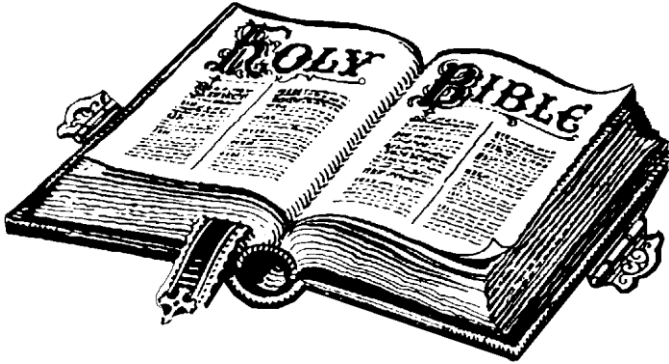


BIBLES IN YOUR HAND

It is very easy to have the Word of God with you at home, in the car, at work! Nowadays the extensive use of tablets and smartphones means you may not even need to carry a book with you! Hopefully this information will let you get your hands on a Bible you can actually use!



Which Translation?

The Bible was written in Hebrew and Greek, so every version is a translation. Every translation is slightly different! Some are more easily read than others, but you have to be careful that a 'translation' is not actually an adaptation – which moves beyond the words of the scriptures and can sometimes bring different meanings and interpretations, especially with difficult passages! When you buy a Bible, make sure you know what translation it is – normally shown by two or three letters on the cover.

In addition, the Catholic Church has a bigger bible! There are a few books that we accept but which are not accepted by every Church – these are sometimes known as the “Apocrypha” or “Deutero-Canonical Books”.

The commonest English translation is the **King James Version (KJV)** – also **AV** or **KJB** which was translated at the command of King James I in the year 1611. It is a very beautiful and poetic translation, but the language is very difficult to read sometimes. Often presentation and gift bibles use this translation.

The oldest Catholic translation is the **Douay-Rheims Bible (DR or DV)**, which was begun in 1582. If you have this, it is probably the revision by Bishop Challoner in 1750. Many non-Catholics dislike this version because it is a translation from the Latin Vulgate, not the original Hebrew and Greek. Again the language can be a bit dated and difficult at times!

Bibles are very easily available in most bookshops, and www.amazon.co.uk stocks a vast number of translations and different editions, from the very

inexpensive paperback version to very posh presentation volumes! Be careful about the page size: there are a lot of words in the Bible, and small editions the print is very small indeed – sometimes almost unreadable!

More modern versions, commonly used in the Catholic Church, and recommended for use at home are:

The Jerusalem Bible (JB) and New Jerusalem Bible (NJB) *The JB is the version commonly used in Catholic Churches in this country at Mass.*

The Revised Standard Version (RSV) and New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) *The RSV is also authorised for use at Mass in the UK.*

The Contemporary English Version (CEV) and the Good News Bible (GNB) *This is approved as a resource in England and Wales for use in Masses with Children.*

The New American Bible (NAB) *is the version used in Catholic Churches in the United States, which (apart from a few different spellings) is very readable!*

Other Readable Versions are The **New International Version (NIV)**, The **Common English Bible (CEB)** and **The English Standard Version (ESV)** *which is the version we will be using in Church in the new Lectionary from Advent 2024.*

Recommended Bibles to Purchase

In Church you can see a display of nine bibles suitable for different age ranges, all of which are easily available to purchase online from retailers such as Amazon or Eden. You can find the exact edition seen in church by using the ISBN Number.

1. **The CTS New Catholic Bible (Standard Edition)** [ISBN 978 1 86082 467 8] Available at <https://www.ctsbooks.org/product/new-catholic-bible-standard/> **£20.95**
2. **The Good News Bible Catholic Edition** [ISBN 978 0 56407 087 9] Available at <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/products/9780564070879/> **£17.99**

3. **Catholic Bible ESV-CE English Standard Version, Catholic Edition** [ISBN 978 0 28108 526 2] Available at <https://spckpublishing.co.uk/bibles/esv-bibles> **£19.99**
4. **NRSV Holy Bible XL Catholic Edition** [ISBN 978 0 06194 654 7] Available at <https://stpauls.org.uk/xl-catholic-edition-bible.html> **£49.50**
5. **Good News Bible – The Youth Edition** [ISBN 978 0 56407 037 4] Available at <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/products/9780564070374/> **£22.99**
6. **The Action Bible** [ISBN 978 0 78144 499 6] Available at Amazon **£17.99**
7. **The Comic Book Bible** [ISBN 978 1 60260 685 2] Available at Amazon **£6.99**
8. **The Lion Children’s Bible** [ISBN 978 0 74594 912 3] Available at Amazon **£7.44**
9. **The Beginner’s Bible for Toddlers** [ISBN 978 1 85985 741 0] *Not currently available new, though second-hand copies are very cheap! “The Beginner’s Bible” is a series with many titles that can be on Amazon.*



Bibles for Children and Bible Resources

Good Christian bookshops will always stock a variety of children’s bibles, and collection of bible stories for little ones of every age. A good website for buying bibles for youngsters is www.eden.co.uk, which is a site selling all sorts of fun religious bits and pieces as well! Just make sure you know which translation the bible is – some presentation bibles for children use the **KJV**, which is not necessarily the most readable!

Online Bibles and Resources

www.catholic.org/bible

Catholic Online offers the whole **New Jerusalem Bible** translation online (which is the version approved for use at Mass). Scroll down the page and

you find links to every book of the bible. Red words are linked to the Catholic Encyclopaedia, which give you a lot of information (though sometimes it has to be said rather difficult) explaining the terms.

bible.oremus.org

This is the online text of the **Revised Standard Version** of the Bible – a translation authorised for use in the Catholic Church. You can search by book, or even by verse, or by theme.

www.biblegateway.com

This is an amazing site with dozens of translations of the Bible in English and several other languages! You put the book and chapter into the search box, and then you can choose your translation, even comparing different versions. The **Contemporary English Version** and the **Good News Bible** are authorised for use in the Catholic Church.

www.universalis.com

Universalis is a UK Catholic site, which gives you the daily Mass readings. You can also find the whole of the Divine Office (the prayer of the Church which priests and deacons are required to say every day). Universalis also has an excellent app for iPhones and Android devices.

www.biblehub.com

This is a very useful site if you ever want to compare different translations of the Bible to get a sense of the original: simply enter a verse or chapter in the search box and then compare how it has been translated.

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy>

CAFOD provide excellent Sunday resources for children – while these are meant for Children’s Liturgy of the Word in Church, there is no reason why you can’t use them at home!

The Bible on your Phone

If you have an iPhone or an Android Phone, you can easily download the text of the Bible to carry with you all the time. Simply search “Catholic Bible” on the appropriate App store – chances are you will get the New American Bible, which is the approved Catholic translation for the States, but this is still very readable.

A good source of information on Catholic Bible Apps is found at

<http://catholicapptitude.org/bible-apps/>