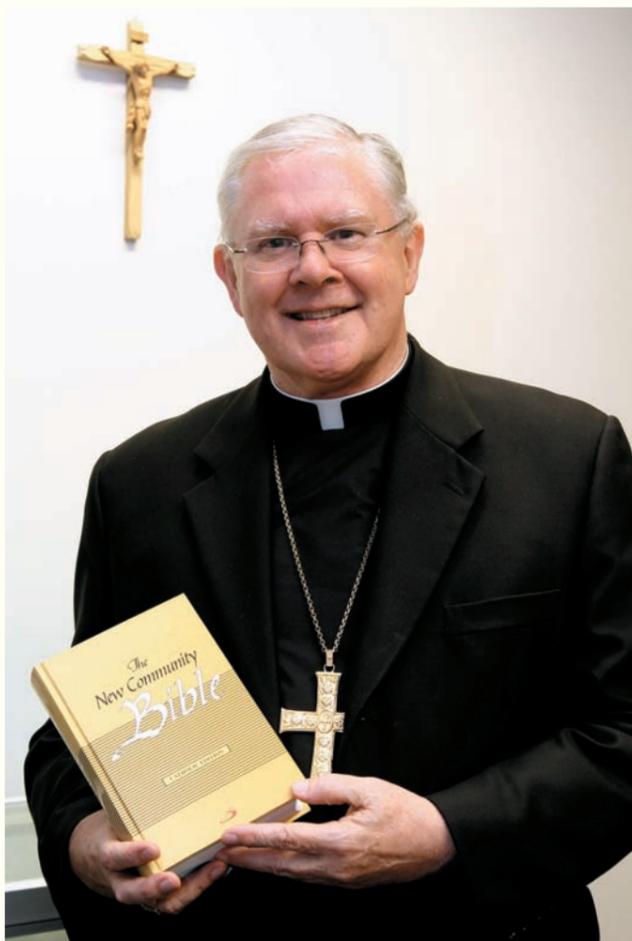


The New Community Bible Launched



Archbishop Mark Coleridge with a copy of the New Community Bible. Photo: Kerry Myers

Archbishop of Brisbane, Mark Coleridge, launches the international edition of The New Community Bible (NCB) on the feast day of Blessed James Alberione, the founder of the Pauline Family.

Welcoming the release of the NCB in Australia, Archbishop Mark Coleridge said, *“Now is the time when we have to become a more biblical Church, a people more immersed in the word of God. This is the best way to know Jesus whose voice we hear and whose face we see on every page of the Bible. That is why The New Community Bible (international edition) is such a gift. May it find its way into many hands and hearts and homes in this time of grace and faith.”*

The NCB published by St Pauls Publications is a revised edition of the popular Christian Community Bible translated by Late Bernardo Hurault, a French Priest, from original languages to Spanish in 1971. Since then it has been translated into many languages and millions of copies have been distributed. The English translation of the Christian Community Bible was jointly published by St Pauls Publications, Divine Word Publications and Claretian Publications from Philippines. One of the unique features of the Christian Community Bible is said to be the pastoral commentary that accompanied the text which has helped the faithful to understand, assimilate and live the word of God in their day to day life.

The Preface and the Presentation of the NCB states that it is the fruit of a challenging project undertaken by the Society of St Paul who brought

together a competent team of Bible scholars who worked hard over a decade and undertook the responsible task of “completely re-writing the introduction and the commentary of each book of the Bible based on sound exegesis and relevant pastoral application” and has done a ‘careful revision of the text’ wherever it was required. Another unique feature of the NCB mentioned is “its many references to the deep spiritual message and biblical values found in the scriptures of other great world religions”.

The international edition of the NCB is published for special promotion in the Year of Faith by St Pauls based in Sydney, London and New York. It is a great resource for all those who wish to have a deeper understanding of the scriptures and a great help for all those who make use of Scripture in daily prayer, in Bible study groups and in small communities.

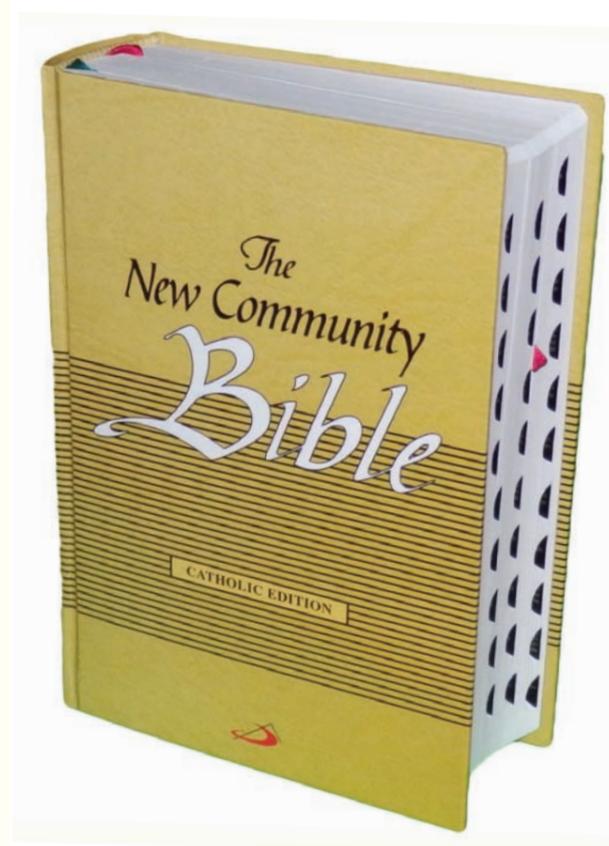
In the General Introduction to the NCB Dr Augustine Mulloor OCD underlines the fact that “The New Community Bible is an adequate and relevant response to the needs of the Church today in the spirit of the Second Vatican Council and the further magisterial teachings regarding the Bible Apostolate, and it is approved by the Hierarchy. It provides a new version of the Bible in English, in a language that is adapted and understandable to all English-speaking readers. It makes available a Bible that provides also the necessary and sufficiently adequate introductions, explanations and commentaries, so that the believers can safely grow familiar with the Sacred Scripture and read them fruitfully and experience a transformation of life”.

Assessing the book of Exodus in the NCB, especially in regard to the accuracy of translation, Rev. Dr. Mark Kenney, sm, lecturer in Biblical Studies at the Catholic Institute of Sydney says, “The entire text of Exodus was compared with the Hebrew and found to be an accurate, readable translation.”

Referring to the commentary and the notes in the NCB, he says “the commentary begins with a two-page, general introduction to the book. A brief outline of the book is provided along with the major theological themes of the book. The Introduction concludes with a description of the manner in which the book of Exodus was put together and a detailed structure of the book. Each section of the notes and commentary begins by presenting an explanation and interpretation of the passage that is consistent with current, mainline biblical scholarship. It is presented in such a manner that it is easily understood by the reader. The explanation of the text also includes aspects of the culture of the ancient Near East that aid in understanding the biblical passage. In addition to the interpretation of the text, it also relates the Old Testament book to contemporary spirituality and indicates its relationship with other books of both the Old and New Testaments.

“A separate set of footnotes indicates passages throughout the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, that are related to the book of Exodus”.

In addition to the Book of Exodus and the three introductory articles, Dr Mark also read the Introductions to the Pentateuch, Genesis, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, the Historical Books, the Wisdom Books, the Psalms, the Prophetic Books, the Gospels, the Letters of Paul, and the Book of Revelation and says, “all of these present good, concise summaries of the contents and theology of these groups of books using good scholarship”.



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During the Year of Faith the international edition of the NCB is distributed in Australia at a special price of \$11.00.

Dr Michele A. Connolly, rsj, Academic Dean of Catholic Institute of Sydney says, among other things, “From what I have read in the Gospel of Mark in the NCB, I would be happy to recommend this translation for anyone looking for a text for personal prayer and reflection, that reads in accessible English.” Referring to the accuracy of the translation she says, “I think the translation is quite accurate, given that it chooses to adopt a fairly free rendition that reads like conversational English. It is the kind of translation that would read well for personal or group prayer and reflection. While the translation is often quite close to the Revised Standard Version, it does vary from that translation in very small ways for the sake of fluent English.

She finds the notes and commentary are quite suitable for Australia and comments that “they probably drive at theology and spirituality more than technical explication of the text”. Speaking about the presentation of the Bible she says “the volume is presented very attractively: the quality of the paper, the thumb index, the clarity of the text, the spacing of the layout all make it easy to read. The illustrations are powerful.”