

Strathbrock Parish Church

Bible Reading list for 27 November to 31 December 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.

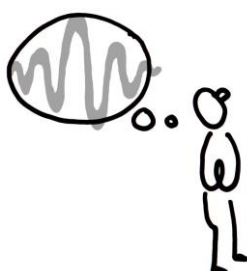
How are we doing it?

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



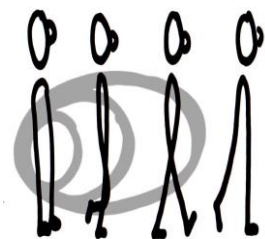
Think a bit further on the word or phrase that is speaking to you: what do you hear? What emotions are evoked in you? What is God saying to you? Meditation pulls our own life into the world of the text. The text begins to *read* our own lives. The Bible (God!) becomes the subject of the activity and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

Advent An Advent wreath is traditionally made from a ring of evergreens with four candles round the edge and one in the centre. The four outside candles are often purple, a royal colour used in church for seasons of preparation. The central candle is often white, and represents Christ, the light of the world. Each Sunday the candles are lit in the order of the Sundays it represents Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. On Christmas Day the Christ Candle is lit. After Advent the season of Christmas continues until the first Sunday in January, which is Epiphany.

WEEK	SEASON	TEXT	WORSHIP
27 Nov – 3 Dec	Advent 1	Mark 13: 24-37	3 December
4 – 10 December	Advent 2	Mark 1: 1-8	10 December
11 – 17 December	Advent 3	John 1: 6-28	17 December
18 – 24 December	Advent 4	Luke 1: 26-38	24 December
25 December	Christmas Day	Luke 2: 1-14 (15-20)	25 December
25 – 31 December	Christmas 1	Luke 2: 22-40	31 December