

Encounter: Advent
Year of the Word 2020





ENCOUNTER: Celebrating God's Word; enriching our worshipping and spiritual community

'The God who speaks' initiative serves to teach us how important the scriptures are in helping us to encounter God: to hear afresh what he asks of us in our daily lives, and to share with Him our joys, sorrows and anxieties.

We are encouraged to discover, or deepen still more, a love for the Word of God in the Bible, so that we may strengthen our relationship with Christ, whom we meet there. This theme fits so well with our own diocesan emphasis on helping each other to encounter God's love, so that we might become more and more personally convinced of the living relationship that Christ wants with each of us.

As we begin with this Season of Advent, I pray that our engagement with the daily scriptures will help us to reflect on these three great truths: Christ has come; Christ will come again in glory; and Christ is now truly present amongst us. Let us remember the first with gratitude, look forward in hope to the coming again of Christ in glory, and try our best to respond generously to our daily encounters with Christ, truly present among us.

-Bishop Patrick

This Advent our challenge is to encourage people to listen to God speaking to us through the Bible and to discover and renew a genuine love for the Word of God. Here are some ideas of making God's Word the focus in your parishes during Advent:

- Visually highlight the Word of God – process the Bible into Mass and place in prominent position. To be carried by the Deacon, Reader or Altar Server.
- Reader to pause at the end of readings – encourage us to think about what has been said.
- Integrate other silences through Mass and services—personal reflection.
- Introduce a Scripture passage into the Rosary.
- Every parish group meeting to begin with a short reading. Offer time for short reflection; what did you think about, did it have an impact?
- Organise a board at the back of Church, hall or community space, for people to write their favourite Bible passage, and perhaps why? Or favourite piece of art; painting of Madonna or nativity scene.
- Encourage people to add their favourite Scripture passage to Facebook and other social media.

These small changes bring the Bible alive and make us realise that the Word of God is relevant for us all here and now.

MATTHEW'S GOSPEL—A SAMPLE IS IN EACH PARISH

A SUGGESTION IS THAT ALL PARISHIONERS HAVE A COPY OF THIS GOSPEL BOOK. IT'S A HANDY SIZE TO KEEP IN YOUR POCKET OR HANDBAG AND TO GET OUT AT ANY TIME. IT'S ALSO A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE TO CREATE A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS THROUGH SCRIPTURES WRITTEN BY ST MATTHEW AND TO ENCOURAGE FURTHER READING OF THE BIBLE. WHY NOT ORDER SOME FOR YOUR PARISH—BOUGHT IN BULK IT COSTS £1.20 PER COPY! biblesociety.matthewsgospel.catholic

BIBLE APPS are a great way to read Scripture. <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/apps/> or search google.

WEDNESDAY WORD

Does your parish have this resource at the back of church for families and grandparents to read and discuss The Word of God with their families? Ask at your school or perhaps share the resource with another church. To find out more: wednesdayword.org

THE DIOCESAN YOUTH SERVICE

They have made some great resources and videos to help you explore and engage with the Year of the Word. Take a look: <https://ndcys.com/the-year-of-the-word/>

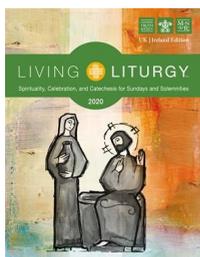
4 WEEK ADVENT RESOURCE FROM BISHOP'S CONFERENCE

[HTTPS://WWW.CBCEW.ORG.UK/HOME/EVENTS/THE-GOD-WHO-SPEAKS/FOCUS/ADVENT-COURSE-2019/](https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/the-god-who-speaks/focus/advent-course-2019/)

Visit The God who Speaks website for **CARDINAL VINCENT NICHOLS** 2nd review of art from the National Gallery on 1st December: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/the-god-who-speaks/>

TWO IN ONE FLESH: 'I AM WITH YOU'

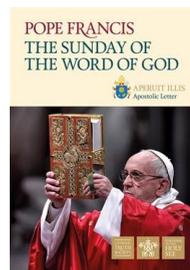
These books contain reflections on the Sunday readings that are intended to help married couples discern what the Lord is saying to them about their relationship and their day to day lives through scripture. They will also be publishing a set of reflections on the Scripture readings that are used at weddings to help engaged couples choose the readings for their wedding and reflect on them. They also present workshops to married couples to help them reflect on the Scriptures and the organisation would like to participate in Diocesan /Parish events. <http://www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk/MarriageMatters.html>



RESOURCES FROM CTS

Living Liturgy—to help you meditate on the Sunday Mass readings CTS recommend a 3-step plan: Prepare, Read and Reflect <http://www.ctsbooks.org/living-liturgy-2020-uk>

[Pope Francis institutes The Sunday of the Word of God](http://www.ctsbooks.org/living-liturgy-2020-uk)



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN PARISHES (EVENTS OPEN TO ALL)

St Teresa's, Nottingham hold a bible study group and usually meet every Sunday afternoon at 4pm in their Church Hall. The format of the programme is as follows: begin with the rosary, read the readings of that Sunday, short Meditation and reflection, followed by question and answer session then finishing with intercessory prayers. The session is open to anyone, everyone welcome. 0115 9295907

St Mary's, Derby Bible Lights Group meet on the second and fourth Friday of the month (in term time) 9.45am to 11.15am in Room 1 of the Parish Centre. 'Exploring the Bible Book by Book' meets every other Wednesday evening 7pm to 9pm also in Room 1. Please contact Fran Wickes: fran@brightshark.co.uk for more information.

St Patrick's, Forest Town have started a 'Sharing the Scriptures' event once a month. The Holy Spirit shows us what to do and we just have to say 'yes'.
01623 622705

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour and the Poor Clare Convent, Nottingham will celebrate the Word every Sunday during vespers at 5 pm involving carols, Bible procession, a Saint Clare take on reading the Word and beautiful music: www.marianhouseoftheholyspiritpcc.org



Our Lady & St Edward's, Nottingham are processing the book of Gospels to the altar, carried by deacon, altar server or reader. Inviting 52 people to choose their favourite scripture passage and why to be put on website and perhaps newsletter. Also, schools are invited to take up this initiative.

The Divine Infant of Prague, Syston are organising a reading challenge for the children in the parish which will enable them to learn more about Jesus through reading St Matthew's Gospel: querida.gardiner@outlook.com for more info.

The **NATIONAL SCRIPTURE TOUR** will be in the Diocese of Nottingham on
SATURDAY 22ND FEBRUARY 2020
at Holy Trinity Parish Centre, Newark NG24 4AU
Pete Codling, artist for The Year of The Word, will be showing his work
SAVE THE DATE—ALL WELCOME

Monthly bulletins will be sent to parishes with updates and suggestions from other parishes—please send in your Scripture based events and dates to us:
adult.formation@dioceseofnottingham.uk