

Celtic Spirituality: Recommended Reading from Olive Malcolm

I have found these books inspiring and enriching on my journey into a greater understanding of Celtic Spirituality: its history and early beginnings; its core values and beliefs; its rich tapestry of art, music and poetry; and its relevance to my exploration of faith in the complexity and paradox of 21st century living.

‘Listening for the Heartbeat of God - A Celtic Spirituality’ by Philip Newell

‘The Book of Creation - The Practice of Celtic Spirituality’ by Philip Newell

‘The Celtic Way of Prayer’ by Esther de Waal

‘The Celtic Way’ by Ian Bradley

‘The Celtic Quest’ by Rosemary Power

Worship Resources by Wild Goose Publications (the publishing arm of the Iona Community).

There is a wealth of material available to those wishing to incorporate Celtic prayer and liturgy into their private devotions or church worship. It’s well worth browsing the Wild Goose website for ideas. Here are a few I turn to on a regular basis.

Iona Abbey Worship Book

Iona Abbey Music Book

A series of liturgical resources, prayers and reflections covering each of the four seasons

edited by Ruth Burgess.

‘The Green Heart of the Snowdrop’ by Kate McIlhagga

Iona Pilgrim Guides

If you are considering making a pilgrimage to Iona, either as an individual or with a church group, there are some excellent books to prepare you and accompany you on the journey.

‘Around a Thin Place - An Iona Pilgrimage Guide’ by Jane Bentley and Neil Paynter

‘The Gift of Stillness Iona Pilgrim Ways’ by Rosemary Power

The writing of Irish Poet-Priest John O’Donohue

‘Anam Cara - Spiritual Wisdom from the Celtic World’ by John O’Donohue

‘Benedictus - A Book of Blessings’ by John O’Donohue

‘Listening for the Heartbeat of God - A Celtic Spirituality by Philip Newell.

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Olive Malcolm: March 2025