

SUGGESTIONS FOR PREPARATORY READING FOR

PILGRIMAGE 2010 A: FROM STANDING STONES TO COSMIC CHRIST: DWELLINGS FOR THE HOLY IN NORTH-WEST FRANCE.

The following is a list, suggestive not exhaustive, of books and film that can provide interesting pre-reading for participants wanting to broaden their familiarity with themes that will be engaged on the pilgrimage. You will undoubtedly find others.

FILM

- *The Longest Day* (1962, a portrayal of the June 6, 1944 D-Day landings in Normandy, based upon the 1959 book by Cornelius Ryan.
- *Saint Joan* (1957), directed by Otto Preminger, based upon George Bernard Shaw's play.

BOOKS

*** John Calvin – Noyon:**

- T.H.L.Parker. *John Calvin. A biography* (1975, 1987). A scholarly, but quite readable full biography of the French reformer, born in Noyon.
- Bernard Roussel, An adult illustrated telling of the life of Calvin, it is available in an English translation by Gerald Hobbs, through *Peregrinatio*. Write or email, if you would like a copy.

*** Joan of Arc – Rouen**

- George Bernard Shaw, *Saint Joan*.
- Siobhan Nash-Marshall, *Joan of Arc. A Spiritual Biography* (1999). Amongst the numerous studies of the Maid of Orleans, this is a good read for beginners. There are many others, including one by Mark Twain!

*** Gothic Cathedrals:**

- There is a great amount of good fiction written around the building of Gothic cathedrals. Here are a few of the best.
- Follett, Ken, *The Pillars of the Earth*. (1989) A huge, pleasant surprise from this author of political thrillers, this is a splendid and authentic novel.
- Pargeter, Edith, *The Heaven Tree* Trilogy: *The Heaven Tree* (1960), *The Green Branch* (1962), *The Scarlet Seed* (1963.). Perhaps the finest fictional portrayal of the world of Gothic cathedral builders.
- Falcones, Ildefonso, *Cathedral of the Sea*(2006, English tr. 2008) . A Spanish author, recently translated, and as of March 2010 available still in Coles at reduced price for hardcover. A social panorama in Barcelona of the 14th century, including the interaction of Jews with Christians, and the role of the Inquisition.

- Mâle, Emile, *The Gothic Image. Religious Art in France of the 13th Century*. A study written nearly a century ago, but still considered a classic, of the spiritual heart of Gothic. Still in print.
- There are innumerable picture books on Gothic cathedrals, some of quite good quality, and often remarkably cheap. Most contain some, often a lot of, good information. There are often books dedicated solely to **Chartres**.

* **Mediaeval Judaism in France:**

- Maggie Anton, *Rashi's Daughters: Joheved* (2005); *Rashi's Daughters: Miriam* (2007); *Rashi's Daughters: Rachel* (2009), an enjoyable fictional trilogy which offers a splendid insight to the remarkable vibrant Jewish life of mediaeval France, seen through the actual trio of scholarly daughters of the greatest of French rabbinic teachers Rabbi Solomon ben Itzhak of Troyes.

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* **Methodism in the Channel Islands**

- Stanley Ayling, *John Wesley* A very readable biography of the Anglican priest who founded the Methodist revival, and visited Jersey to begin officially the movement there in 1787, at the age of 84!
- Mary Ann Schaffer & Annie Barrows, *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society* (2009). A recent bestselling novel, this delightful read takes one into the world of the immediate post-WW 2, in England and the Channel Island of Guernsey.

* **Benedictine Monasteries**

- Ellis Peters, *The Brother Cadfael* series. This is the hugely popular and long series of delightful mystery novels, written by Edith Pargeter under a *nom de plume*. The series was also made into a television series. Offers insight into the 12th century world of a large English Benedictine monastery; the setting is Shrewsbury on the Welsh-English borders.
- Many introductions and studies, often lavishly illustrated, have been published on **Mont Saint Michel**. Check your local library.

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* **Pierre Teilhard de Chardin**

- Ursula King, *Pierre Teilhard de Chardin. Writings Selected with an Introduction* (Orbis, 2008). Teilhard is a challenging initial read. King makes an excellent selection, and offers short, perceptive introductions to each chapter.
- Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, *Hymn of the Universe* (1965, 1970). Teilhard's writings in English translation are often available in older clergy and church libraries. This one is a mystic classic.

- Morris West, *The Shoes of the Fisherman* (novel 1963; film 1968). West is famous for his insightful novels that explore the life of the Roman Catholic church at the top. In this novel, a major role is played by Father Jean (in the film David) Telemond, who is closely modelled on Fr. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin.
- Amir Aczel, *The Jesuit and the Skull: Teilhard de Chardin, Evolution and the Search for Peking Man* (2008). Despite the title, this is as much a biography of Teilhard as a study of his scientific work. Worth reading.

* **Celtic Heritage in Brittany**

- Bernard Cornwell, *Stonehenge* (1999). Cornwell writes well-researched and very readable historical novels. This one is of course about the most famous English parallel to Carnac in Brittany. It offers good insights into the world of the megalithic builders.
- Libraries may have one or more books of the numerous ones written on the megaliths of **Carnac**. Look them up under the name “Carnac”.

* **The D-Day Normandy Landings**

- Because of the June 2009 celebrations in Normandy, bookstores contain a number of titles, often lavishly illustrated, on this theme, although the Canadian role is not often highlighted.