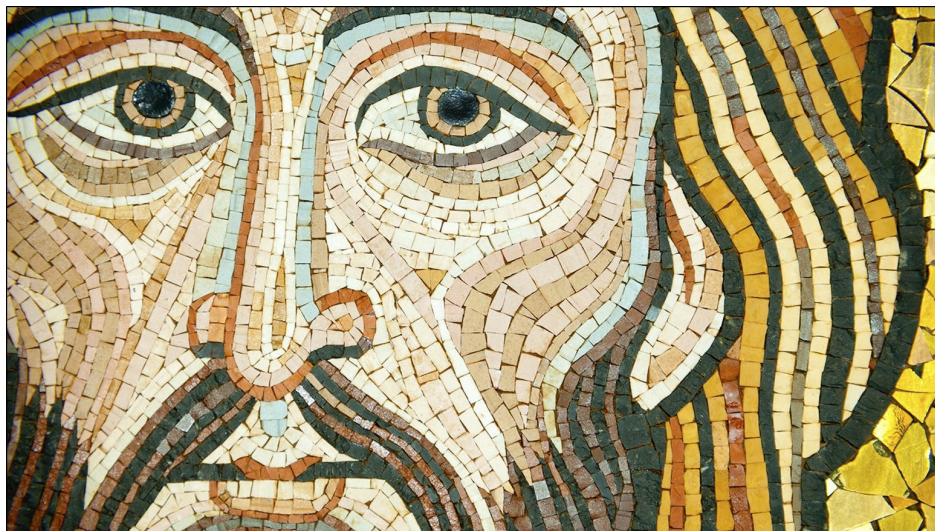


Year of the Word 2020



**Diocese of
Nottingham**



THE
GOD
WHO
SPEAKS

I would encourage you to engage generously in this 'Year of the Word' initiative of the Bishops Conference of England & Wales in partnership with Bible Society.

The 3 themes of; Celebrating God's Word (Encounter), Living God's Word (Discipleship) and Sharing God's Word (Missionary Discipleship) weave beautifully and easily into our own 3 Diocesan themes.

So may it be a blessed year for our diocese!

+Patrick

You will have received the Bible Society's information book for the Year of the Word: 2020. This Diocesan booklet is a summary of its contents and also offers practical ideas for deeper Scriptural engagement in parishes, perhaps using your free copies of St Matthews's Gospel. If you would like to order more, they cost £1.50 each (discount for bulk orders) from:

biblesocietymatthewsgospelcatholic

We hope you find this booklet useful, it is also downloadable on the Diocesan Website but please do contact the Adult Formation Office if you require any further hard copies.

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS

2020 is the 10th anniversary of Verbum Domini, the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Benedict XVI on The Word of the Lord and it is also the 1,600th anniversary of St Jerome's death who said 'Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ' (*Jerome's Commentary on Isaiah* Nn.1.2:CCL 73, 1-3). Find out more about St Jerome at: <http://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/the-god-who-speaks/films-scripture-and-art/st-jerome/> and share with your parishioners, perhaps advertising it as a weekly 'top tip' or 'to-do' or show it around a scripture session.

The vision of the year is based around three key themes:

- Celebrating God's Word; *enriching our worshipping and spiritual community*. 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.
- Living God's Word; *enriching our social action and outreach*. By listening to God's word through the Scriptures, we are inspired to put our faith into action.
- Sharing God's Word; *enriching our formation, proclamation and evangelisation*.

There are many platforms to share our faith, are we doing enough?

OFFICIAL PRAYER FOR THE YEAR

Living God,
you walk alongside us
and speak to us throughout the Scriptures.
Your Son, Jesus Christ, listens to our hopes and fears
and shows us how to live for one another.
Send us the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds
so that we may be your witnesses throughout the world.

Amen

V. Your word is our path and your truth is our light.

R. This day and every day.

Our Lady of the Annunciation

Pray for us

St Matthew

Pray for us

St Jerome

Pray for us

LONGER PRAYER TO THE GOD WHO SPEAKS

Creator and Source of all, you spoke to Moses calling your people into life.

He asked for your name and you revealed your mystery.

“I am who I am, who I will be, where I will be”. Your divine life, beyond our inadequate images, beyond our fragile attempts to know and control. And gradually, through your prophets, you opened our minds and hearts to the immensity of the mystery of your creative mercy.

Word made Flesh, you came among us to open up a way and a life true to your mystery and true to our desire; a Word that both speaks in our hearts and through the vastness of your cosmos.

Holy Spirit, from the first Pentecost you enabled us to hear the Word in our own reality and respond to it among companions from every race and tongue. Provoke us now to return to that divine word in Creation, that Word en-fleshed in Jesus, that Word spoken and recorded in the Holy Scriptures.

Touch our minds and hearts today as we read alone, as we proclaim in the liturgy, as we study together and, inspired anew, help us to become that Word for all who seek the way, the truth, and the life.

Amen.

David McLoughlin

TO BEGIN: SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER—ADVENT

There is a special Evening Prayer resource to help you inaugurate the beginning of the ‘Year’. You are invited to come together and participate in the Evening Office of the Prayer of the Church throughout the diocese. Using our theme of The God who Speaks let us be united in prayer as we begin this Advent journey. Evening Prayer resource: <http://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/the-god-who-speaks/celebrating/evening-prayer-for-the-first-sunday-of-advent/>

Sunday 1st December: Evening Prayer to be held at local churches.

Bishop Patrick will celebrate Mass to officially begin the ‘Year of the Word’ at 6pm on December 1st 2019 at St Barnabas Cathedral.

All are welcome.

OUR CARDINAL IN THE NATIONAL GALLERY

Cardinal Vincent Nichols launched the year from the National Gallery in London where three devotional paintings by different artists are reflected upon.

30th September 2019—<http://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/the-god-who-speaks/films-scripture-and-art/st-jerome/> - notes are also available to download. Two more will be available on;

1st December 2019

26th February 2020



Why not encourage parishioners to watch together Cardinal Nichols' art presentation before a social event or scripture event—the first one is 8 minutes?

Artist for The Year—Pete Codling: Diocesan Scripture Tour

The centre pages of the Bible Society's book is Matthew's journey by way of his Gospel writings—illustrated by Pete Codling. Art is a great way of communicating the Bible, a way for us to reflect and inspire.

His artwork will be in our Diocese on February 22nd and 23rd along with the National Scripture Tour, visiting all the dioceses. He will be talking about his artistic journey from early ideas to completion.

Watch out for the venue - to be announced shortly.

On to Matthew....

"Through the lens of Matthew's account, we perceive a rich and compelling depiction of Jesus. We see him in the vulnerability of a baby, the inquisitiveness of a child, the gentleness of a healer, the force of a prophet, the determination of an activist and the humility of a servant. We encounter Jesus—fully God, fully man."

-Bishop Peter M Brignall, Bishop of Wrexham

Take a look at your free copy of St Matthew's Gospel, incorporate it into your existing Scripture sessions or organise an evening focussing on different ways to read the Bible.

READING THE BIBLE

Father Anthony Pateman is encouraging parishes to set up a Scripture group following The Seven Steps. He is willing to help any parish to begin but also has area contacts. For advice and help contact him on:

a.pateman@talktalk.net

The Seven Steps

1. **Invite.** Remembering that the Risen Lord is present with the group, somebody present invites Jesus in a prayer and welcomes him.
2. **Read.** Everybody opens their Bibles to the arranged place and somebody present, reads to the group.
3. **View with wonder.** The group picks out words or short phrases, reads them aloud prayerfully and repeats them three times, silence being preserved after each repetition. The texts are then reread aloud by somebody present from a different version of the texts.
4. **Listen.** Silence is maintained for five minutes, to allow God to speak to the group.
5. **Share.** The group members now share, without discussion, which word has touched them personally. The group may decide together which word may be chosen as their Word of Life for the coming week.
6. **Plan for action.** The group discusses what task they may be called to do in their neighbourhood, or parish.
7. **Pray.** Anybody present who would like to, may pray spontaneously. The group ends with a prayer or a hymn known to all.

Derbyshire: Rev. Mr. Richard Walsh: richard-walsh@lineone.net

Leicestershire/Rutland: Rev. Mr. Seamus O'Looskan: olooskan@hotmail.com

Lincolnshire: Rev. Mr. Warren Peachey:

warren.peachey@ourladyoflincoln.com

Nottinghamshire: Rev. Mr. Anthony Cordes: anthonymcordes@hotmail.co.uk

God's Word is for everyone, not just for educated individuals.

Listening to the Word together, we become a strong community, which grows by celebrating the sacraments and constant prayer.

THE BIBLE EXPLAINED

The God Who Speaks website is full of great resources for us to widen our knowledge of the background to The Bible. Visit: godwhospeaks.uk

Here is an outline of what can be viewed on the website and shared with parishioners at a meeting. Some of the information is downloadable in a 'Word' document for you to print.

[cbcewgodwhospeaksintroduction](#)

Introduction to the Bible

How the Bible speaks to Catholics, Catholic Principles, explanation of Old and New Testament, writing styles and timeline.

Introduction to the Pentateuch

The Old Testament begins with the Torah or Pentateuch, which has five books which are explained here: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy.

Introduction to the Historical Books

A synopsis of all the Historical Books, 34 page document outlining the writers, structures and questions.

What is the Bible?

Can we trust the Bible?

Life changing!

These articles adapted from Episode 6 ("The Bible") of the Sycamore series by Fr Stephen Wang.

Listen to the God who speaks

If you don't listen, you don't hear.

Prayer for Group Scripture Meetings

Risen Lord,

Your disciples walking on the road to Emmaus began to sense your presence as you explained the Scriptures to them.

As we study the Scriptures today may our hearts burn too,
kindled by the Spirit, with the love of God, and the delight of your teaching,
that we may see with your eyes, heal with your hands, walk in your ways and love
with your heart.

Amen

MAGNA CARTA AND GOSPEL READING

Fr Joseph O'Hanlon, a retired priest of the Nottingham Diocese who has a lifetime of experience teaching the Bible, writes about Stephen Langton, the Magna Carta and the influence on our Gospel reading.

[cbcewthegodwhospeaksbiblebasicsmagnacarta](#)

A JOURNEY OF MINDFULNESS WITH ST MATTHEW

Fr Tom Grufferty invites us to walk out of our comfort zone and march on a journey of mindfulness with St Matthew.

[cbcewthegodwhospeaksbiblebasicsjourneyofmindfulness](#)

EVERYDAY MATTHEW – YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU KNEW

Fr Joseph O'Hanlon takes us through the Gospel of St Matthew to reveal a surprising number of quotes we use in our daily lives. For example: Here today, gone tomorrow (Mt 6:30).

[cbcewthegodwhospeaksbiblebasiceverydaymatthew](#)

FOCUS TIME LINE

Throughout the campaign a different monthly focus will be highlighted to bring Scripture into our lives.

2019

November—*Focus on death and dying well*

December—*Advent*

2020

January—*Focus on Matthew, Education, Catechesis & Formation*

February—*Focus on Human Trafficking and migration*

March—*Focus on disability, work and employment*

April—*Focus on Baptism*

May—*National Marriage week, Migrants' Mass*

June—*Focus on the Eucharist*

July—*Focus on saints & pilgrimage, Our Catholic heritage and patrimony*

August—*Focus on Christian unity and inter-faith dialogue*

September—*Focus on the environment*

October—*Focus on Mary, focus on retreats*

November—*Focus on mental health and healthcare*

December—*Advent—celebrating **The God Who Speaks***

WHAT DO WE WANT TO DO?

Throughout 2020, our dioceses and communities are invited to explore:

- In what good ways do we celebrate, live and share God's word?
- Where might there be gaps? Is anyone excluded?
- What new ways and opportunities might be open to us?
- What actions can we take to encourage our communities to become more familiar with the bible?

EVENTS IDEAS

Examples and suggestions of things already happening in parishes:

St Joseph's, Leicester, are following a monthly programme "Getting to Know the Bible", published by Redemptorist Publications, which takes you through the books of the Bible in a year. It links with their monthly programme "Questions of Faith" which is open to anything the people want to raise. They also hold monthly evening retreats ("Twilight" retreats) and Scripture is the constant background. These evenings are open to any who want to come and are attended by people from local parishes.

The Watermead Apostolate, Leicester, provide a free weekly download newsletter "The Lord's Day" which looks at the background to the Sunday Mass readings, along with the themes of the readings. It is consulted around the world and a number of parishes download and print it for their people each week. You can view the newsletters via <https://www.watermead-apostolate.co.uk/the-lords-day>.

St Joseph's, Matlock will be continuing their Scripture course on Friday mornings at 11am. There are working notes, but also they utilise video teaching too from worldwide learned Scripture scholars. From Advent they will also have a monthly insert, teaching the Faithful how to embrace the Bible and its structure and Church traditions. On the parish Twitter account they will place Bishops Conference's quotes as they come through, as well as things from the Diocese and Bishop.

Matlock's Twitter - <https://twitter.com/OurLadyStJosep1>

Sacred Heart and Our Lady & St Edwards, Nottingham are setting up a weekly Lectio Divina group using 7 steps. They have held a renewal evening for readers and will be running a monthly session using the video course 'The Big Picture' - a cafe bible study course. <http://www.thebigpicturecourse.org/>

A NEW READER TRAINING COURSE PRODUCED BY CBCEW, LITURGICAL COMMISSION, WILL BE AVAILABLE SHORTLY. If you would like the link, contact Adult Formation.

English Martyrs, Derby are beginning a 'Discovering Christ in Advent' course. Also on Sundays prior to Mass they are running a 'Breaking open scripture for young people' aimed at the under 7's.

Our Lady & St Edwards School give out the weekly Wednesday Word (wednesdayword.org) so the same material is available at the back of church for families and individuals to take away and use at home. They also run a weekly Scripture Sharing Prayer Group in the Old Friary.

WEDNESDAY WORD: ENDORSEMENT FROM CARDINAL VINCENT NICHOLS

"I am pleased to offer a word of encouragement and endorsement for The Wednesday Word. Each Wednesday the materials supplied can help to: Develop a habit of prayer and reflection on the Word of God within the family; Form hearts and minds to hear and understand the Word of God the following Sunday; Put the Word of God into the home of every child in a Catholic school. I offer my prayers and encouragement not only to those who provide The Wednesday Word but also to all those who use it." - Cardinal Vincent Nichols

Here are just some activities and events that you might undertake in your parish, school or community:

- Bible study groups and Bible Book clubs • Bible and art workshops • Bible and saints groups • Bible and prayer groups • Bible and the environment groups • Bible and social justice groups • Bible and music events • Bible foods and fellowship • Bible and local church pilgrimage walks •

Bible vigils for those being persecuted for reading the Bible

For more information about setting up these groups visit godwhospeaks.uk

DIOCESAN EVENTS

Diocesan Spirituality Network has organised five prayer dates for next year with sessions on the characteristics of Matthew's Gospel followed by a series of sessions of prayer activities:

Saturday 18th January—Leicester

Saturday March—Nottinghamshire

Saturday 16 May—Lincoln

Saturday 4th July—South Lincolnshire

Saturday 10th October—Derbyshire

ALL DATES TO BE CONFIRMED

Contacts: Mary Robinson—chris.and.mary@talktalk.net

Anne Neale—ann@perkeo.co.uk

Spirituality Day—February 8th, Holy Family Allestree. The day will be led by Fr. Chris Thomas from the Irenaeus Project, Liverpool on the theme "The God Who Speaks - exploring the spirituality of the Scriptures".

Monthly bulletins will be sent to parishes with updates and suggestions from other parishes—please do send your Scripture based events and dates to us:

adult.formation@dioceseofnottingham.uk

AREA CONTACTS

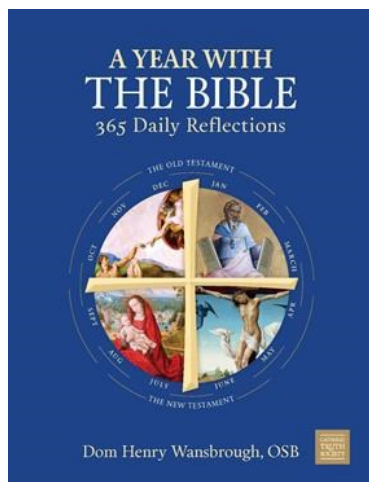
Leicester Area Contact—Querida Gardiner: querida.gardiner@outlook.com

South Lincolnshire Area Contact—Jane Luker: janeluker@hotmail.co.uk

Nottingham Area Contact—Patricia Stoa, Diane Williams:

adult.formation@dioceseofnottingham.uk

Derbyshire—Mary Robinson: chris.and.mary@talktalk.net



CTS Publication: [‘A Year with the Bible’](#)

.....will take you on a journey from Genesis to Revelation, with reflections on carefully selected

Bible passages that will deepen your comprehension of the Word of God. Packed with 365 daily commentaries in Scripture. Written by Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB, who has dedicated his life to studying and teaching Scripture, a reading plan is also included for any readers who wish to attempt the challenge of reading the entire Bible in a year.

B I B L E
EMERGENCY NUMBERS
QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

Upset	John 14
Weak	Psalms 18:1-29
Lonely	Psalms 23
Sinned	Psalms 51
Worried	Matthew 8:19-31
Anxious	Philippians 4:4-9
Unhappy	Colossians 3:12-17
In danger	Psalms 91
Depressed	Psalms 27
Lack of Faith	Exodus 14
Need Courage	Joshua 1
Need Direction	Psalms 73:21-26
Seeking peace	Matthew 11:25-30
Struggling with loss	Luke 15
Struggling Financially	Psalms 37

AVAILABLE 24/7 | PHONE SERVICE NOT REQUIRED
DIRECT PETITIONS HEAVENWARD

EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE LIKE NEVER BEFORE

Bible Society would like to invite you to come and hear about Home360: A Story of Belonging. In the summer of 2020, Bible Society will be partnering with local churches to bring a unique Bible experience, in what they believe is the most exciting mission project in a generation. Home360 is an immersive Bible experience that uses the latest CGI/Virtual Reality technology to introduce people to the big story of the Bible. Projected inside a 9 metre Dome, this 15 minute film touches on ideas of love, loss, forgiveness and belonging – themes common to every audience.

They will be working alongside churches to provide local hospitality teams, bringing the Home360 dome to nine city centres from May to September 2020 for around three days at each location, enabling thousands of people to experience the Bible.

For more information visit biblesociety.org.uk/home360



Contact: Adult Formation Department

Diane Williams

Email: adult.formation@dioceseofnottingham.uk

Telephone: 0115 9539800