



Saint Augustine's Bayswater

Growing in our faith

Spiritual growth and study opportunities in 2020/2021

Often, when asked to talk about the meaning of scripture or the validity of the creeds, I find myself talking about a great range of truths that can be discovered in both scripture and Church teaching. In particular, when talking about truth in scripture, It's often necessary to draw a distinction between historical truth and spiritual or moral truth.

For example, the creation stories in Genesis, while written within a historical context, tells us a lot about the beliefs of early Judaism and our ongoing relationship with God. Its primary purpose is not to offer an accurate history of chronological events.

As I said in a recent sermon, to focus only on how long it took God to create the world is to miss the whole point of the book.

The book of Genesis is not a history book, but rather a poetic insight into our search for spiritual and moral truth, made possible by God's grace.

In a similar way, through study and reflection, it is possible to see an echo of our life's journey through the stories of Moses, Aaron, Job and Jonah, just to name a few.

In the Gospels, through the writings of Christ's faithful followers, it's possible to gain an insight into the life and ministry of the historical Jesus, while also gaining an insight into God's will for our lives.

Once again, the distinction between historical and moral truth simply adds greater depth and meaning to holy scripture.

With these considerations in mind, over the course of the coming year, the parish of Bayswater will host a number of study groups and workshops that will help us to unpack some of the challenges that we will face, as we continue to search for God's truth in our lives.

Some of our studies will offer an insight into God's truth, revealed in historical events. And, some of our studies will focus more on the role of spiritual truth in our lives, as a guide for prayer and Christian ministry.

In the coming weeks, I hope you will take the opportunity to look at the studies on offer and give them your prayerful consideration.

Dates for the Studies which will be held in the Church:-

Tuesday 20th October 2020 at 6.30pm

Tuesday 24th November 2020 at 6.30pm

Future dates to be advised.

Rev Chris