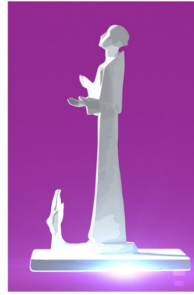


# EXPLORING THE BIBLE

a St Francis College short course



## Theme 3: Reading the Old Testament

### Question 3f. Is there something in between the Old and New Testaments??

1. Were you aware of the decisions surrounding the composition of the Bible?
2. Understanding some of what contributed to making the Bible can help us read it well. What impact does it have on your appreciation of the Bible?
3. If you haven't seen an Apocrypha, you can check out a brief history of the debate surrounding the books here.

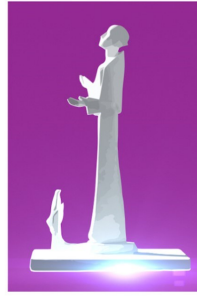
#### Jonathan Holland

There's about 400 years between the last writing in the Old Testament, the Book of the Prophet Malachi, and the beginning of the New Testament and Paul's first letters, we think his letter to the Thessalonians was the first, written in about 50 AD/CE, a period of about 400 years. Writings went on but in the end they weren't incorporated into what we now call the Old Testament. So some of these writings have been gathered together into a kind of an appendix to the Old Testament or as a bridge between the Old and the New Testament called the Apocrypha. Different Bibles include the apocrypha or they don't and there's some dispute about what exactly ought to be in the Apocrypha. The best thing is to get a Bible with an Apocrypha and have a look at it.

Apocrypha means 'hidden' and when we use the word apocryphal these days we mean something is 'of questionable origin' so the books between the Old Testament and the New Testament have a kind of question mark over them as to whether they should be considered sacred scripture. The

# EXPLORING THE BIBLE

a St Francis College short course



Christian community has decided 'no' but nevertheless the Anglican thinking is that they are good for teaching and learning but are not to be considered as sacred scripture like the Old and New Testaments. Different Bibles include the Apocrypha or they don't, and there's some dispute about what ought to be in it, the best thing to do is to get a Bible with an Apocrypha and have a look at it!