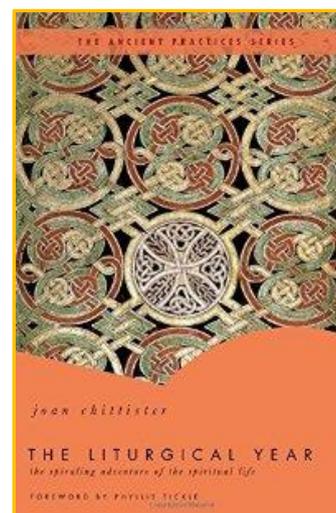


FROM THE RESOURCE CENTRE

The liturgical year commences anew with Year C and the season of Advent on Sunday, November 29, 2015. This Christian tradition of the liturgical year is described by author Joan Chittister as ‘an adventure in bringing the Christian life to fullness, the heart to alert, the soul to focus.’ It is a reminder that January 1 is the beginning of the civic New Year and the way most people chart regularity of time and events whereas Advent can be celebrated as the new year of the soul and a time to renew the spiritual self.

The role of the church year is one of teaching - the weekly Sunday liturgy teaches the lessons of life.

‘From the liturgy we learn both the faith and Scripture, both our ideals and spiritual tradition. The cycle of Christian mysteries is wise teacher, clear model, and recurring and constant reminder of the Christ-life in our midst. Simply by being itself over and over again, simply by putting before our eyes and filtering into our hearts the living presence of the Jesus who walked from Galilee to Jerusalem doing good, it teaches us to do the same. As Jesus lived, despite either the restrictions or the regulations of His age, so, the liturgical year teaches us, must we.’ (Joan Chittister)



The liturgical year can remind us as individuals of who we want to be and offers to the church a constant reminder of the type of community we are meant to be. To reflect more on the liturgical year – the lodestar to what we might be spiritually seeking, I invite you to read *The liturgical year: the spiral adventure of the spiritual life* by Joan Chittister (2009) or *The feasts: how the church year forms us as Catholics* by Donald Wuerl and Mike Aquilina (2014).

The Gospel of Luke is central to Year C so I recommend *Seed: among the vines: a spirituality of the Sunday gospels, year c* by Peter Varengo (2012). The [Resource Centre](#) has many commentaries on Luke’s gospel including *Peace on earth: roots and practices from Luke’s gospel* by Joseph Grassi (2004); *The gospel of Luke: salvation for all humanity* by William A Anderson (2012); *The gospel of Luke: for meditation and homilies* by Geoffrey Robinson (2012); *A friendly guide to Luke’s gospel* by Stuart Moran (2012); and *The hospitality of Luke: a reading of Luke’s gospel* by Brendan Byrne (2000). Byrne’s book is about to be republished and is a favourite of many scholars and theologians including Fr Kevin Lenehan who is currently Senior Lecturer and Associate Dean at Catholic Theological College, Melbourne. Kevin recently presented in Ballarat and spoke on Luke’s theme of mercy. He has an article in the current issue of *The Summit: journal of the Liturgical Commission, Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne* (Volume 42 Number 4).

Each year publishers offer various texts including diaries, note and prayer books that are aligned with the liturgical calendar. Some that come to mind are *Sacred Spaces* – daily prayer from the Irish Jesuits; *Break open the word* – a resource that offers the Sunday proclaimer the readings and accompanying notes to better understand the readings they will proclaim; *ORDO* for the liturgical and calendar year giving the daily reference to readings and brief pastoral notes pertaining to Feast days and Sundays; and *St Paul Liturgical Calendar* for the specific year i.e. *The year of Luke*.

Calling on God- inclusive Christian prayers of the three years of Sundays by Peter Bankson and Deborah Sokolove (2014) is a new resource, beautifully crafted work, inclusive and aligns the lectionary with contemporary thought and prayer. The opening prayer for this Advent:

**Holy Maker of deep and mysterious promises,
Lead us in your truth and teach us,
for you are the God of our salvation:
we wait for you every day of our lives.**

JOURNALS of INTEREST that support Sunday liturgy preparation:

Pastoral liturgy: formation and resources for lectionary-based worship Advent-Christmas-Ordinary Time
November 2015 - February 2106 Year C Vol 46, 1

The Summit as sighted above

Good News for Catechists Term 4, 2015 (Catholic Education Melbourne). This edition includes an informative article on understanding the various genres presented in the bible. It also has an article on Prayer and Liturgy that explores how to actively 'pray the Mass.' It would be a worthwhile article to share with a school parent community.

Kate Lawry – REC

Also available for your interest are:

Advent – free resources available online

- The Columban Mission, "[Pathways: Hope for the Journey](http://www.columban.org.au/resources/catholic-advent-resource-2015-four-sundays-year-c)"
<http://www.columban.org.au/resources/catholic-advent-resource-2015-four-sundays-year-c>
- Evangelisation Brisbane, "Families Living God's Glory" <http://bne.catholic.net.au/faithlife/>
- Parish Christmas celebrations invitation template from the National Evangelisation Office. Parishes can tailor the brochure to their own needs <http://www.evangeliseaustralia.com/resources>
- Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulbourn free daily advent reflections sent to your email for the Year of Mercy <http://www.thefaceofmercy.org.au>
- Diocese of Wollongong, "Beloved: Daily Advent and Christmas Reflections 2015" - a 72 page pocket-size book containing short daily reflections from the beginning of Advent (November 29, 2015) through to the Baptism of the Lord (January 10, 2016) primarily for personal use. To order ph.: (02) 4222 2411 or email orders@dow.org.au <http://dow.org.au/shop>