A Priest's Library
Essential Books for the Anglican Ministry
Compiled by Fr. William Klock

A quality theological library is critical to the work of a priest. The following is my humble attempt to list those books that I’ve found essential or particularly helpful in my own ministry. There are other books that could be listed, but I’ve tried to restrict the list to those I consider “essential” or nearly so.

I’ve organised these books as best I can by subject category. I’ve given priority to books on the exposition of Scripture and on the priest’s role as the shepherd of God’s flock, as I think these are our primary areas of ministry. The priest must be well-read in theology, but not simply as an academic exercise – it must be practical. My prayer is that this list will grow with time and assist men in years to come as they enter the ministry.

Theological Subjects

Enns, Peter. *Inspiration and Incarnation*. Baker, 2005
________. Jesus and the Victory of God.  SPCK, 1996.

Pastoral Theology and Counselling

Adams, Jay E.  The Big Umbrella…and Other Essays and Addresses on Christian Counseling. Baker, 1972
________. Christian Living in the Home. Presbyterian and Reformed, 1972
________. Handbook of Church Discipline: A Right and Privilege of Every Church Member. Zondervan, 1986.

**Worship and Liturgy**


**Preaching**

Stott, John R. W. *Between Two Worlds: The Art of Preaching in the Twentieth Century.* Eerdmans,
1982.

**Patristics**
______. *Reading Scripture with the Church Fathers*. InterVarsity, 2002.
*Note*: The Early Church Fathers is an excellent jumping off point for the study of the Fathers, as is the Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture, but these ought not to be stopping points. Paulist Press’ Ancient Christian Writers series includes many more early works in up-to-date translations, and many other modern translations are available from other publishers.

**Bible Texts – Hebrew and Greek**
*(In a pinch: Brenton, Lancelot. *The Septuagint with Apocrypha: Greek and English*. Hendrickson, 1986.)*

**Old Testament and Hebrew Resources**
Eerdmans, 1974. Vols. 1–.

**New Testament and Greek Resources**


**Concordances**


**Biblical Archaeology, History, and Geography**


**Bible Introductions and Surveys**


Commentary Sets and One-volume Commentaries

Note: Many commentary series are not worth purchasing in full as their value varies from one volume to another. The following are sets/series that are worth purchasing in full, although this may be cost-prohibitive in the cases of NICNT, NICOT, and WBC.

Oden, Thomas C., ed. Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. InterVarsity, ongoing

Individual Book Commentaries: Old Testament

Note: I’ve found that the best way to evaluate commentaries is to use them in sermon preparation and personal in-depth study. Such study takes time, therefore my recommendations here are somewhat limited. This section will be ongoing for many years.

The Pentateuch

Genesis

**Exodus**

**Leviticus**

**Numbers**

**Deuteronomy**

**Joshua**

**Judges**

**Ruth**

**1 & 2 Samuel**

**1 & 2 Kings**

**1 & 2 Chronicles**

**Ezra & Nehemiah**

**Esther**

**Job**

**Psalms**

**Proverbs**

**Ecclesiastes**

**Song of Solomon**

**Isaiah**

**Jeremiah**

**Lamentations**

**Ezekiel**

**Daniel**

**The Minor Prophets**

_____. *Joel and Amos*. TOTC; Inersarsity, 1989.


1 Esdras
Myers, Jacob M. *I & II Esdras*. AB; Doubleday, 1974.

2 Esdras
Myers, Jacob M. *I & II Esdras*. AB; Doubleday, 1974.


Tobit
Moore, Carey A. *Tobit*. AB; Doubleday, 1996.

Judith

The Wisdom of Solomon


Sirach (Ecclesiasticus)


Smend, Rudolf. *Die Weisheit des Jesus Sirach Erklärt*. Reimer, 1906. (Sorry, I know it’s in German, but it’s the best commentary on Sirach and has never been translated.)

Vattioni, Francesco. *Ecclesiastico: Testo ebraico con apparato critico e versioni greca, Latina e siriaca*. Instituto Orientale di Napoli 1968. (This parallel edition of the four ancient Sirach text traditions is critical to serious study.)

Baruch

The Additions to Daniel and Esther

1 & 2 Maccabees
________. *II Maccabees.* AB; Doubleday, 1983.

**Matthew**


**The Sermon on the Mount**


**Mark**


**Luke**


**John**


**Acts**


**Romans**
Wright, N. T. *Romans* in New Interpreter’s Bible. Abingdon, 2002

**1 Corinthians**
Bruce, F.F. *First and Second Corinthians*. NCBC; Eerdmans, 1980.

**2 Corinthians**
Bruce, F.F. *First and Second Corinthians*. NCBC; Eerdmans, 1980.
Hughes, Philip E. *Commentary on the Second Epistle to the Corinthians*. NICNT; Eerdmans, 1962.

**Galatians**
Bruce, F.F. *The Epistle to the Galatians*. NIGTC; Eerdmans, 1982.

**Ephesians**
Bruce, F. F. *The Epistles to the Colossians, to Philemon, and to the Ephesians*. NICNT; Eerdmans, 1984.
Philippians

Colossians
Bruce, F. F. *The Epistles to the Colossians, to Philemon, and to the Ephesians*. NICNT; Eerdmans, 1984.
Wright, N.T. *The Epistles of Paul to the Colossians and Philemon*. TNTC; InterVarsity, 2007.

1 & 2 Thessalonians
Bruce, F.F. *1 and 2 Thessalonians*. WBC; Word, 1982.

The Pastoral Epistles

Philemon
See “Colossians”

Hebrews
Bruce, F.F. *Hebrews*. NICNT; Eerdmans, 1964

James

**1 Peter**

**2 Peter**

**Jude**
See “2 Peter”

**1, 2, & 3 John**
Smalley, Stephen S. *1, 2, 3 John*. WBC; Word, 2007.

**Revelation**