

THE GIFT OF SCRIPTURE

Adult Faith Formation Programme
Diocese of Galloway

ENCOUNTERING CHRIST IN THE WORD –
PREPARING FOR THE GREAT JUBILEE 2033

This programme invites you to engage deeply with the teaching document ***The Gift of Scripture*** (Catholic Bishops' Conferences of England, Wales, and Scotland). You can find the document (which is 60 pages long) at this link: <https://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/Scripture/GoS.pdf>

I (Fr. Peter) am adapting it so that you can follow the programme in a personal and individual way. If you want to follow it with others, I suggest you go the following link: <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:EU:1371fa4d-6bdb-4798-9721-191f85982229>

THE VISION

Bishop Frank has asked us to pray during 2026 for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit as we prepare for the Great Jubilee of 2033. One crucial way of encountering the Spirit is to take adult faith formation seriously.

Transformation Over Information

The invitation is not simply to learn **about** Sacred Scripture, but to **encounter Christ** in the Word. We strive beyond information toward authentic transformation and conversion, becoming better witnesses of our faith.

Inclusive Learning Styles

Recognising that adults learn in different ways, the programme creates a safe environment welcoming various learning styles:

- Reflection & Contemplative
- Visual & Auditory
- Practical & Relational

Participants are invited to encounter, explore, experience, and embody Christ in the Word, engaging the spiritual, intellectual, interpersonal, and practical dimensions of faith.

PRACTICAL RESOURCES

Visual Aids & Symbolism

You might arrange a table to focus on with:

- An open Bible,
- Large Candle,
- and Cross

You could put on the table a plant or bowl of seeds (connecting you to the Parable of the Sower)

You could make up some Scripture Cards with short phrases such as:

- "What kind of soil is my heart today?"
- "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening." (1 Sam 3:10)
- "Were not our hearts burning within us?" (Lk 24:32)
- "You must do what the word tells you." (Jas 1:22)

7 Days of Living the Word

Take on the weekly challenge to integrate Scripture into daily life:

- Day 1: Read the Sunday Gospel slowly.
- Day 2: Choose one verse and carry it through the day.
- Day 3: Spend ten minutes in silence with God.
- Day 4: Ask forgiveness or offer forgiveness.
- Day 5: Do one silent/hidden act of kindness.
- Day 6: Encourage someone who is struggling.
- Day 7: Return to Sunday's Gospel and ask: "Where did I see God at work this week?"

INTRODUCTORY SESSION

If you can, go and read paragraphs 1-12 of ***The Gift of Scripture*** mentioned at the start. Read again the Vision set out above.

Now read slowly and attentively this text from Scripture:

"For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith... to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." [Ephesians 3:14–21]

- Now have a period of silent reflection.
- What struck you from the reading?

If you have been able to read the paragraphs from ***The Gift of Scripture***:

- What was the most useful thing for you from the document?
- What did you find challenging from the document?
- What do you understand of the relationship between Scripture and Tradition?

Propose now for yourself a personal practical step for discipleship.

Conclude with the Diocesan Prayer to the Holy Spirit.