

**Church of St Vincent de Paul  
New Evangelisation  
Pastoral Programme 2015 /2016  
Part 2 : Bible Channel**



### **Introduction**

*God is the author of Sacred Scripture. “The divinely revealed realities, which are contained and presented in the text of Sacred Scripture, have been written down under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.  
(Catechism of the Catholic Church # 105)*

### **Bible Overview**

Bible comes from the Greek word “biblios” meaning “book”. The bible is in fact a library of books. There are 73 books in the bible. It was written over a period of 1600 years. It is the oldest book ever written.

The Old Testament tells us of God’s covenant relationship with his people, who became the nation of Israel. There are 46 books in the Old Testament.

The birth of Jesus links the two periods together. Jesus is the fulfillment of the promises in the Old Testament, the long awaited Messiah.

The New Testament tells us of the life and teachings of Jesus, how the Church was formed, and how the first Christians spread the Good News. Letters or epistles written by St Paul, his followers and other disciples encourage us and offer hope. There are 27 books in the New Testament.

## **What's the difference between a "Catholic Bible" and a "Protestant Bible"?**

Catholic and Protestant Bibles both include 27 books in the New Testament. Protestant Bibles have only 39 books in the Old Testament while Catholic Bibles have 46. The 7 books included in Catholic Bibles are Tobit, Judith, 1 and 2 Maccabees, Wisdom, Sirach, and Baruch.

Catholic Bibles also include sections in the Books of Esther and Daniel which are not found in Protestant Bibles. These books are called the **deuterocanonical books**. The Catholic Church considers these books to be inspired by the Holy Spirit.

For private reading or study, many are approved. Here's some of them:

- ◆ Good News - Catholic Edition
- ◆ Jerusalem Bible
- ◆ New Jerusalem Bible
- ◆ Revised Standard Version - Catholic Edition (The modern Bible translation regarded as the most accurate by most reliable scholars)
- ◆ New Revised Standard Version - Catholic Edition
- ◆ New American Bible - Revised Edition
- ◆ Douay Rheims-Challoner Revision



**Lectio Divina** means divine or sacred reading of the Bible. It is an ancient prayer technique for reading the Bible slowly and contemplatively, allowing God's word to shed light on your life.

In **lectio divina**, there are 4 movements. These movements lead us from hearing the Word of God to applying it in our daily life.

### **Read**

Find a quiet place to pray, asking the Holy Spirit to give you the grace and understanding of the Word before you. Read the passage slowly, get familiar with it.

### **Meditate**

Read the passage again, allow the Word of God to touch your heart. What word or phrase reflects what God is saying to you today?

### **Pray**

We respond to God in prayer. It is both a dialogue with God, and offering ourselves to be touched and changed by the Word of God.

### **Contemplate**

- ◆ In silence, rest in the unconditional love of God.
- ◆ Listen to what God is saying to you.
- ◆ What does the word of God invite you to do?
- ◆ Journal your thoughts.

**Lectio Divina Reflection – Sunday Nov 8, 2015**  
**32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time. Mk 12:38-44**

*“She put in everything she possessed”*

Do I “put in everything I possess” like the poor widow, doing everything for the greater glory of God, not wanting to be acknowledged (like the scribes and the rich in the Gospel), being contented that God sees all that is done? - For man looks at outward appearances but the Lord looks at the heart (1 Samuel 16:7). Similarly, I should refrain from judging others and instead take time, like Jesus, to pause in my busy surroundings and be aware of who the poor are, in my midst. For as Blessed Teresa says, “If you judge people, you have no time to love them.” The widow’s great faith in Divine Providence empowered her to put in everything she possessed without hesitation. I too need to surrender all my struggles and difficulties in faith, knowing that just as the Lord was watching the poor widow at a distance without her knowledge, so too, He will watch over me.

*(A reflection by Sharon Ong, Ministry of Lectors and Commentators)*