The Celtic Wheel of the Year – Celtic and Christian Seasonal Prayers

By Tess Ward

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This is a book to be treasured and read day by day throughout the year being a collection of prayers combining the Celtic Christian and Celtic pre-Christian traditions.

The Introduction is helpful in demonstrating the close relationship between a Pagan past and Christianity in the early days when Christianity came to our lands. Each month is given a section of its own, opening with an explanation of the evolving nature of present day festivals as we now celebrate them. Following are seven daily prayers appropriate to the seasons and saints days demonstrating how Christian festivals were grafted onto an existing tradition without losing and extending the meaning of that existing tradition for us today. I have found a real grounding in turning to these prayers each day and have recognised the value of returning and repeating the daily prayer four times each month in the morning and last thing at night. The book has certainly helped to ground my days and nights in prayers which have been beautifully and poetically written incorporating Celtic Christian and Celtic Pagan traditions.

Having heard Tess Ward speak at a workshop last year on the research and writing that had gone into putting this book together it was clear that the whole process had been one of prayer, wisdom and creativity. Readers will find this book a valuable resource for private spiritual development.

Tess Ward is an Anglican priest, hospital chaplain and spiritual director.

Joan Wilkinson – January 2010
The Wheel of the Year is an annual cycle of seasonal festivals, observed by many modern Pagans, consisting of the year's chief solar events (solstices and equinoxes) and the midpoints between them. While names for each festival vary among diverse pagan traditions, syncretic treatments often refer to the four solar events as "quarter days" and the four midpoint events as "cross-quarter days", particularly in Wicca. Differing sects of modern Paganism also vary regarding the precise timing of each I love the fusion of Christian and Celtic spirituality and the way God is seen in many aspects, as abstract and personal, female and male, as a spirit within nature and as something transcendent. There are prayers for praising, blessing, protection and thanksgiving and reflective meditations suited to the season and time of day. This is a mystical book, not a dogmatic one, which would suit any one with a love of the natural world wishing to deepen their relationship with a loving creator God/dess. Brilliant book to start and end each day with as it gives a 7-day short prayer for each month in a Christian and Celtic tradition which is in itself a type of meditation. Read more. Helpful.