

Jesus – September 2023

In the section of the library called “Jesus” you will find the following among many books of interest. New books recently added to the collection are marked with an asterisk.

Barclay, William – Jesus of Nazareth

This a narrative version of Jesus’ life based on the Franco Zeffirelli film script and illustrated with stills from the film.

Benedict XVI, Pope – Jesus of Nazareth: From the Baptism in the Jordan to the Transfiguration

Disturbed by modern theological clouding of Jesus and His mission through the wholesale application of the historical-critical method of Scriptural analysis, Benedict seeks to make clear again the unity of Jesus and Christ in the total communion with the Father, the centre of His personality. This expressed not only in the text of Scripture but also through the lived experience of the faithful and the Church.

Benedict XVI, Pope – Jesus of Nazareth: Holy Week from the Entrance into Jerusalem to the Resurrection

A very readable close examination of the last events and essential sayings of Jesus’ life. Recommended for all who wish to immerse themselves in the details of this crux of our faith.

Cahill, Thomas, compiler – Jesus’ Little Instruction Book: His Words to Your Heart

Quotations from the New Testament with minimal commentary on context.

*Cantalamessa, Raniero – The Power of the Cross: Good Friday Sermons from the Papal Preacher

Since 1980 Cantalamessa has been giving Good Friday sermons to the pope of the day. These have been collected and translated giving us, in effect, a series of meditations on Christ and His sacrifice on the cross.

Dix, Gregory - Power of God

A series of talks on the Passion of Christ focusing on the last words of Christ.

Foley, Leonard – Believing in Jesus: A Popular Overview of the Catholic Faith

This book covers the whole spectrum of Catholic faith centered on Jesus, his life and teaching, and moving on to the work of Jesus today through the activity of the sacraments and individual witness, to the Last Things. A guide for using the book in the RCIA process is included.

Girzone, Joseph – A Portrait of Jesus

Based on the witness of the New Testament and the cultural background of Jesus' Jewish contemporaries, Girzone explores how Jesus would have been seen by His contemporaries, how he approached others, and what people would have taken away from meeting Him.

Grant, Michael – Jesus

A portrait of Jesus that emphasizes all his actions and words as leading to the dawning and immanent realization of the Kingdom of God.

Gray, Donald – Jesus: The Way to Freedom

A short book about the freedom Jesus offers us from our life fears, our self-centeredness, of our fear of death, and the corresponding opposite freedom to love and compassion. Gray explores what it means to say that Jesus is our saviour and what is meant by the Kingdom of God here and now.

Guardini, Romano – The Humanity of Christ: Contributions to a Psychology of Jesus

For the reader wishing to know more about Jesus, this is a valuable read, though perhaps a little challenging in style and expression. Published in 1964, it might seem a little outdated, but there are plenty of supporting Biblical citations for the reader to follow up and consider.

A Guide to the Passion: 100 Questions about the Passion of the Christ

Because this book is based on the movie *The Passion of Christ* by Mel Gibson, it gives explanations of “events” that are a matter of artistic license rather than a matter of Biblical record or tradition. This may be confusing to some readers. There are some useful explanations of events and motivations of some of the players in the Passion of Christ.

Hahn, Scott – Joy to the World: How Christ's Coming Changed Everything (And Still Does)

An exploration of the many facets of Christmas in the usual easy-to-read style of Hahn.

Hayes, Bernard – To Live as Jesus did: a Handbook for Christian Living

Examining the events of Jesus' life, events which are common to us all, Hayes offers some guidelines on how to live fully our lives in a similar manner to Jesus, being animated totally by the love of the Father for us.

Hesemann, Michael – Jesus of Nazareth: Archaeologists Retracing the Footsteps of Christ

A really interesting book following Christ's earthly life through concrete historical, archaeological and geographical evidence still available to us today. It enriches one's understanding of God's Incarnation.

Hole, William – The Life of Jesus of Nazareth: As Told in the Gospels with Eighty Pictures by William Hole

The life of Jesus illustrated with pictures in an old-fashioned style of illustration based on what was in Hole's lifetime still the flavour of life in Palestine.

Houselander, Caryll – The Way of the Cross

An excellent book for Lenten reading – a series of meditations on the Stations of the Cross in the larger context of Christ's whole life, and how it touches our lives.

Jansen, Gary – Station to Station: An Ignatian Journey through the Stations of the Cross

A meditation in the imaginative Ignatian style on the Stations of the Cross to focus the reader on Jesus' response to suffering and to challenge the reader to a similar reaction in our own difficulties and sufferings.

Kee, Howard – Jesus in History: An Approach to the Study of the Gospels

A scholarly look at what can be known as historical fact of the life of Jesus from the Gospels and distinct from interpretations of Christ that developed quickly in the early church.

Knopp, Robert – A Very Human Jesus: Gospel Images for Prayer: Mark

An exploration of Mark's portrayal of Jesus having the emotions, frustrations, fatigue and suffering that we know. Passages from the Gospel are followed by short passages of contemplation and prayer on the selections from Mark.

Lucado, Max – And the Angels were Silent: The Final Week of Jesus

A series of chatty, story-filled meditations on the teachings of Christ exemplified in His last days by a popular American evangelical writer.

Lynch, William – Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels

A close analysis of the picture of Jesus offered in each Gospel which were appropriate to the target audience – in Mark the man for others, in Matthew the new greater Moses and in Luke the redeemer of all humanity. In passing, Lynch looks at the nature of a Gospel, the significance of literary forms and the relationship between the Gospels and historical reporting as we understand it in modern terms.

Manning, Brennan – A Stranger to Self-hatred: a Glimpse of Jesus

Manning sees self-hatred and the resulting depression as one of the great spiritual problems of our times. Set against this crippling state is the example of Jesus Whose eyes were set firmly on the love of the Father and Whose message to us is completely one of compassion and love, not dependent on any achievements or virtues of our own.

Martin, James – Jesus: A Pilgrimage

A *New York Times* bestseller, this is in part travel guide, part spiritual reflection, and part scripture study. A great read, especially for those of us who will never get to visit the places where Jesus experienced life, taught and died.

McBride, Alfred – The Seven Last Words of Jesus

Looking at the last words of Christ spoken from the cross, McBride shows how they encapsulate Christ's life message of forgiveness and reconciliation to God. He sees the words as a culmination of Christ's teaching on discipleship, transforming crucifixion into saving love. Good reading for Lent.

McLaughlin, John – The Questions of Jesus

McLaughlin looks at thirty questions that Jesus asks His disciples and the people listening to His teaching and witnessing His actions. He examines the cultural and religious background to the questions and then the relevance of the questions and their answers to us.

Miravalle, Mark – Jesus in You: The Indwelling of the Trinity in the Souls of the Just

A short exploration of the answers to two questions: Is God inside of every human being? and Does the Trinity dwell in a heightened manner within some human beings? The author explores the effect on our lives, that is, of living with continuing internal adoration, if our answers are “Yes.”

Muggeridge, Malcolm – Jesus: The Man Who Lives

A personal interpretation of Jesus and Christianity through the experience of a very trenchant critic of modern society who came late in life to belief in Jesus.

Nolan, Albert – Jesus before Christianity

A really interesting and important book about what we know and understand about Jesus and his life and his Jewish milieu before the further understanding or interpretations that developed in Christian thought upon reflection on Jesus.

Olson, Carl – Did Jesus Really Rise from the Dead? Questions and Answers about the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus

An interesting book, proceeding through a question and answer format, that concludes that the central matter of the Resurrection of Jesus is absolutely true despite what probably unanswerable questions it raises about the details.

Pitre, Brant – The Case for Jesus: The Biblical and Historical Evidence for Christ

Written for the ordinary reader who might have questions about exactly who Jesus of Nazareth claimed to be, and how accurate are the accounts or evidence we have concerning Him. This is a useful book showing the Gospels as trustworthy records on which to base our beliefs, and as supported by the Jewish milieu in which Jesus lived.

Poortvliet, Rien – He Was One of Us

An interesting series of drawings on the life of Jesus from a well-known Dutch artist.

Ratzinger, Joseph Cardinal – Behold the Pierced One: A Approach to a Spiritual Christology

A series of miscellaneous but connected meditations on the nature of Jesus against our understanding of the nature of Christ and the resulting questions that arise of the nature of salvation and grace, devotion to the Sacred Heart, the connection between the Eucharist and the mission of each parish, Christ as liberator, and the Easter events. These all revolve around the nature of Christ.

Rohr, Richard – The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality can change everything we see, hope for, and believe

An exploration of the nature and activity of Christ, the reality that underlies all of creation both before and after the existence of Jesus who is the manifestation of Christ in human form. The radical nature of God in creation leads us to a different relationship with the rest of creation.

Rolheiser, Ronald – The Passion and the Cross

Another must-read from a popular Canadian author – this time an in-depth meditation on the Passion in Gethsemane, the Cross as a moral revolution, as the deepest revelation of God, as salvation, and the significance of the Resurrection. Insightful and easy reading.

Scanlan, Michael – Titles of Jesus

The various descriptions and titles of Jesus from the Bible are given with a scriptural reference location, a key thought behind the title, a prayer response, a decision to be made for one's own life based on the title. A short book but well worth using for a series of daily meditations on Christ.

Sri, Edward – Dawn of the Messiah: The Coming of Christ in Scripture

A close examination of the Nativity and Infancy of Christ stories which show the fulfillment of the Old Testament experience of God and prophecies of the coming Messiah. This popular author takes the reader down into the significance of individual words to enrich the reader's understanding of the familiar stories. Reflection topics are given to make a connection to present life.

St. Romain, Philip – Jesus on the Cross: Why?

St. Romain looks at the Crucifixion by focusing on the following themes: as fulfillment of Jewish tradition from the Old Testament of the “suffering servant”; as a new covenant between God and His children; as a sacrifice that somehow acts as an expiation for human sin; and as a means of definitively breaking the power of sin in the lives of believers.