



The Story of Salvation How to Read the Bible

Fr. Anton Vogelsang, LC

2024-2025

General Information

Venue: London Jesuit Centre 114 Mount St, London W1K 3AH – Aula Magna, 2nd floor

Dates:

Session 1 - 12 October 2024
Session 2 - 7 December 2024
Session 3 - 18 January 2025
Session 4 - 1 March 2025
Session 5 - 17 May 2025

Schedule:

11.15 – Welcome coffee
11.30 – Bible session
13.00 – Conclusion
13.15 – Holy Mass/Rosary

Details:

- Payment: 15£ per session (pay by session) or 60£ (pay once)
- Receive complementary RC notebook and pen
- After registration, payment details will be provided via email.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In partnership with the Westminster Agency for Evangelisation, Regnum Christi UK invites you to join us on a journey of deepening in the story of YOUR salvation in this course that will provide you with the tools to both understand the Bible and your Catholic Faith in a new and deeper way and enable you to be a better apostle of his Kingdom in our world.

Fr. Anton describes the course in his own words, "I like teaching because I like learning, and the best way to learn something is to try to explain it to others. The two subjects I am most passionate about are the Bible and our Mother Mary. That is why I am so excited about this course, which I hope will equip you to read the Bible better. It is based on a book I published in German called Maria - Auf ihren Spuren in der Bibel, which could be loosely translated as "Finding Mary in the Bible". To find something, whatever it is, you need to know how and where to look for it. In my book, I am looking for the biblical foundation of Mary according to the Catholic faith. How should we look for Mary in the Bible? By this I mean, how should we read the Bible? This is the subject of this course. Almost all the examples I use to illustrate this theory are Marian examples taken from my book. You will be able to apply these same principles to any aspect of the Catholic faith when you read the Bible."

Session 1 – An introduction to the spiritual and literal senses of biblical texts What does the Church teach us in numbers 101-108 and 115-119 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church? We will see that the Bible is one of a kind because it is both human and divine. It is divine because "God is the author of Sacred Scripture" (CCC 105), but it is also human because the human authors are true authors as well (cf. CCC 106). Because of this, God speaks to us through both the literal and spiritual senses of the biblical text.

Session 2 – Understanding the Sacred Authors and their intentions and literary styles A detailed study is necessary of numbers 109 and 110 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Because the books of the Bible were written by human authors, number 109 states that, "To interpret Scripture correctly, the reader must be attentive to what the human authors truly wanted to affirm." This is the literal sense of the text. Number 110 gives us several principles on how to discover the sacred authors' intention. This session will be dedicated to looking closely at the first two: "The reader must take into account the conditions of their time and culture [and] the literary genres in use at that time."

Session 3 – Putting the biblical text in a specific historical and cultural context This session will be dedicated to looking at the third principle found in number 110 of the Catechism on how to interpret Scripture correctly. It states that, "The reader must be attentive to... the modes of feeling, speaking and narrating then current." An additional principle, not mentioned in the Catechism but equally important, states that it is also necessary to take into account the textual context of the passage being studied.

Session 4 – Understanding the spiritual sense of the biblical texts We will study in detail numbers 111-114 that speak about the spiritual sense of the text. The Church teaches that Sacred Scripture must be read and interpreted in the light of the same Spirit by whom it was written. These numbers from the Catechism give three criteria on how to accomplish this.

Session 5 – Concrete application of the spiritual and literal senses to different passages of the Bible This last session will be dedicated to applying the material from the previous sessions to the interpretation of various passages in the Bible. For example, what does St. Mark mean in Mk 6:1-6 when he mentioned Jesus' brothers. Did he want to say that Mary had other children or not? The feasts and sacrifices in the Old Testament also play an important part as they prefigure and were fulfilled by Jesus Christ.