

The Da Vinci Code – an invitation to learn the truth

Dear Friend,

The Da Vinci Code has been one of the best-sellers in popular fiction in recent years. It is about to open in Australia and around the world as a movie.

Those who have read the Da Vinci Code might have followed some of the controversy it has stoked regarding the true nature of Jesus Christ and the Church that he founded.

In short, the book and the subsequent movie are works of fiction. But the author, Dan Brown has worked his fiction in and around certain historical people and events, making it confusing for many people. Much of what it presents as fact is simply untrue. In fact, the central claim of the book is without any historical foundation.

Despite this, the Catholic Church in Australia welcomes any interest in Jesus Christ that has been generated by the Da Vinci Code and offers the following compilation of resources to help you navigate your way through any confusion caused by the false claims in the story-line.

These resources have been gathered from a variety of sources and we hope that through them you will come to know Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who was truly human and truly divine.

If, as you come to know more about Jesus, you would like to know him in a deeper, more personal way, the Catholic Church would be delighted to walk with you.

In the first instance you can contact the Catholic Enquiry Centre at www.catholicenquiry.com or simply contact your local Catholic parish and ask for an appointment to see the parish priest.

Yours Sincerely,

Archbishop Barry Hickey, Chairman of the Bishops Committee for the Media.

Some suggested links

Da Vinci Code Lecture by Fr Richard Leonard SJ (PDF)

The Da Vinci Code – A review by Fr Richard Leonard SJ, Director of the Australian Catholic Film Office (PDF)

For information about the Catholic Church in Australia, including a section entitled "Who is Jesus?" go to www.catholicaustralia.com.au.

For international Catholic perspectives on the Da Vinci Code, as well as for information on Jesus Christ, Mary Magdalene and Opus Dei, go to the US site www.jesusdecoded.com or to the UK site <http://www.life4seekers.co.uk/the-da-vinci-code/the-da-vinci-code.html>.

For information on Opus Dei go to: <http://www.opusdei.org.au>

Australian priest and film critic Fr Peter Malone reviews the Da Vinci Code movie for Signis, the worldwide Catholic Association for Communication at www.signis.net.

The Truth Decoded site at www.thetruthdecoded.org.au.