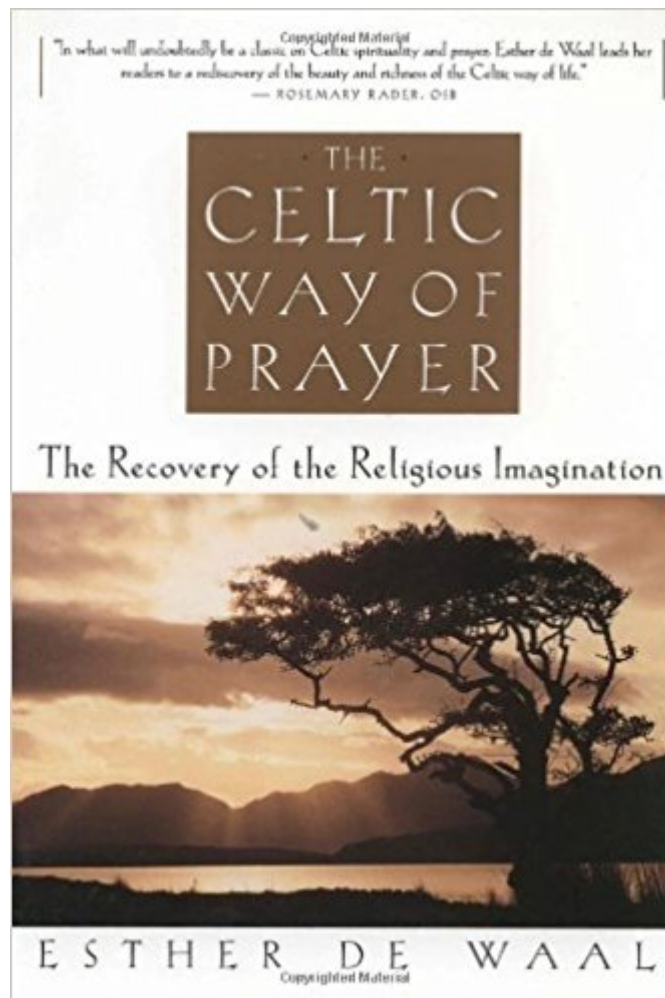




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# The Celtic Way Of Prayer: The Recovery Of The Religious Imagination



## Synopsis

Esther de Waal, one of Celtic Christianity's preeminent scholars, shows how this tradition of worship draws on both the pre-Christian past and on the fullness of the Gospel. It is also an enlightening glimpse at the history, folklore, and liturgy of the Celtic people. Esther de Waal introduces readers to monastic prayer and praise (the foundation stone of Celtic Christianity), early Irish litanies, medieval Welsh praise poems, and the wealth of blessings derived from an oral tradition that made prayer a part of daily life. Through this invigorating book, readers enter a world in which ritual and rhythm, nature and seasons, images and symbols play an essential role. A welcome contrast to modern worship, Celtic prayer is liberating and, like a living spring, forever fresh.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Historian and retreat leader de Waal explores the rich legacy of Celtic songs, poems, prayers, and blessings that grew out of the dynamic meeting of Christian monasticism with an older, communal way of life ordered by kinship, a rural sense of place, the pattern of the seasons, and the cycles of birth and death. The author does a fine job tracing the strands that make Celtic Christianity compelling and unique. An important addition to Celtic literature for both general readers and specialists. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"In what will undoubtedly be a classic on Celtic spirituality and prayer, Esther de Waal leads her

readers to a rediscovery of the beauty and richness of the Celtic way of life."--Rosemary Rader, OSB "What Esther has written is superb, because the combination of Esther's own spirituality and early Celtic spirituality is bound to be superb...I have read every word slowly, carefully, enjoying, being nourished. It isn't just that Celtic spirituality with its loving immediacy is appealing, it is that it is necessary at this time of violence and indifference and greed in the Western world. It can, indeed, be our salvation."--Madeleine L'Engle "Esther de Waal's unique contribution to Celtic Christian studies is that she is never outside her subject. Her constant ability to apply the life of those earlier centuries to her own devotional life makes it possible for those of us who read her to encounter those people in such a way that their Christian journey can become food and drink for us in the hunger and thirst of our own century."--Herbert O'Driscoll, author of *A Doorway in Time* "A rich tapestry of learning, personal experience of prayer, empathy with monastic endeavor and a real understanding of what inspiration is needed by so many of the laity also in their journey of Christian prayer today."--Patrick Barry, OSB, Abbot of Ampleforth Abbey

Praying is somewhat of a lost art with people. Getting yourself to pray for more than a minute leads to a grocery list of wants like God is a drive through of desires. This book will help you bring your prayer life into perspective and bring you to a quiet place. I would recommend you set aside all other reading and focus on this book for a short bit. Dig deep into yourself and find that desire for a relationship with God. The Celtic way is not the only way. It is a simple and back to basic type of thinking. We live in a fast pace world, put on the brakes and see what the Lord has for you here.

One of my favorite books on prayer. De Waal gives background information on the types of prayers uttered and then laces the text with beautiful prayers. The prayers are definitely my favorite part. With the background info given, it's easy to imagine the older men repeating their journey prayers or the housewives praying over their homes at night after the children have gone to bed. A wonderful read.

Excellent method and history, yet prayers do not fit modern life. For example there is a prayer to use when kindling the hearth for cooking but not when preparing or preheating a modern oven.

Wonderfully researched book presenting the faith and culture of the Celtic Christianity through primary sources! I recommend for every one looking for a new perspective on challenges of current culture through the eyes of the ancient and enduring Celtic way of prayer and understanding.

Combines history,folklore, and liturgy in a way that engages the whole person and focuses on the relationships and interdependence of all creation. It will appeal to all modern prayer-seekers.

What does imaginative Christianity look like? Why are Christians so afraid to use their imaginations in prayer, preaching, teaching and serving? We've fallen prey to the "if it looks like a duck, it must be a duck" philosophy of Christian teachers who believe that Church History didn't exist prior to the Reformation and that "spirituality" is a "four letter" word that shouldn't be used by Christians. Esther De Waal does an excellent job of presenting this ancient prayer practice without the "starry eyed" nature of wishful thinking.

I have gone from knowing nothing about Celtic Spirituality to having a very firm foundation. De Waal shares her love of the subject with this very well researched book. Many reflective examples throughout. A great choice!

I have several books of Celtic prayers and blessings. When I first read them, I found that those people's sense of the holy is more personal, perhaps, than our more formal worship.

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