ST. MARY’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH BOOK CLUB

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2025

MATTHEW PEARL (1975-), **THE DANTE CHAMBER** (2018)

Discussion Questions

1. Information about the author.
2. What are the characteristics of a “whodunit?” Why are they so popular?
3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of a *literary* whodunit?
4. Did you have to look up information about the characters, and if so, how did that affect your reading experience?
5. How important is Dante’s *Divine Comedy* in today’s world? In the times during which the novel’s action takes place?
6. In general, do you think that Dante’s poetic world has influenced popular concepts of death, Hell, and Purgatory? From a theological point of view, is this a good thing? Or is that the wrong question to ask?
7. How does the author describe the main characters? What are the tensions between them?
8. What is your impression of the Rossetti siblings?
9. What is typical in the description of Dolly Williamson?
10. What role does mental instability play in the book? What about the use of opium?
11. What can you say about the victims of the crimes? And what *are* the crimes?
12. What role does Sibbie play? How do you evaluate her character? Is her portrayal believable?
13. How does the narrative technique enhance the action here?
14. How would you describe the way the novel ends?
15. What is your overall impression of the book?