



Parish of the Nativity of the Lord

Book+Circle – February 2024

Forming Intentional Disciples. The Path to knowing and following Jesus by Sherry A. Weddell

About the Book

This book is about the call to evangelisation in a post-modern world – how to open conversations about faith and belief, to engender trust, to tell the Great Story of Jesus and help someone to respond to God's call to intentional discipleship which transforms parish life and the life of the whole Church.

How did the book make us feel?

The start of the book presents a lot of statistics which was a bit off putting for some but enjoyed by others

There was a sense of realism in reading the background of the 'Pew Research'.

The emphasis on the phrase "personal relationship" throughout the book was confirming for some and powerful whilst discordant for others who felt that it came across as too simple a phrase to describe their own faith journey.

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

The book was well structured and the statistics were informative – a "page-turner" – and felt like an accurate portrayal of our parish life.

The anecdotes to illustrate the different thresholds of post-modern conversion were enlightening.

It was interesting that the author recognised the importance of having a personal relationship with Jesus before catechesis will be effective.

The subject provoked a lot of discussion about the Diocesan Plan and evangelisation within our community as well as without.

What did we think were the book's main weaknesses?

For some, an over emphasis on the much used "personal relationship" phrase.

The concentration and volume of statistics at the beginning of the book. These are based on the Catholic church in the USA - not sure how directly relevant they are to the UK

The need for an appendix with an exploration of the impact of the COVID pandemic on the Church and discipleship.

Would we read other books by this author and would we recommend this book to others?

Yes. It was recommended for all involved in evangelisation – ie all the Baptised

Next Book - Thursday 4th April 8pm Meeting Room at St Joseph's.

- The Return of the Prodigal Son" by Henri Nouwen