



## **The Bless Me, Father Series: Bless Me, Father; A Father Before Christmas; Father in a Fix; Bless Me Again, Father; and Father Under Fire**

*Neil Boyd*

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**This acclaimed series that inspired a hit London Weekend Television sitcom is “a long, gentle breeze of humour” (James Herriot).**

Based on the author’s real-life experiences after completing seminary and later adapted into a beloved British sitcom, these five novels are a humorous and sweet-natured look at Catholicism in the 1950s. Readers of all creeds will enjoy Father Neil’s adventures at St. Jude’s parish, a corner of London with a raucous congregation full of Irish immigrants.

*Bless Me, Father:* Young Neil Boyd has just finished divinity school. A newly ordained priest, his first post is at St. Jude’s parish where he meets the cantankerous, scheming, and brilliant Father Duddleswell and Mrs. Pring, the sharp-tongued housekeeper. Father Duddleswell is willing to do anything to make sure the Lord’s will be done, from placing a bet to obstructing an interdenominational love affair.

*A Father Before Christmas:* The holiday season is among the most hectic times at St. Jude’s, and this year is no exception for Father Neil. As always, he has his hands full with Father Duddleswell, who has decided to invite all the other sects of Christianity to celebrate Christmas with them. The plan quickly unravels when two religious leaders from another denomination try to convert Father Neil and a clock goes missing—as does the church collection.

*Father in a Fix:* After six months at St. Jude’s, Father Neil makes a New Year’s resolution to wise up. With the crazy collection of characters at his parish, this will be no easy feat, especially when Father Duddleswell is named the prime suspect in the killing of a gambling parishioner’s smelly pig and a generous attempt to give the suspected butcher a day off goes zanily haywire.

*Bless Me Again, Father:* After finishing his first year at St. Jude’s, Father Neil finally feels as if he has his feet firmly planted on the ground. But the parish is still full of surprises, and the clergy are confronted with all manner of crisis. First, there is the dilemma of Dr. Daley, whose drinking is causing his health to deteriorate but who worries that sobriety will ruin his personality. Then, much to Father Duddleswell’s chagrin, a new donkey overruns the church, followed by a fresh litter of kittens.

*Father Under Fire:* As St. Jude’s adds another member to its clergy—Father Abe, an octogenarian with an agenda of his own—the church staff finds themselves embroiled in a rivalry among undertakers, a visit during Holy Week from the bishop with the longest rosary on record, a harebrained scheme to promote holy water as a fertility enhancer, and a night spent under a pool table during a pilgrimage.

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Author : Neil Boyd

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## **From Reader Review The Bless Me, Father Series: Bless Me, Father; A Father Before Christmas; Father in a Fix; Bless Me Again, Father; and Father Under Fire for online ebook**

### **Ingrid Rose says**

#### **One of the best ever**

This is by far one of the best series I've ever read, and I'm a voracious reader. The characters are remarkable, the situations from hilarious to profound. I dreaded the end of the fifth book and leaving Fathers Boyd Duddleswell, Mrs. Pring, Dr. Daley Billy Buzzel and Pontius, and all of the other colorful and fantastic people throughout the stories. I know that these books will remain on my device, not in the cloud, to be visited often.

There are not enough stars for how much I love this series and I am now going to search out the television series to compare.

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### **Denise says**

#### **Relaxed reading**

I loved that I could read a chapter and then easily pick up the book later. I will miss having this series to read when I have some free time. Lovable characters and very similar to the BBC sitcom.

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### **Dan Vogel says**

#### **Loved it.**

So sad it couldn't go on. Such a short time filled with laughter, tears, and heart. Thanks for reminding me of the goodness in mankind.

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### **Micklemas says**

Not actually finished, but will keep returning to these short stories every now and then.

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### **Carol says**

At times, the book was a bit too ridiculous for my taste. Some chapters felt like tried and true hairy dog stories rewritten with a Catholic bent. The thing that saves it, though, is the underlying love, respect and

caring that lies at the heart of the truly humanly religious shepard.

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**SKIP HAWKINS says**

**Heartwarming and very human**

Heartwarming and very human. Traces the maturing of a young priest with the guidance of a wise, kind soul. Highly recommended.

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**Jodi Richardson says**

**Loved it.**

Watched the TV series years ago and have read the books several times since. Wonderfully sweet and nostalgic, funny and bracing.

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