geopolitical, nationalist, ethnic, and racial boundaries, Jennings charts, with great vision, new ways of imagining ourselves, our communities, and the landscapes we inhabit.

- Massingale, Bryan N., *Racial Justice and the Catholic Church*, Orbis Books (21 April 2010), 240 pages, ISBN-10 : 9781570757761 ; ISBN-13 : 978-1570757761

Here, a leading black Catholic moral theologian addresses the thorny issue of racial justice past and present. Massingale writes from an abiding conviction that the Catholic faith and the black experience make essential contributions in the continuing struggle against racial injustice that is the work of all people.

## Spiritual Reading for Lent

- Beckett, Sr Wendy, *The Art of Lent: A Painting A Day From Ash Wednesday To Easter*, SPCK Publishing; First Edition (16 Nov. 2017), 112 pages, ISBN-10 : 9780281078554 ISBN-13: 978-0281078554.

Illustrated in full colour with over forty famous and lesser-known masterpieces of Western art, this beautiful book will lead you into a deeply prayerful response to all that these paintings convey to the discerning eye. From the Hokusai's Great Wave to Rembrandt's The Return of the Prodigal Son, these reflections draw from the emotions and spiritual truths behind the painting to give you lessons that will stay with you a lifetime. Each of the days is based around a different theme. From joy to tranquility to courage to sacrifice - the messages from The Art of Lent are short meditations that are designed to leave you with questions of your own to think about, rather than a compendium of conceptions to espouse in certain occasions.

In living the faith accompaniment in difficult times

- Cook, Christopher, Hamley Isabelle, Swinton John, *Struggling with God: Mental Health and Christian Spirituality*, SPCK Publishing (18 May 2023), 160 pages, ISBN-10 : 0281086419, ISBN-13 : 978-0281086412.

Struggling with God gets right to the heart of a great predicament for many Christians. When it feels as if our struggles are overwhelming - and our capacity for faith and hope and love is diminished - how is it possible to maintain, never mind nourish, our relationship with God? Each chapter includes biblical reflections relevant to its theme, prayers, questions to facilitate individual/group study, and pointers to further reading. In short, the book presents a Christian vision of spiritual and mental wellbeing through prayerful struggling with God.

- Graystone, Peter *All's Well That Ends Well: Through Lent with Shakespeare*, Canterbury Press Norwich Published: 30/11/2021, 192 pages, ISBN: 9781786223548.

Few writers have a deeper understanding of the foibles of human nature and life's absurdities and tragedies than William Shakespeare. This makes him a fascinating companion for the season of Lent, a traditional time for a spot of self-examination. This engaging, wise and often amusing Lent book sets quotations from Shakespeare's characters and poems alongside biblical passages and reflects on the resonance between them – one reflection for each day of the season.

- Green, Graham, *The Power and the Glory*, Vintage Classics; 1st edition (1 Mar. 2001), 220 pages, ISBN-10 : 9780099286097 ISBN-13 : 978-0099286097.

During a vicious persecution of the clergy in Mexico, a worldly priest, the 'whisky priest', is on the run. With the police closing in, his routes of escape are being shut off, his chances getting fewer. But compassion and humanity force him along the road to his destiny, reluctant to abandon those who need him, and those he cares for.

- Harries, Richard, *Hearing God in Poetry: Fifty Poems for Lent and Easter*, SPCK Publishing (18 Nov. 2021), 206 pages, ISBN-10 : 028108629X ISBN-13 : 978-0281086290.

From Yehuda Amichai and W. H. Auden to Phyllis Wheatley and Walt Whitman, *Hearing God in Poetry* invites you to take a closer look at fifty great poems by some of the finest poets in the English language. Some are well known, some deserve to be better known, but all say something distinctive that will lift your spirit. This beautiful Lent book offers six poems for every week from Ash Wednesday, leading up to Holy Week, with ten poems specially chosen for Easter. A short reflection from Richard Harries accompanies each poet and the poem, drawing out their spiritual insights and how they communicate God's presence.

- Mann, Rachel, *A Truth Universally Acknowledged: 40 Days with Jane Austen*, Canterbury Press Norwich, (30 Nov. 2023), 160 pages, ISBN: 9781786225030.

Jane Austen – novelist, forthright letter writer, daughter and sister of Anglican clergy – had a rarely-matched insight into human character. Like Lent itself, she exposes frailty, caprice and pomposity without losing a profound and compassionate understanding of human nature. Her life was profoundly shaped by the church and Christian spirituality, making her writings an ideal accompaniment for the 40 days of Lent. Rachel Mann introduces Jane Austen, her world and her ideas, and, for each day of Lent, offers commentary on a short excerpt from her writing to explore how her faith can illuminate ours. She brings Jane's novels into conversation with biblical and spiritual ideas and also with today's questions about class, sexuality and race. Themes explored include: The Triumph of Love, Learning Wisdom, Seeing Beyond the Surface to the Truth, Knowing Where Your Treasure Lies, The Temptation to be Proudful and Prejudiced, The Pomposity of Religion, Privilege and its Limitations, Duty and Good Manners, and much more.

- Martin, James, *Come Forth: The Raising of Lazarus and the Promise of Jesus's Greatest Miracle*, William Collins (14 Sept. 2023), 400 pages, ISBN-10 : 0008613095 ISBN-13 : 978-0008613099.

In this wise and thoughtful book, Father James Martin analyses the miracle of Lazarus's resurrection and asks us to consider what Jesus means when he calls Lazarus—and each of us—to “come forth.” Taking us through the Gospel story verse by verse, he offers deep reflection on the lessons it holds about love, family, sadness, frustration, fear, anger, freedom, and joy

- Nouwen, Henri, *Following Jesus: Finding Our Way Home in an Age of Anxiety*, SPCK Publishing (17 Sept. 2019), 144 pages, ISBN-10 : 028108355X ISBN-13 : 978-0281083558.

At one of the lowest points in Henri Nouwen's life, he gave a series of lectures on the importance of following Jesus in an age of anxiety. Drawn from those talks, this new work reveals what sustained Nouwen to remain faithful to the teachings of Jesus and led him to become an icon of compassion and vulnerability. Here, he writes eloquently about calling and purpose, fear and hope. And he explains why - with so many choices available to the 21st-century seeker - the greatest reward for those looking for spiritual direction is rediscovering Jesus' teaching on love. Along the way, Nouwen offers warm, insightful, practical habits to help listeners navigate the narrow, sometimes arduous, but ultimately fulfilling road of conviction and faith.

- Nouwen, *Turning My Mourning into Dancing: Finding Hope in Hard Times*, Thomas Nelson; Revised ed. edition (23 Nov. 2010), 128 pages, ISBN-10 : 0849945097 ISBN-13 : 978-0849945090.

In times of suffering, simple answers often ring empty and hollow--so how can we find hope in hard times? Learn how to survive the difficult seasons with the comfort of God's constancy. With sensitive, practical advice, Henri Nouwen gently points us towards a life that is grounded in God's companionship and rooted within eternal hope.

- Nouwen, *The Way of the Heart: The Spirituality of the Desert Fathers and Mothers*, Bravo Ltd; 1st HarperCollins Pbk. Ed edition (1 Nov. 1991), 96 pages, ISBN-10 : 0060663308 ISBN-13 : 978-0060663308. (mental health)

Interweaving the solitude, silence, and prayer of the fifth-century Egyptian Desert Fathers and Mothers with our contemporary search for an authentic spirituality, *The Way of the Heart* not only leads us to a



fuller encounter with God, but to a more creative ministry with our fellow human beings. Here is one of the most profound works from a writer known for his fresh and perceptive insights--and who stands alongside C.S. Lewis and Thomas Merton as an essential Christian scholar and thinker.

- Nouwen, *Here and Now: Living in the Spirit*, Darton, Longman & Todd Ltd (19 Sept. 1994), 144 pages, ISBN-10 : 0232520925 ISBN-13 : 978-0232520927 (in the year of prayer)

The spiritual life is not a life then and there, but a life here and now. It is a life in which the spirit of God is revealed in the ordinary encounters of every day. With a smile and a tear, Nouwen looks at the day-to-day events of our lives and discovers there places where God chooses to dwell and call us.

- Radcliffe, *Alive in God: A Christian Imagination*, Bloomsbury Continuum (3 Oct. 2019), 432 pages, ISBN-10 : 1472970209 ISBN-13 : 978-1472970206. 9DEEPENING OUR FAITH

How can Christianity touch the imagination of our contemporaries when ever fewer people in the West identify as religious? Timothy Radcliffe argues we must show how everything we believe is an invitation to live fully. God says, 'I put before you life and death: choose life'. Anyone who understands the beauty and messiness of human life - novelists, poets, filmmakers and so on - can be our allies, whether they believe or not. The challenge is not today's secularism but its banality. We accompany the disciples as they struggle to understand this strange man who heals, casts out demons and offers endless forgiveness. In the face of death, he teaches them what it means to be alive in God. Then he embraces all that afflicts and crushes humanity. Finally, Radcliffe explores what it means for us to be alive spiritually.

- Radcliffe, Timothy, *Questioning God: God Still Speaks*, Bloomsbury Continuum (6 July 2023), 224 pages, ISBN-10 : 1399409255, ISBN-13 : 978-1399409254. (DEEPENING OUR FAITH)

*Questioning God* explores Biblical conversations with God and there is no genuine conversation without true questions. Our God question us, from the first conversation of God and humanity in the Bible, where God asks Adam, 'Where are you?', to the Risen Lord's questioning Peter on the beach: 'Do you love me more than these others?' But humanity questions God too, as in the audacious questioning of Jesus by the Samaritan woman at the well. In this process of mutual questioning, humanity is drawn ever deeper into the life of God, the eternal conversation of the Trinity. Insights into these transformative conversations are helpful as the Church questions how to be faithful to God in this uncertain time.

- Williams, Rowan, *A Century of Poetry: 100 Poems for Searching the Heart*, SPCK Publishing (15 Sept. 2022), 394 pages, ISBN-10 : 0281085528 ISBN-13 : 978-0281085521.