

Item #91 (Catholicism and Scripture as Seen by a Contemporary Convert)

The following quotations are taken from Michael Nazir-Ali, “From Anglican to Catholic”, in *First Things*, April, 2022, pp. 19-25.

“On September 29 last year, the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels, I was received into the Ordinariate of the Catholic Church, which was established for Anglicans who desire full communion with the See of Peter, at Our Lady of the Assumption and St. Gregory Church in London. Since then, I have often been asked why, after spending my entire adult life within the Anglican Communion—including thirty-seven years as an Anglican bishop—I took such a dramatic step” (p. 19).

“I affirm with *Dei Verbum* and John Paul II that Scripture is the unique, immutable, and supreme rule of faith, and that the entire practice of our faith should be ruled and nourished by Scripture. I have seen the damage caused by the private interpretation of Scripture, against which Scripture itself warns us (2 Pet 1:20). As *Dei Verbum* teaches, attention must be given to the historical and cultural background of the books of Scripture, as to their literary form. But when all is said and done, any one part of Scripture must be read in light of the whole, because, although written by human beings, Scripture is also God-breathed and divinely authored. The role of biblical scholars and theologians is important and helps the Church to come to an informed judgement about the meaning of Scripture in this or that situation. In the end, however, the teaching authority of the Church, informed by tradition as well as scholarship, interprets and confirms what Scripture teaches” (p. 23).

(James Swetnam. S.J., March 16, 2022)