

Church of Ireland Chaplaincy @ TCD

# Book Group

Fancy a free lunch, a free book  
and an opportunity to think  
about the big questions of life?

Then why not join our Book Group?

This Term's Book

LOVE  
UNKNOWN

by Ruth Burrows

**WHEN?** We meet for lunch (1-2 pm) in House 27 on the final Thursday of each month: Thursday 26 January, Thursday 23 February and Thursday 29 March.

**FREE?** The first ten people to sign-up for the discussion group will receive a free copy of this term's book, *Love Unknown* by Ruth Burrows.

**WHO?** All are welcome.

For more information or to join contact Darren at: [mccalld@tcd.ie](mailto:mccalld@tcd.ie)



# This term's book is *Love Unknown* by Ruth Burrows

There is a seismic shift necessary from being religious to being a true disciple. Here is the contemplative's perspective.

It is an abiding sorrow to the author that many faithful religious people, even regular church goers, understand so little of the great truths they so sincerely profess to believe, especially among young people.

Unless a real love for Jesus is awakened in their hearts, unless they have been helped to see something of the sheer wonder and beauty of the contents of the faith in which they are instructed, how can they withstand the atheism of our materialistic society?

There is a vast difference between being religious and faith in God revealed in Jesus Christ.

There is an inner disturbance and distress among people today which can be a secret call from the Spirit to go beyond the externals to a purer, deeper faith, to an encounter, mysterious by its very nature, with the living and true God revealed in Jesus Christ.

What seems so very simple is in fact shatteringly profound. This is the contemplative's genius.

Ruth Burrows is a Carmelite Nun from Quidenham in Norfolk. She is the author of a number of bestselling books including *Guidelines for Mystical Prayer* and *Essence of Prayer*.

This new book is the result of a commission to write the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book for 2012.

In it she distils the wisdom and experience gained from her life as a Carmelite nun into a vigorous, compelling presentation of what it means to be a Christian.



There is a ruling insight that covers and controls my life and all that I would or could communicate to others. It runs through everything I have written: God offers himself in total love to each one of us. Our part is to open our hearts to receive this gift. To use the image of a saint who lived out this truth, God is an ocean of merciful love that is pent up, longing to be released, to pour itself into each one of us, but human pride, lack of faith and trust, thrust up barriers against it. We find it so difficult to take Jesus at his word: that he alone is Saviour. We think we must first save ourselves, perfect ourselves and then offer ourselves to Love. No! Only Love can save, purify, and cause us to expand and expand to receive more and more. This we learn from Jesus, for, as Julian of Norwich clearly perceived, where Jesus is there is the Trinity ... All is done for us, all is given.

- Extract from *Love Unknown*.

For further information on the Book Group, details of Church of Ireland (Anglican / Episcopal) services in College Chapel, podcasts of recent sermons and lots more check out our website:

[www.tcd.ie/chaplaincy/ireland.htm](http://www.tcd.ie/chaplaincy/ireland.htm)