



Parish of the Nativity of the Lord

Book+Circle – February 2026

What are we waiting for – Fr Richard Leonard

About the Book

What Are We Waiting For? Finding Meaning in Advent & Christmas - is written by Jesuit priest and author Richard Leonard, SJ. It offers daily reflections, stories, and theological insights designed to help readers navigate the spiritual, social, and emotional challenges of the Advent and Christmas seasons.

How did the book make us feel?

- We enjoyed reading this book, there was such a lot of interesting points made, and these were illuminated with 'real life' stories
- The style of writing is very conversational

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

- This is a book that is well structured and easy to read. We had read one of his other books 'Where the hell is God' in the Book+Circle and had found his style good
- Each chapter in this book was clear and defined and it was helpful to be able to pause and reflect before moving on
- Fr Leonard has a skill in bringing his spiritual ideas to life by dropping in personal reflections - moments from parish life, ministry and everyday experiences, these asides make the book feel very human. He shows how grace appears in everyday experiences
- We chuckled over the description of the youngsters performing the Nativity
- He talks in an interesting way about how Catholicism can become too comfortable and not stretch us – and perhaps we all need to be challenged in our Faith
- The title of the book – What are we waiting for? – was interesting, Fr Leonard reminds us that Christians often think about their faith in the light of something in the future and act as if they are waiting for something to happen and yet the Kingdom of God has already begun, and we must live and act in the present

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

- Very few weaknesses, perhaps some traditional Catholics might not like some of Fr Leonard's ideas

Would we recommend that this book is read by others?

- Yes, we thought this was a book was a good read for anyone

Next Book+Circle - Small Meeting Room at St Joseph's **Thursday 26 March @ 8.00pm** Pope Leo's first Apostolic Exhortation – *Dilexi te* (I have loved you)

https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20251004-dilexi-te.html
(read online)

<https://www.ctsbooks.org/product/dilexi-te/> or St Paul's Bookshop (London)

Friday 15 May 10.30 am: This is my body – By Bishop Robert Barron