



Input 3:

Can My Parish Do This?

Open Forum

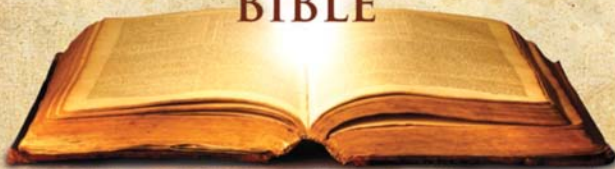
Our Experience in Mallow

1. One person along with a core group took overall ownership of getting this initiative off the ground
2. Sought permission from the Parish Priest who supported the initiative 100% including being a participant
3. Advertised for Group Leaders in November 2015
4. Got together as a group and planned a venue and a schedule; we purchased the necessary materials and devised a promotional strategy
5. Early January – wrote to all the *Ministers of the Word* in the Parish explaining the initiative and inviting them to participate; had a parish newsletter/flyer/poster/social media campaign to raise awareness
6. We registered 48 people before the closing date for applications

Our Experience in Mallow

7. We set up a email database system with participants to ensure clear and convenient lines of communication.
8. All participants were to bring a Bible to the Bible Study. Other materials were covered by the Registration Fee (which was aimed at covering the costs and overheads of running the programme).
9. We had a “cuppa and a cup-cake” on the first and last night of the course **only**.
10. We had eight sessions (from January 28th 2016) of meaningful learning and sharing as the Bible Study went on. People grew comfortable with the “method” behind the course. People grew in confidence in navigating the geography of the Bible and how to make it part of a vibrant prayer life.
11. At the end, many of them were asking – what next....

UNLOCKING THE MYSTERIES OF THE BIBLE



MALLOW PARISH Hosts an Engaging-Eight Week Bible Study

STARTS: Wednesday 27th January 2016

TIME: 7:30pm - 9:00pm

VENUE: Mallow Parish Centre

COST OF COURSE: €40 per person or €30 "Earlybird" rate

**PLACES ARE LIMITED. IF THIS IS FOR YOU,
MAKE CONTACT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**

Reading the Bible should bring us closer to Christ, but many find it hard to even begin. If this is you, why not consider Spring 2016 as a moment for new encounter with the Word of God? *Unlocking the Mysteries of the Bible* aims to make the complex simple – to give you a way to read the Bible and understand it... and so experience its life-changing power.

To register, make contact with: Fr Sean Corkery

Email: cloynenewangelisation@gmail.com

Tel: (086) 2420240

REGISTRATION BY FRIDAY 22ND JANUARY 2016

REGISTRATION FORM

Participant Information: **(Block Capitals Please)**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

By completing and submitting this form, you give permission for a member of the Bible Study Team to make contact with you prior to the commencement of the Bible Study on 27th January 2016. This will be to confirm your place on the course.

**PAYMENT OF THE REGISTRATION FEE WILL TAKE PLACE
ON THE OPENING NIGHT OF THE COURSE**

Please submit this form before Friday January 22nd 2016 to:

Mallow Parish Office, 27/28 Bank Place, Mallow, Co Cork

or

Fr Sean Corkery, 2 Bellevue Circle, Mallow, Co Cork

Note: Please register early as places are limited. This course has proved hugely popular in other parishes. Therefore, should we be oversubscribed, we will endeavour to repeat the course at a future date.

UNLOCKING THE MYSTERY OF THE BIBLE

“TO FALL IN LOVE WITH GOD IS THE GREATEST OF ALL ROMANCES;
TO SEEK HIM, THE GREATEST ADVENTURE” *St Augustine*

Mallow Parish Centre Wednesday Evenings 7:30pm-9pm

	Date	Session	Narrative Books
1.	27 th January	Introduction	
2.	3 rd February	Early World	Genesis 1-11
3.	10 th February	Patriarchs	Genesis 12-50
4.	17 th February	Egypt and Exodus, Desert Wanderings	Exodus; Numbers
5.	24 th February	Conquest & Judges; Royal Kingdom	Joshua; Judges 1&2 Samuel; 1 Kings 1-11
6.	2 nd March	Divided Kingdom Exile Return	1 Kings 12-22; 2 Kings 2 Kings 17, 25 Ezra, Nehemiah
7.	9 th March	Maccabean Revolt Messianic Fulfilment – Part 1	1 Maccabees Luke 1-21
8.	16 th March	Messianic Fulfilment – Part 2 The Church Continuing the Journey	Luke 22-24 Acts

A Group Prayer for Eight Weeks

(That we may become trustworthy missionaries of the Word of the God in our parish and beyond)

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him.

May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit. AMEN (cf. Ephesians 1:17-18)

Helpful Resources:

Catechism of the Catholic Church (Rome: [Libreria Editrice Vaticana](#), 1997).

Tim Gray & Jeff Cavins, *Walking with God: A Journey Through the Bible* (Pennsylvania: Ascension Press, 2010).

Edward Sri, *The Bible Compass: A Catholic's Guide to Navigating the Scriptures* (Pennsylvania: Ascension Press, 2009).

BibleStudyForCatholics.com

AscensionPress.com

Bible Study Team Leaders:

Fr. John O'Connell@diocese.com

The Ten Commandments of a Small Group

1. Enjoy yourself!
2. Speak with respect and charity.
3. Do not ridicule or dismiss what others say. Keep comments positive.
4. Come prepared.
5. If you were not able to prepare, let others speak first.
6. Stick to the topic and questions at hand.
7. Start and end on time.
8. Allow silence. Give people a chance to think.
9. Listen to others without interrupting.
10. Keep personal matters within the group.

Alphabetical “Rules of the Road”

- Be Audible
- Be Brief
- Be Christ-Centered
- Don't Double-Dip! (give your input, then allow others to speak)

IF IT DOESN'T
CHALLENGE
YOU
IT DOESN'T
CHANGE

Summary of our Experience in Mallow

Pray to discern what our parish can do in the time ahead

Plan and Prepare: Put out a call for Leaders – Identify Leaders – Meet as a Team and begin to plan:

What programme should we follow? Get familiar with its requirements.

What number of participants can we cater for? Order the materials

What appropriate venue to use? Has it access to audio /screen/ projector facilities? Rooms for small discussion groups?

What schedule/format suits our needs? Make out a schedule of dates that

takes account of other public and Church holidays.

Promote the event through all suitable means. Personal invitation remains the best way when possible

Participate: Running the sessions is always the most rewarding and engaging aspect of any programme. Treat it as a work of the Holy Spirit taking the group on a pilgrimage of faith and reason.

A Survey of Available Resources for Adult Faith Formation

**ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF CLOYNE**

Adult Faith Formation Programs Recommended by the Diocese & of Cloyne for use at Parish and Deanery Levels

Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible: An 8-session bible study that explains the overall "story" of the Bible!—It seeks to make the complex simple, and to make the Bible a daily companion!

A Biblical Walk Through the Mass: An 8-session study of the biblical roots of the words and gestures we experience at Mass, explaining their profound significance and meaning!

Oremus: A Guide to Catholic Prayer. An 8-session study on the essentials of an effective and fruitful prayer life. In our lives, prayer is not a luxury, when in reality it is the foundation of a healthy spiritual life!

Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother. An 8-session Bible Study that introduces the Blessed Mother. It shows how Scripture, history and Jewish culture reveal the sorrows, anxieties, and joys Mary would have felt in her heart!

The Why? Course: An 8-part introduction to the Catholic Faith addressing big questions: "Why? God? Why Christ? Why the Church?"

An Introduction to the Theology of the Body. Discovering the Master Plan for your life. An 8-part study designed to give adults a solid understanding of God's plan for human sexuality. Based on the wonder of love proclaimed by Pope St. John Paul II!

Symbols: The Catholic Faith Explained. A 20-session programme divided into two parts. Symbols—(Knowing the Faith) (Episodes 1 & 2) encounters the core teachings of the Catholic Church, might be familiar with the sacraments and moral life. While Symbols—(Living the Faith) (Episodes 3 & 4) focuses on our familiar with different aspects of the Catholic Faith, that helps us know it, live it and articulate it to others!

What is out there?

Where can we start?

OPEN FORUM

www.cloynediocese.ie

What Now?

Pray – Plan – Prepare – Promote – Participate

1. Make **prayer** the source of inspiration for your parish programmes.
2. Meet as leaders and spend time **planning** the way forward that best caters for your pastoral needs. Time spent planning is invaluable. As leaders, don't overstretch your resources. From small beginnings come great things.
3. **Preparing** well will be important as faith formation for adults may be a new idea for people. Getting the "groundwork" right (venue, schedule, format, etc.,) is important.
4. **Promoting** the initiative means using every available channel (posters, flyers, parish newsletter/website, social media, personalized letter of invitation, etc.) to communicate what is going on. You may even want to target a specific group or demographic of people in your community. Personal invitation remains, without doubt, the most effective means of promotion.
5. **Participating** in adult faith formation will bring many blessings to the whole community over time and in God's time. Sharing the life of faith with others is a very rich and rewarding undertaking.

Psalm 85 (86):11-16

Show me Lord your ways so that I may walk in your truth.

Guide my heart to fear your name.

I will praise you, Lord my God,
with all my heart and glorify your name forever;

for your love to me has been great:

You have saved me from the depths of the grave.

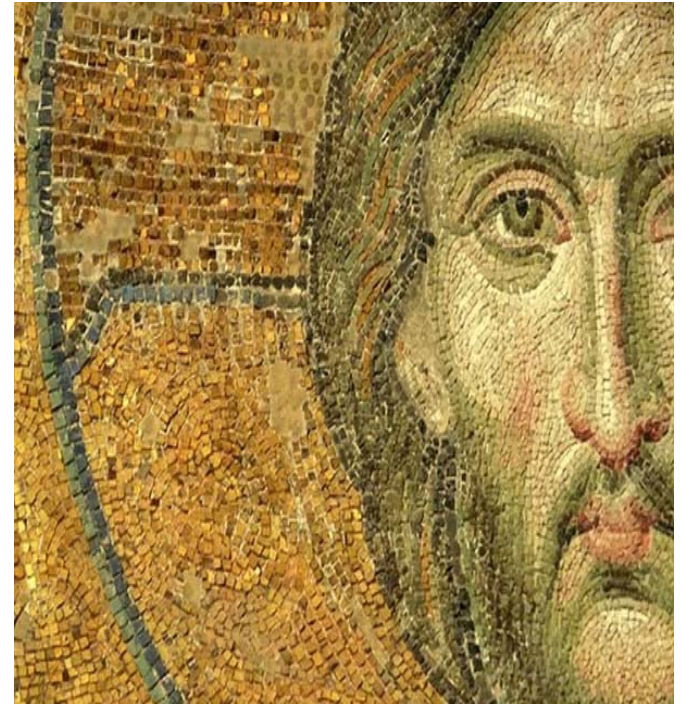
The proud have risen against me;

ruthless men seek my life:

to you they pay no heed.

But you, God of mercy and compassion,
slow to anger, O Lord, abounding in love and truth,
turn and take pity on me.

Prayer: God of love and truth, help me this day to know that you are near me. When I meet others who seem to pay no heed to your ways, help me be the light that they need to see you. Oh Lord let me never lose hope, let me have joy in sharing your love with others. Help me to carry the light of your truth throughout this day. Amen.



Prayer for the New Evangelization

Lord Jesus Christ, you have given your Church the mission to proclaim the Gospel to all the nations.

May our efforts to fulfill this mission be guided by the Holy Spirit so that we might be a leaven of new life, salt of the earth and a light of the world – worthy missionaries and faithful to you.

Make us valiant witnesses to the Faith of the Church, and inspire us to speak the truth with love. Help us communicate to others the joy that we have received.

Permit us to be united, but not close; humble, but not fearful; simple, but not naïve; thoughtful, but not overbearing; contemporary, but not superficial; respectful of others, but boldly Your disciples.

May we bear into the world the hope of God, which is Christ the Lord, who rose from the dead and lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us

St. Michael the Archangel, pray for us

St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church, pray for us

St. Peter and St. Paul, pray for us

Amen