

**The ABCs of Thomas Merton: A Monk at the Heart of the World**

George Ryan & Elizabeth Ryan

Paraclete Press, Massachusetts, 2017

ISBN 978-1-6126-1847-0 (large format hbk), 32 pages.

Large print, age range 5-9 years. \$16.99

This is a very gentle read with lots of nice illustrations, which with the alphabet as a mnemonic helps to emphasise the subject matter. It is nicely to the point and not too demanding. The overall impression the book gave me was of a very peace loving man who was dedicated to his work, faith and way of life. The book helps to reinforce the message that we all should love one another. For children who have some, little or no religious background, this is a simple and colourful introduction to his life and commitment to the Christian faith as well as a few other characters and the kind of activities that Merton engaged in.

My name is **Luciana Welsh** and I am almost eleven years old. I am quite involved with the church already as mummy is a minister and so I get to hear and read a lot about Christianity and faith. I often do readings and help with other church activities such as sermon illustrations, coffee mornings and helping with music. My hobbies include reading, writing stories, outdoor activities, science, crafts and animals.

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**Brief notices:**

**Dan Horan** - *Daybreaks : Daily reflections for Advent and Christmas.*

77 pages. £1.50 Liguori Publications, Sept 2017.

**Bonnie Thurston** - *From Darkness to Eastering* 110 pages £8.99

Wild Goose Press, Sept 2017. From [www.ionabooks.com](http://www.ionabooks.com)

These reflective, prayerful poems are 'a ticket and passport for a spiritual journey'.

**H. A. Hodges** - *Flame in the Mountains: Williams Pantycelyn, Ann Griffiths and the Welsh Hymn* 320 pages. £12.99 Y Lolfa Publishers July 2017

The author worked alongside Donald Allchin in preparing much of the work for this volume, including notes on Ann Griffiths's hymns and letters (subjects on which Allchin published many articles), and which are now published for the first time.