



Parish of the Nativity of the Lord

Book+Circle – April 2022

What happens at Mass – Jeremy Driscoll

About the book

This book helps Catholics gain a deeper understanding of the Mass. The book is about God acting in our lives through tangible human actions and words. The book draws us closer to the ritual form of the Mass, how it is to be celebrated, and its profound meaning for the Church and the individuals within the Church.

Fr Jeremy Driscoll is a Benedictine monk of Mount Angel Abbey in Oregon

How did the book make us feel?

We had a sense of awe in reading this book – it gave such a good insight into the Mass and how each part of the Mass works. We agreed that it is truly inspirational to have reinforced through this book that: the Mass is a re-presentation of the whole Paschal Mystery (the Last Supper AND the Passion Death and Resurrection of Christ) and we enter into that same Mystery

Last Supper over 2000 years ago and has kept its true meaning and structure for centuries.

The first chapter of the book seemed quite complicated, explaining what a 'mystery' means so that the reader could put the Mass into context, beyond Chapter 1 the rest of the book was much easier and clear to read through

All the chapters gave a lot of 'food for thought', very reflective and we all agreed some sections were worth reading through twice to really appreciate what was being said - an example pg 110 gives the reason for the 'OUR' in Our Father – it was so well explained and not something we had thought about before

What did the group think were the book's main strengths?

A very clear and thought through book, logically working through each section of the Mass. The tone of the book was very respectful and a sense of reverence throughout. Each section gave the reader special insight – we pulled out particularly, The Consecration – where it is clearly explained how heaven and earth meet at the Consecration, as we enter AND also that Christ becomes truly present before us

we are entering into Heaven at this point – and we all agreed we felt a sense of closeness to family and friends who have gone before us during Mass; The link with the Trinity was so clearly explained

The book is nicely sectioned to make it an easy read (and not too long!)

And what were the book's main weaknesses?

Apart from the challenge of the first few pages in understanding the theology behind the 'mystery' of the mass, the Book had very few weaknesses. Some sections did need reading twice such as pg 96 but to an extent that was because there was such a wealth of detail that it benefited by a slow and careful read.

Would we read another book written by the same author?

Yes definitely.

Would we recommend this book to someone else?

A good read for anyone who regularly attends Mass, whether a cradle Catholic or a convert and wants to better understand what lies behind all sections of the Mass. Leaves the reader with a deeper understanding of the miracle of Mass

Next book: Edmund Campion – a Life by Evelyn Waugh

Next meeting: Friday 27 May 10.30 am (St Joseph's after mass)