



## **Parish of the Nativity of the Lord**

Book+Circle – December 2024

### **Where the hell is God? Richard Leonard**

#### **About the Book**

*Our faith in God is easier when everything is going well. What about the times in our lives when it is challenged, undermined and threatened by things that happen to us or those we love? This book gives us direction as to how we can hold to a God who walks with us in the "valley of tears".*

#### **How did the book make us feel?**

- We all thought this little book was brilliant! It was very well written, he picks out themes we have all heard about where is God in certain difficult situations and approaches the answer in a very sensible and logical manner
- It was a book that inspired us to reflect on how we pray and what we are praying for
- There was an excellent summary at the end of the preface that summed up in 7 bullets how to answer 'Where the hell is God'

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

- Firstly, this is a book that is well structured and easy to read.
- The background to writing the book, the tragic accident of Fr Leonard's younger sister and the negative responses she received from some people set the scene for the content of this book, it was helpful.
- There was a lot of references to how God loves each and every one of us but how important it is that God has given us all 'free will'
- Tragedies that happen are not caused by God but by things humans have done in using God given 'free will'
- The structure of the book was very good, each chapter was clear and defined
- It was felt that Fr Leonard took a very straightforward, personal approach that would help anyone going through difficulties
- The title of the book did justice to the content.

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

- We found it difficult to detail any weaknesses. Some felt the references from the gospels around judgement and condemning were not as clear as the rest of the text.

#### **Would we recommend that this book is read by others?**

- Yes we thought this was a book that was relevant to everyone, particularly those who may have faced/be facing a difficult situation and wondering where is God in their life.

**Next Book+Circle** - Small Meeting Room at St Joseph's

**Thursday 6 February 8.00pm** Book: Abandonment to Divine Providence by Jean Pierre de Caussad

**Friday 4 April 10.30 am:** Dilexit Nos (2004) – free to read online (Pope Francis's Oct 24 Encyclical)

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html>

OR purchase on the St Paul's website, shop next to Westminster Cathedral

<https://stpauls.org.uk/dilexit-nos.html>