

Useful Homiletic Resources.

NB: S = Sunday homilies, W = Weekday homilies.

Online Resources:

Homilies:

Bishop Robert Barron, *Word on Fire*. S.

www.wordonfire.org/resources/homilies

A very useful site with an extensive archive. The text of the homily is not provided; it comes in an audio format delivered by Bishop Robert Barron, auxiliary bishop of Los Angeles. Each homily usually lasts about thirteen minutes.

Catholic Homilies. S.W.

www.homilies.net

This is a very useful site. As well as a catalogue of homilies in English and Spanish for the Sundays of the year, it offers a huge number of links, including to sites for relevant quotations, jokes, and weekday, wedding and funeral homilies, and homilies for children. The weekday homilies are excellent.

Torch. S.

www.torch.op.org

Excellent homilies written by English Dominican friars for each Sunday and major feast-day, with a user-friendly archive. Although particularly useful for their strong scriptural theological basis, they are accessible and relevant.

ePriest. S. W.

www.epriest.com

EPriest's main resource, offer four basic elements a homilist needs to shape his own homily, not off-the-shelf homilies. The first element is the 'Lesson', giving insight into the essential

themes of the week's readings. There is a choice of three or four lessons, drawing out a key idea underlying one or more of the readings, and the homilist should choose one. Next he needs to find one or two 'Illustrations': *ePriest* provides at least two per 'Lesson', though these are not supposed to stop him drawing on his personal experience. The last dimension, content-wise, is the 'Application', moral guidance making the Lesson relevant to the congregation; again the pack usually suggests a choice. *EPriest*'s other resources include daily reflections, to help the priest himself pray with the day's Gospel, which could be helpful, and best practice tips, which seem particularly applicable to the American context.

EPriest requests a donation of \$25/£19 *per annum*, which is not mandatory but would be very good value for the resources provided.

Fr. Tommy Lane. S. (W)

<http://frtommylane.com/>

Fr. Lane, an Irish priest currently serving as professor of Sacred Scripture at Mount St Mary's Seminary in Maryland. He provides a database of Sundays and major feasts, with a range of relevant homilies based on sound theology. He also offers a selection of weekday homilies, but it is far from comprehensive, and focuses particularly on priesthood/vocation. He also offers resources for weddings, funerals, pilgrimages and pro-life events.

Preachers' Exchange. S. W.

www.preacherexchange.com

Preachers' Exchange is a collection of email and online preaching resources. These include Fr. Jude Siciliano OP's *First Impressions*, released weekly and covering the following Sunday's liturgy; *Volume II*, weekly reflections submitted by guest contributors; and Elaine Ireland's *Come and See!* There are also resources in Spanish.

The Sánchez Archives. S.

<http://www.nationalcatholicreporter.org/sanchez/>

A complete set of commentaries for the three scriptural readings as assigned to each Sunday, written by Patricia Sánchez, a recently-deceased American scriptural commentator. It was originally published in *Celebration: An Ecumenical Worship Resource*, and is now hosted by the *National Catholic Reporter*. The website is slightly fiddly.

Today's Good News – Gospel Commentary. S/W.

<http://goodnews.ie/calendar.php>

The Irish Dominican retreat centre has provided a very useful resource, both for Sundays and weekdays. It is clearly organised in a calendar format, with a homily provided for each day's Gospel.

Other Resources:

US Conference of Catholic Bishops – Video Daily Reflections. S.W.

<http://www.usccb.org/bible/reflections/index.cfm>

Good quality three-minute video addressing the central point of the day's readings, presented by both priests and lay people.

The Catholic Lectionary Website.

<http://catholic-resources.org/Lectionary/>

A website edited by an American Jesuit, Fr. Felix Just SJ, with some useful links to material potentially useful in preparing homilies.

The Text this Week. S.

www.textweek.com/

A very rich and diverse ecumenical resource, created by Jenee Woodard, an American amateur scripture scholar. For organisation by lectionary week, scroll to the bottom of the home page. For each Sunday, she offers a very wide-ranging selection of resources - including relevant films, works of art, commentaries and academic articles - for the readings.

Overall opinion: contains a large amount of great material. So much information here that that it can take a long while to sift.

Books:

Communication:

David Crystal, *The Gift of the Gab: How Eloquence Works.*

Yale University Press, 2016.

Crystal, a retired professor of English and linguistics, attempts to remedy the problem of people who think they can't speak in public, which he refuses to accept. Carefully constructed with short chapters and entertaining historical 'interludes', Crystal offers a series of themes and strategies to guide his reader through the elements necessary for eloquence in any setting, from wedding speech to political rally.

Chris Anderson, *TED Talks: The Official TED Guide to Public Speaking.*

Headline Publishing, 2016.

Chris Anderson, curator of *TED*, aims to recast rhetoric for the modern era with this set of tools to help those with something valuable to say to communicate it authentically (*TED* being an organisation which produces highly popular short talks on a variety of subjects – initially technology, entertainment and design). After a certain amount of discussion of *TED*, he also presents practical advice for speaking more effectively.

Preaching:

Ken Untener, *Preaching Better: Practical Suggestions for Homilists.*

Paulist Press, 1999.

Bishop Ken Untener (of Saginaw, Michigan) provided to compile this very accessible yet creative and thought-provoking handbook for better preaching.

Joseph M. Webb, *Preaching Without Notes.*

Abingdon Press, 2001.

Webb makes a powerful case, from an American Protestant perspective, for preaching without a text, and preferably without notes at all.

Books containing useful short stories.

Frank Mihalic SVD, *1000 Stories You Can Use.*

Logos Publications, 2004.

Some profound stories from around the world that could be put to use by a creative homilist. There have been two follow-ups to this book.

Week-by-week:

Fr. Denis McBride CSSR, *Seasons of the Word. S.*

Redemptorist Publications, 1991/2011.

Fr McBride offers reflections on the Sunday readings with full Gospel index.

Fr. Harold A. Buetow, *God Still Speaks: Listen! S.*

Alba House – Society of St Paul, 1995-1997.

Fr Buetow, a priest of the diocese of Brooklyn, offers both an important and engaging discussion of homiletics' fundamental nature and homily manuscripts for each Sunday, and for major feasts. There are three volumes: *God Still Speaks* (year A); *All Things Made New* (B); *Ode to Joy* (C).

Fr. Peter Edmonds S.J. *The Way Companion to the Sunday Missal*

Way Books, Campion Hall (2014)

Brief, informative and accessible commentary on the Sunday readings for the three year Sunday cycle. An answer to the preacher's prayer.

Fr. Flor McCarthy SDB, *New Sunday and Holy Day Liturgies. S.*

Dominican Publications, 1998.

There are three homilies for each occasion, as well as the introduction to the Mass, the headings for the readings, the prayer of the faithful and the reflection. McCarthy is skilled in his use of story and poetic language. There is a separate book for each year of the cycle.

Overall opinion: a *must* on your bookshelf. 9.5/10.

Fr. Silvester O’Flynn OFM Cap., *Sunday Seeds. S.*

Columba Press, 2002.

This book offers three short reflections drawn for the liturgical readings for each Sunday of the three-year cycle, and for a selection of major feast-days.

Peter Edwards (ed.), *Lost for Words? A Homily Resource for the Catholic three-year cycle. S.*

Redemptorist Publications, 2009.

Peter Edwards presents here a selection from the Redemptorists’ homiletic quarterly *The Living Word*. Overall opinion: the great strength of *Lost for Words?* is that it covers the entire cycle, and major solemnities, in one volume. Some of the illustrations are very useful. .

Fr. John O’Shea OSA, *The Spiritual Wisdom of the Gospels for Preachers and Teachers.*

Liturgical Press, 2004-2010.

Wise and engaging reflections which connect the gospel stories with people’s experience. Books for each of years A, B and C and another book for feasts, weddings and funerals.

Fr. Martin Hogan, *Journeying with Matthew, Reflections for the Sunday Gospel*

Veritas, 2019

Also *Journeying with Mark and Journeying with Luke* available. Martin Hogan is a priest of the Dublin diocese and lectures in New Testament studies. Very helpful insights. 9/10

Scripture:

Tom Wright, *For Everyone New Testament series.*

SPCK, 2004-2011.

NT Wright, renowned Scripture scholar and Anglican bishop of Durham (2003-10), has produced a commentary on the New Testament in eighteen short books, alongside his own translation. Starting from the universality of Pentecost’s message and that of the New Testament texts in their day, he seeks to present the important insights of Scriptural scholarship while keeping Scripture *for everyone*.

Overall opinion: useful background information, explanations and thoughts as to how the texts might connect to life today.