

Lectio Divina

Lectio Divina ('sacred reading') is a slow, contemplative reading of, and praying with, the Scriptures. It aims to allow God to speak to us through His Word. Lectio Divina has ancient Christian roots dating back to the early Church Fathers around 300 AD, but the four steps that are central to it were first recorded by a monk, Guigo Cartojo, in the 12th century.

If you'd like to know more, the Bible Society has some excellent resources to help you use this ancient technique with the Church of England lectionary at <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/lectio-divina/>.

Luke 10:25-37 – New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

²⁵Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus ^[a]. 'Teacher,' he said, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' ²⁶He said to him, 'What is written in the law? What do you read there?' ²⁷He answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.' ²⁸And he said to him, 'You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.'

²⁹But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' ³⁰Jesus replied, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³²So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵The next day he took out two denarii^[b], gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend." ³⁶Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' ³⁷He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'

Footnotes:

[a] *Luke 10:25* Gk. him

[b] *Luke 10:35* The denarius was the usual day's wage for a labourer

New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicised Edition, copyright © 1989, 1995 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

After the first reading:

What is the one word or phrase God, by His Holy Spirit, impresses on you? Stay with that word or phrase in the silence, and only when you have done so, share it with one or two around you without comment or discussion.

After the second reading:

Take time to explore the passage using your imagination and feelings, focusing particularly on the word or phrase that stood out for you. How do you think God might be speaking to you?

For further reflection:

Continue to explore the passage on your own and with others in the coming weeks. What might God be saying to you and to your church through this passage about how you view your contribution to the common life and mission of the diocese?