

Strathbrock Parish Church

Bible Reading list for 21 May to 30 July 2023

Lectio Divina (Latin for "Divine Reading") is a contemplative way of reading scripture that invites an individual or group to draw closer to God. Unlike traditional bible study, which is about knowing, knowing the text, its meaning and what "one is supposed to know," Lectio Divina is more about listening, engaging the heart and the imagination. It invites to ask questions such as, "What is the text saying to me?" or "What does the text say about who God is and how God is moving in my life and in the world?" Lectio Divina is unhurried. We read the passage slowly; chew on it, as they say, listen for the small details that we might otherwise overlook. We listen; pay attention. The ultimate goal of Lectio Divina is to open a space in our lives for reflection, spiritual conversation and to deepen our relationship with God.

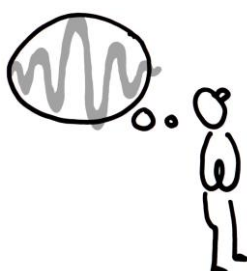
How are we doing it?

Step 1 – Read



Read the text a few times – take your time. If possible, use a few different translations. Learn to *listen* while you read. You don't simply read for information. You read and listen with your *heart* – because you want to hear and meet God. Identify a verse, a phrase, or a word that catches your eye, or captures your attention.

Step 2 – Meditate



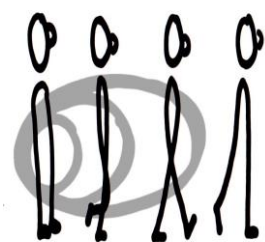
Think a bit further on the word or phrase that is speaking to you: what do you hear? What emotions are evoked in you? What is God saying to you? Meditation pulls our own life into the world of the text. The text begins to *read* our own lives. The Bible (God!) becomes the subject of the activity and our lives become the object.

Step 3 – Pray



When the text starts speaking to you, it is a spontaneous reaction to want to speak to God about it. Pray about what you heard God saying to you, what God is challenging you with, what God promises you, or what God asks of you in the text.

Step 4 – Receive and Live



Apply what you've read to your life. Believe that what God asks of you through the text, he will help you do through the Holy Spirit at work in your heart and mind. 'Receive' it in the faith, like that faith Mary had where in Luke 1:38 she said, 'May your word to me be fulfilled.' Praying here means 'receiving' and saying, 'thank you'.

Bible Texts for Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, and Ordinary Time

Pentecost is the celebration of the birth of the Christian Church with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit after the ascension of Jesus Christ to heaven. On this first Pentecost 3000 believers were added to the number of followers of Jesus Christ and the first church groups started meeting in houses together.

Trinity Sunday is the feast celebrated on the Sunday after Pentecost and signifies the Christian basis of Faith of believing in a Triune God, Father (Creator), Son (Redeemer) and Holy Spirit (Comforter). A feast to reflect the mystery of God's nature.

Ordinary Time encompasses the 26 weeks between Pentecost (end of May) and Advent (end of November) and reflects the work of the Holy Spirit in every Sunday service between the celebrations of the start of the church and the end of the Church Year. Ordinary Time has a meaningful beginning with Trinity Sunday, and a beautiful ending with Sunday of Christ the King, celebrating the transition into Advent and the start of a new church year. Colours to reflect this time are green, white and gold. And during this period there are other feast days, e.g. Reformation Sunday as the last Sunday in October.

WEEK	SEASON	TEXT	WORSHIP
15 – 21 May	Easter 7	Acts 1: 6-14	21 May
22 – 28 May	Pentecost	Numbers 11: 24-30	28 May
29 May – 4 June	Trinity Sunday	2 Corinthians 13:11-13	4 June
5 – 11 June	Ordinary Time 2	Hosea 5:15-6:6	11 June
12 – 18 June	Ordinary Time 3	Exodus 19:2-8a	18 June
19 – 25 June	Ordinary Time 4	Jeremiah 20:7-13	25 June
26 June – 2 July	Ordinary Time 5	Jeremiah 28:5-9	2 July
3 – 9 July	Ordinary Time 6	Zachariah 9:9-12	9 July
10 – 16 July	Ordinary Time 7	Genesis 25:19-34	16 July
17 – 23 July	Ordinary Time 8	Genesis 28:10-19a	23 July
24 – 30 July	Ordinary Time 9	Genesis 29:15-28	30 July