

“The Certainty of Things Taught”

Reflecting in RCIA with the Gospel of Luke

The Prologue of Luke (1:1-4)

“Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who were eye-witnesses and servants of the word, I, in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.”

Luke’s Gospel is a carefully considered work, but one which takes a particular form, with particular emphases and themes.

Things to remember:

1. The ‘Gospel’ is only one half of a two-part work called “Luke-Acts”.

In a sense, Luke’s Gospel is in two parts:

The Good News, volume I: The Spirit in the Life of the Christ

The Good News, volume II: The Spirit in the Life of the Church

(Note how Luke and Acts begin alike, then focus on promises made, before the Spirit is said to come, and the mission begins...)

2. Luke wants us to know that God is always in control, even when it seems others have acted against Him or without Him

(from Zechariah to Caesar; Gabriel’s messages; the recurring motif of ‘it was ordained’; the Passion of Jesus; the persecution of the Church; the rejection of the Gospel by the Jews... etc)

3. Almost every passage in the Gospel will be influenced by some or all of the following ideas:

- *The Holy Spirit at work (see just how often it is mentioned!)*
- *The Word of God (Scripture, Jesus speaking, Church’s preaching)*
- *Joy, praise and wonder (almost always a positive reception of God’s work)*
- *Eating, drinking and hospitality*
- *Journey and travel (movement, effort, mission)*

4. The following themes recur frequently:

- *Jesus as friend to the marginalised: poor, Gentiles, women, Samaritans, sick*
- *Mission and preaching*
- *Salvation – Jesus as Saviour – and Forgiveness/ reconciliation*
- *The City of Jerusalem (Focus for the Gospel, eventually spreads to the world in Acts)*
- *Worship (See how often imagery of prayer, Temple, sacrifice and liturgy appear)*

In RCIA

In the year of Luke, the following elements can be usefully employed in RCIA meetings and reflection:

1. Using the theme of journey: Where have we reached?
2. Make a thing of hospitality – eating and drinking.
3. Make constant reference to the “Word”
4. Ensure meetings always include a liturgy or prayer.
5. Ensure meetings always end with praise and joy – for what God has done this week, in this session, in our lives, etc
6. Give Mary a place often (prayer, imagery, etc)
7. Give the Holy Spirit a place often (weekly!)
8. As catechists, give thanks for being among the “servants of the Word” in the continuing story, “The Spirit in the Life of the Church”, which Luke introduced.

The Skeleton of the Gospel

I. Prologue (1:1-4)

II. The Infancy Narrative(1:5–2:52)

- A. Two Pregnancies (1:5-56)*
- B. Two Sons (1:57–2:52)*

III. The Preparation for Public Ministry (3:1–4:13)

- A. Preparation by John the Baptist (3:1-20)*
- B. Preparation by Jesus' Baptism (3:21-22)*
- C. Preparation by Jesus' Pedigree (Genealogy) (3:23-38)*
- D. Preparation by Jesus' Temptation (4:1-13)*

IV. The Galilean Ministry (4:14–9:50)

- A. Beginnings in Ministry (4:14-44)*
- B. Authority in Ministry (5:1–6:16)*
- C. Teaching: The Sermon on the Plain (6:17-49)*
- D. The Receivers of Jesus' Ministry (7:1–9:6)*
- E. The Identity of Jesus Progressively Revealed (9:7-51)*

V. The Journey to Jerusalem (9:51–19:27)

- A. Instruction in Discipleship in the Light of Jesus' Mission (9:51–11:13)*
- B. Confrontation with the Pharisees: First Cycle (11:14-54)*
- C. Instruction in Discipleship in the Light of the Leaders' Rejection (12:1–13:35)*
- D. Confrontation with the Pharisees: Second Cycle (14:1-24)*
- E. Instruction in Discipleship in the Light of Jesus' Impending Death (14:25–19:27)*

VI. The Jerusalem Ministry (19:28–21:38)

- A. The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem (19:28-44)*
- B. Religious Opposition in the Temple (19:45–21:38)*

VII. The Death and Resurrection Narrative (22:1–24:53)

- A. The Preparation for Death (22:1-53)*
- B. The Trials and Death of Jesus (22:54–23:56)*
- C. The Resurrection of Jesus (24:1-53)*

Catechesis & Reflection with Luke in the Seasons

Advent	
Advent 1	“He will come again in glory”; Future hope; Christian life
Advent 2	Prophets; Old & New Testament; God at work in our lives
Advent 3	Justice; Holy Spirit; Faith – “What must we do?”
Advent 4	Mary; The Hail Mary; Sanctity of Life; Christmas: promise kept
Lent	
Lent 1	Temptation; Scriptural Prayer; “We believe in one God”
Lent 2	Exodus & Passover; “We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ”;
Lent 3	(<i>First Scrutiny: Living Water</i> <i>John 4</i>)
Lent 4	(<i>Second Scrutiny: Light of the World</i> <i>John 9</i>)
Lent 5	(<i>Third Scrutiny: Resurrection & Life</i> <i>John 11</i>)
Palm Sunday	The Paschal Mystery; Jesus’ death as saving & reconciling
Eastertide	
Easter Vigil	The angels (Christmas, Easter & Ascension) ; Liturgical Cycle; Faith
Easter 2	Faith & Unbelief; Holy Spirit & Forgiveness; Christian Life
Easter 3	Mission; Witness; Eucharist; Faith in the Future
Easter 4	Communion of Saints; Church Unity; Mission
Easter 5	The New Commandment; The Church (<i>one, holy, catholic & apostolic</i>)
Easter 6	‘Who is the Holy Spirit?’; At home in Church;
Easter 7	Mission; Ecumenism; Doing as the Master did...; Ministry
Pentecost	Holy Spirit; Church; Baptism/Confirmation; Memory; Witness
Trinity Sunday	Wisdom; Holy Spirit; Gifts of the Spirit; Trinity;
Corpus Christi	Eucharist; Passover; Communion; Ministry

Luke in the Seasons

Advent		
Advent 1	Signs of the End: Stay Awake!	21:25-28,34-36
Advent 2	John the Baptist Appears	3:1-6
Advent 3	John the Baptist Preaches	3:10-18
Advent 4	The Visitation	1:39-44
Lent		
Lent 1	Temptations of Jesus	4:1-13
Lent 2	Transfiguration of Jesus	9:28-36
Lent 3	First Scrutiny: Living Water	John 4
Lent 4	Second Scrutiny: Light of the World	John 9
Lent 5	Third Scrutiny: Resurrection & Life	John 11
Palm Sunday	Passion of Jesus	Luke 22:14 - 23:56
Eastertide		
Easter Vigil	The Rising	Luke 24:1-12
Easter 2	The Apostles & Thomas	John 20:19-31
Easter 3	Breakfast on the Beach; Peter’s Call	John 21:1-19
Easter 4	The Sheep, the Shepherd and His Father	John 10:27-30
Easter 5	The New Commandment	John 13:31-35
Easter 6	Promise of the Spirit	John 14:23-29
Easter 7	Jesus’ Prayer: Unity and Evangelisation	John 17:20-26
Pentecost	Receive the Spirit	John 20:19-23
Trinity Sunday	The Spirit of Truth	John 16:12-15
Corpus Christi	The Feeding of the Crowd	Luke 9:11-17

The Ordinary Sundays with Luke

Sunday 1	Jesus' Baptism	Luke 3:15-16,21-22
Sunday 2	(Marriage at Cana)	John 2:1-12)
Sunday 3	Prologue & Synagogue Text	1:1-4; 4:14-21
Sunday 4	Synagogue Sermon & First Rejection	4:21-30
Sunday 5	The Call of the Fishermen	5:1-11
Sunday 6	'Sermon on the Plain' (1: Beatitudes)	6:17, 20-26
Sunday 7	'Sermon on the Plain' (2: '...as God is')	6:27-38
Sunday 8	'Sermon on the Plain' (3: Good & Bad)	6:39-45
Sunday 9	The Centurion's Faith Rewarded	7:1-10
Sunday 10	The Widow of Nain	7:11-17
Sunday 11	Jesus' feet anointed by the 'Sinner'	7:36 – 8:3
Sunday 12	Peter's Confession & Jesus Prediction	9:18-24
Sunday 13	The Journey Begins	9:51-62
Sunday 14	The Mission of the 72	10:1-12, 17-20
Sunday 15	The Good Samaritan	10:25-37
Sunday 16	Martha and Mary	10:38-42
Sunday 17	The Importunate Friend	11:1-13
Sunday 18	The Parable of the Rich Fool	12:13-21
Sunday 19	The Need for Vigilance	12:32-48
Sunday 20	Jesus: Cause of Division & Persecution	12:49-53
Sunday 21	How few will be saved!	13:22-30
Sunday 22	Humility & Hospitality	14:1, 7-14
Sunday 23	The Cost of Discipleship	14:25-33
Sunday 24	The Parables of Forgiveness	15:1-32
Sunday 25	The Crafty Steward	16:1-13
Sunday 26	The Rich Man and Lazarus	16:19-31
Sunday 27	Faith & Dedication to Service	17:5-10
Sunday 28	The Ten Lepers	17:11-19
Sunday 29	The Unjust Judge & Persistent Widow	18:1-8
Sunday 30	The Pharisee & the Tax Collector	18:9-14
Sunday 31	Zacchaeus	19:1-10
Sunday 32	The Resurrection	20:27-38
Sunday 33	End Signs; Persecution & Perseverance	21:5-19
Sunday 34	Christ the King: The Repentant Thief	23:35-43

Catechesis & Reflection with Luke in Ordinary Time

Baptism	Baptism; Expectations; "Who is Jesus?" - <i>with Acts & Isaiah</i>
Wk 2	Revelation; Marriage; Sacraments as 'signs' leading to faith;
Wk 3	The Writing of the Gospels; 'Why read the Old Testament?'; Confirmation/Spirit/Chrism; Christ
Wk 4	Liturgy; Evangelisation; "Why be Catholic?"; Difficulties in Faith
Wk 5	Discipleship; Vocation; Priesthood; Ministry in Church
Wk 6	Christian Life; Justice; Writing of the Gospels; Wisdom Tradition
Wk 7	Images of God; Forgiveness, Generosity & Core Moral Values
Wk 8	Sin; Forgiveness; Examination of Conscience; Morality
Wk 9	'Who is Jesus?'; Sacrament of the Sick; Church;
Wk 10	Funeral Rites; Death & Resurrection; 'Who is Jesus?'; Bereavement
Wk 11	Forgiveness; Sacrament of Penance;
Wk 12	'Who is Jesus?'; Christian Life; Discipleship; Prayer
Wk 13	Faith as Journey; Extending the Invitation; Faith as Response; Planning
Wk 14	Mission; Evangelisation; Promise; Kingdom of God
Wk 15	Acceptance; Practical Charity; Faith in Action;
Wk 16	Contemplation; Personal prayer; Lectio Divina;
Wk 17	Prayer; 'Our Father'; Holy Spirit as Gift;
Wk 18	Stewardship; Environment; Faith in a Consumer Society; Simplicity
Wk 19	Christian Life; Persevering Faith; Tradition;
Wk 20	Holy Spirit; Freedom of Conscience; RCIA and home situations
Wk 21	Commitment & Demands of Catholic Faith; Catholicity;
Wk 22	Hospitality; Rite of Acceptance(?); Virtue(s); Eucharist
Wk 23	Discipleship; RCIA planning; Images of God; Trinity (<i>with 1st Rdg</i>);
Wk 24	Sacrament of Reconciliation; Forgiveness; Images of God
Wk 25	Justice (<i>with 1st Rdg</i>); Faith as Decision;
Wk 26	Christian Faith & Wealth; Justice; Catholic Social Doctrine;
Wk 27	Ministry; Faith as Trust; Faith as Strength;
Wk 28	Sacrament of the Sick; Eucharist/Thanksgiving; Thanksgiving Prayer
Wk 29	Intercessory Prayer; Persistence in Prayer (<i>both with 1st Rdg</i>); Justice;
Wk 30	Sacrament of Penance; Penitential Prayer ('Jesus' Prayer); Humility
Wk 31	Sin & Repentance; Penance; Salvation;
Wk 32	Death & Resurrection; Old Testament;
Wk 33	Reading the Signs of the Times; Perseverance; Catholic 'Eschatology'
Wk 34	'Who is Jesus?'; Eternal Life; Service; Priest/Prophet/King

