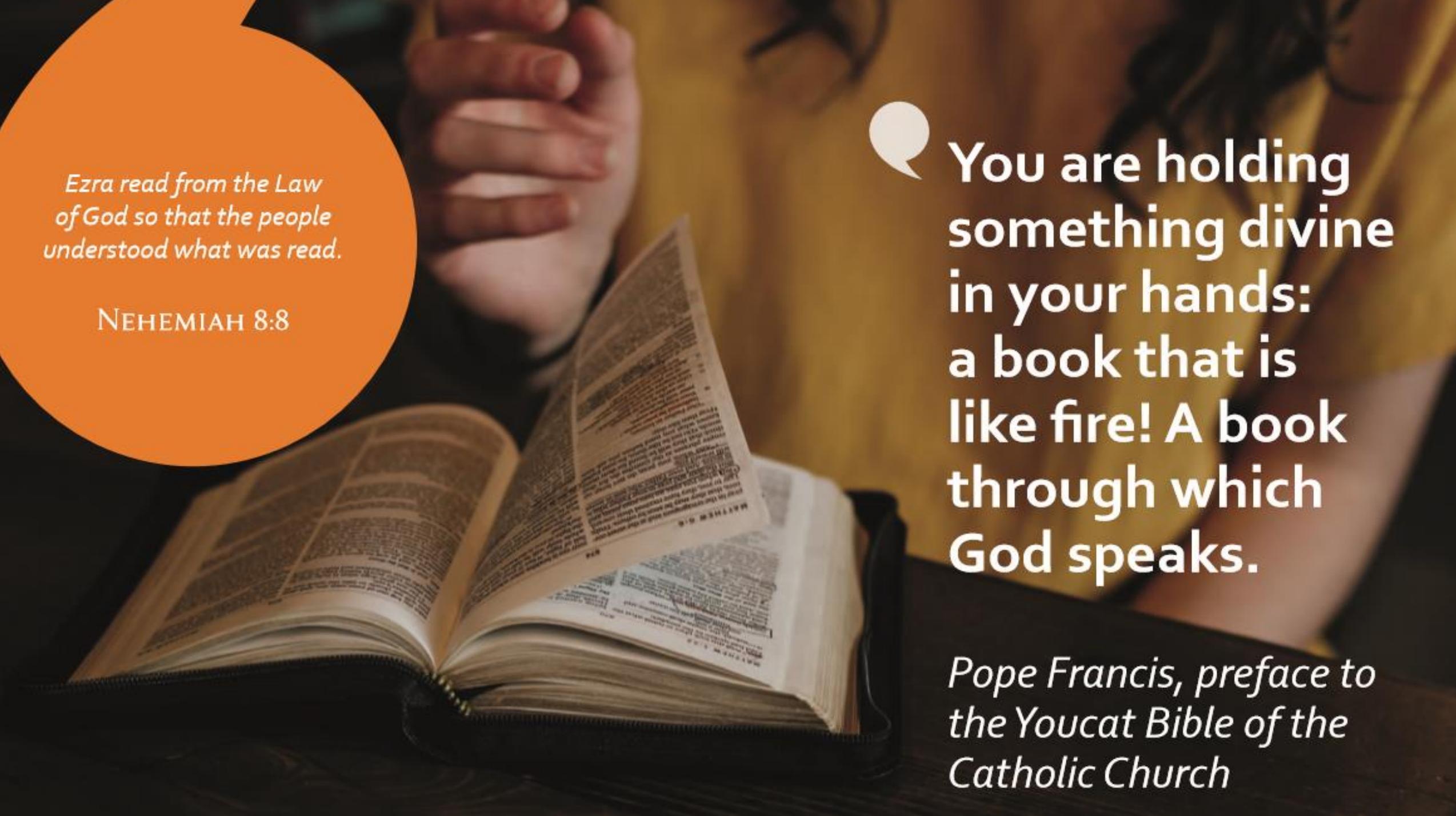


# THE GOD WHO SPEAKS: THE YEAR OF THE WORD

30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Diocese of Westminster Education Service



An open Bible is shown in the foreground, resting on a dark surface. Above the Bible, a person's hands are clasped in prayer. The background is a warm, golden-brown color, possibly a wall or a piece of fabric. The overall scene is one of devotion and study.

*Ezra read from the Law  
of God so that the people  
understood what was read.*

NEHEMIAH 8:8

**You are holding  
something divine  
in your hands:  
a book that is  
like fire! A book  
through which  
God speaks.**

*Pope Francis, preface to  
the Youcat Bible of the  
Catholic Church*

‘Scripture is at the centre of everything the Church does. The Word of God shapes our prayer and worship. The Bible shows us how to understand the world, how we are called to live and relate to each other.’



# A Partnership...

In partnership with the Bible Society, 'The God Who Speaks: The Year of the Word' focuses on celebrating, living and sharing God's word throughout the Catholic Church in England and Wales.



THE YEAR OF THE WORD  
*in the Catholic Church in England and Wales*

2020

This coming academic year the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales have designated as '**The God Who Speaks - A Year of the Word**' to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Verbum Domini - Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation on 'The Word of the Lord', and the 1600<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of St Jerome, who translated the Bible into Latin. In keeping with the Church's three year cycle there will also be a specific focus on St Matthew's Gospel.



The Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales has created a website that is dedicated to 'The God Who Speaks - A Year of the Word.' This can be found using this link - <http://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/the-god-who-speaks/>



The screenshot shows the website header with the logo for 'THE CATHOLIC CHURCH BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES' and social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and LinkedIn. The navigation menu includes 'The Bishops', 'Safeguarding', 'The Church', 'CBCEW', 'Our Work', 'Dioceses', 'News and Media', 'What's On', and 'God Who Speaks' (highlighted in red). The main content area features a large image of a person's hands holding a black leather-bound book with 'HONORABLE' written on the cover. The text reads: 'The God Who Speaks' and 'We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life.' 1 John 1:1. Below the text are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Email. To the right, a grey box titled 'ALSO IN EVENTS' lists: 'Celebrate the Canonisation of John Henry Newman >', 'World Day of Migrants and Refugees >', 'Month of Mission >', and 'Home Mission Sunday >'.



The website contains a wide variety of resources that you can use in school, including various posters (see right) and a 'Bible Basics' section in which Fr. Stephen Wang provides a whole host of thought-provoking ideas and Bible-related information.

THE  
GOD  
WHO  
SPEAKS

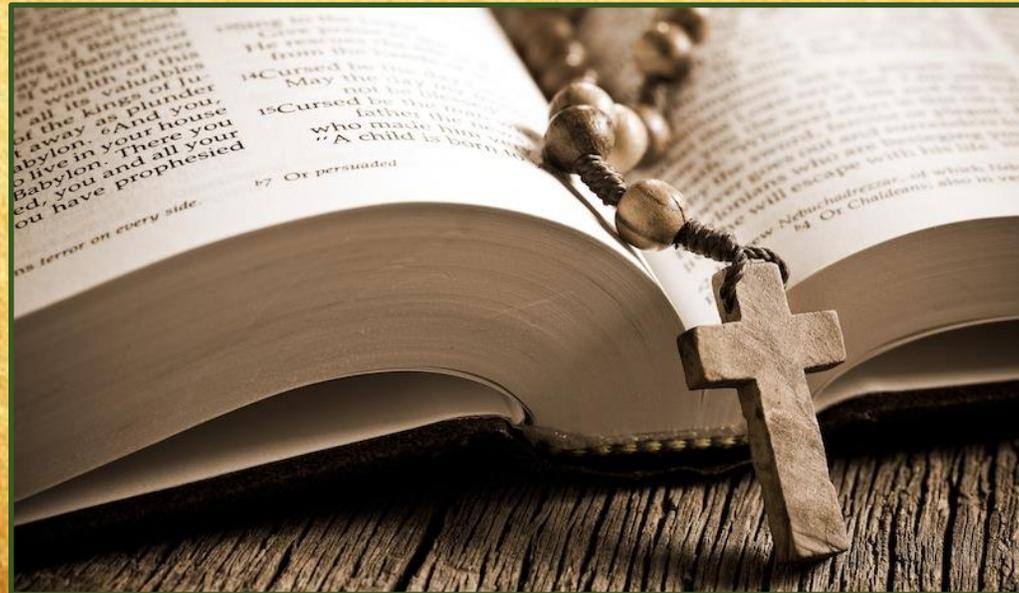
The Christian faith is not a 'religion of the book'. Christianity is the religion of the 'Word of God', a word which is 'not a written and mute word, but the Word is incarnate and living'.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, 108



The aim of The God Who Speaks - A Year of the  
Word is:

‘Celebrating, Living and Sharing  
God’s Word.’





🏠 » [Events](#) » [The God Who Speaks](#) » [Key Dates](#)

## 2019

*30 September*

Feast of St Jerome – official launch of 'The God who Speaks'.

*1 December*

First Sunday of Advent – the beginning of the campaign year.

## 2020

*Jan – Dec*

### Celebrating God's Word

Whenever we celebrate the liturgy, the Scriptures are proclaimed.



### Living God's Word

We not only need to hear and receive God's word, we also need to put that word into practice.



### Bible Basics

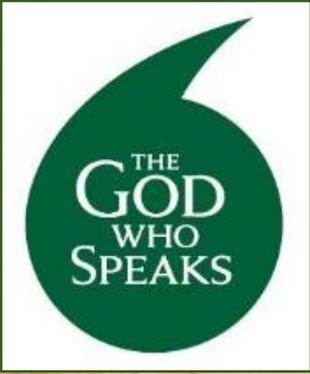
Bible basics providing information, articles and inspiration



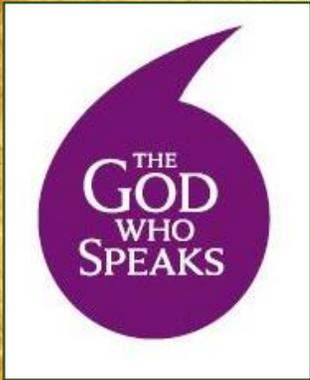
### Sharing God's Word

With a renewed love of Scripture comes both the opportunity and desire to share it with others.

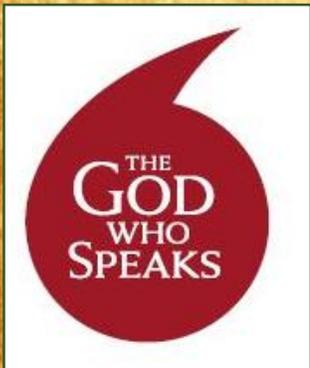
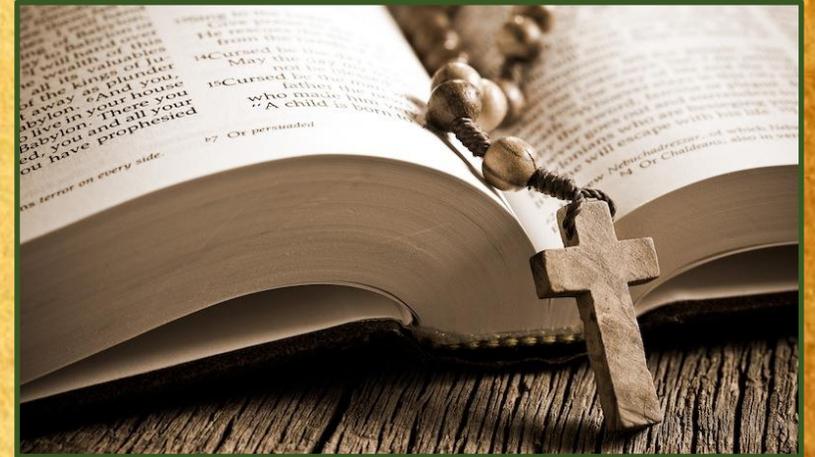




# Celebrating



# Living



# Sharing





## Celebrating God's Word

*enriching our worshipping and spiritual community.*

In discovering and renewing a genuine love for the word of God, we nurture our relationship with Christ. Through the Bible, we meet Christ who is alive in his word. We can listen to him speaking to us and guiding us in our daily lives.



## Living God's Word

*enriching our social action and outreach.*

Scripture teaches us how to live in society, to respect the wonder of creation, especially each human being and to work towards the common good. The Scriptures inspire us to put faith into action, living God's word and doing God's word.



## Sharing God's Word

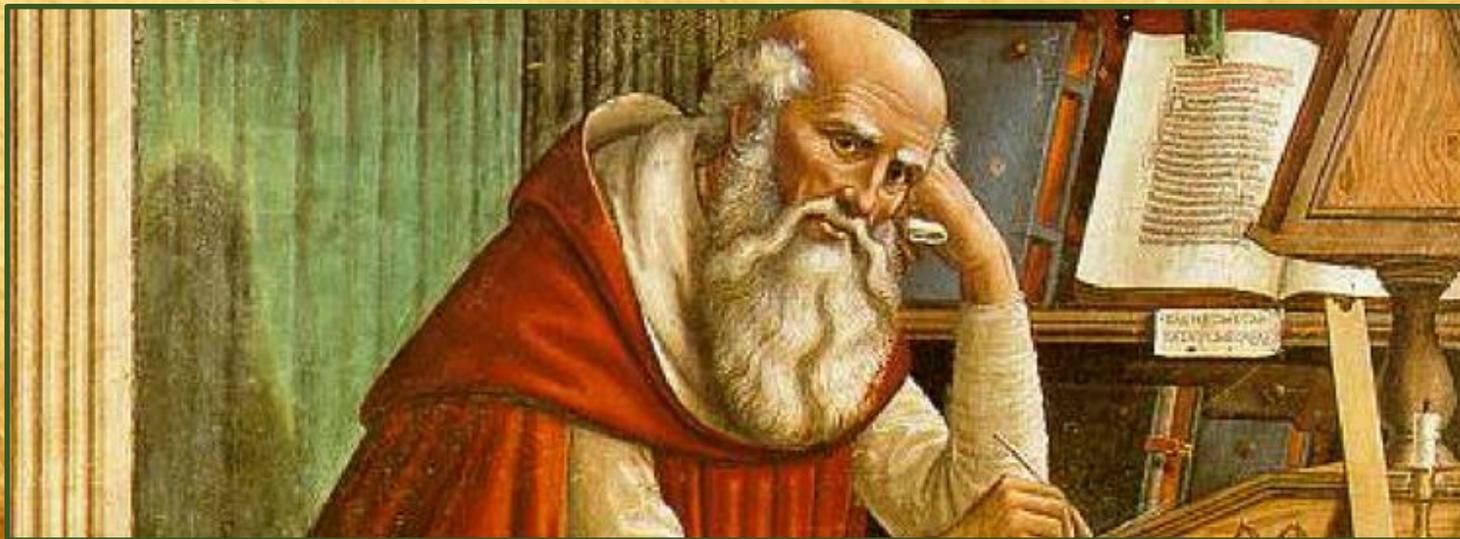
*enriching our formation, proclamation and evangelisation.*

The Bible has inspired, and continues to inspire, learning, culture, art, music and literature. It enables science and faith to build up mutual understanding through dialogue. It challenges technology and social media to open up new ways to encounter and share Christ in the world.

# The Official Launch

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September** marks the official launch of The God Who Speaks – The Year of the Word with Cardinal Nichols video in the National Gallery on the feast of St. Jerome.

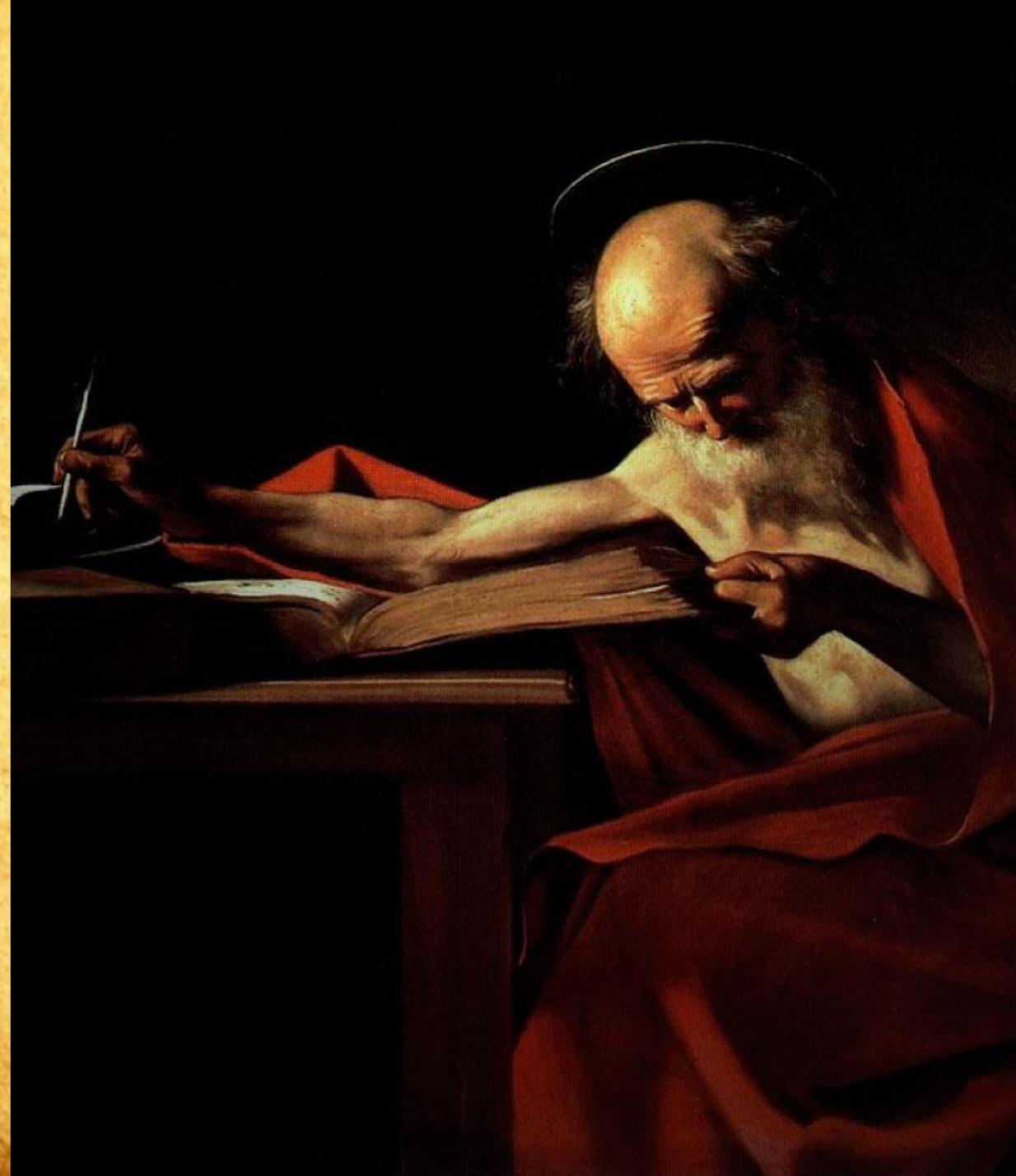
The Campaign Year will start on **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019**, the first Sunday of Advent, the beginning of the Church's Liturgical Year.



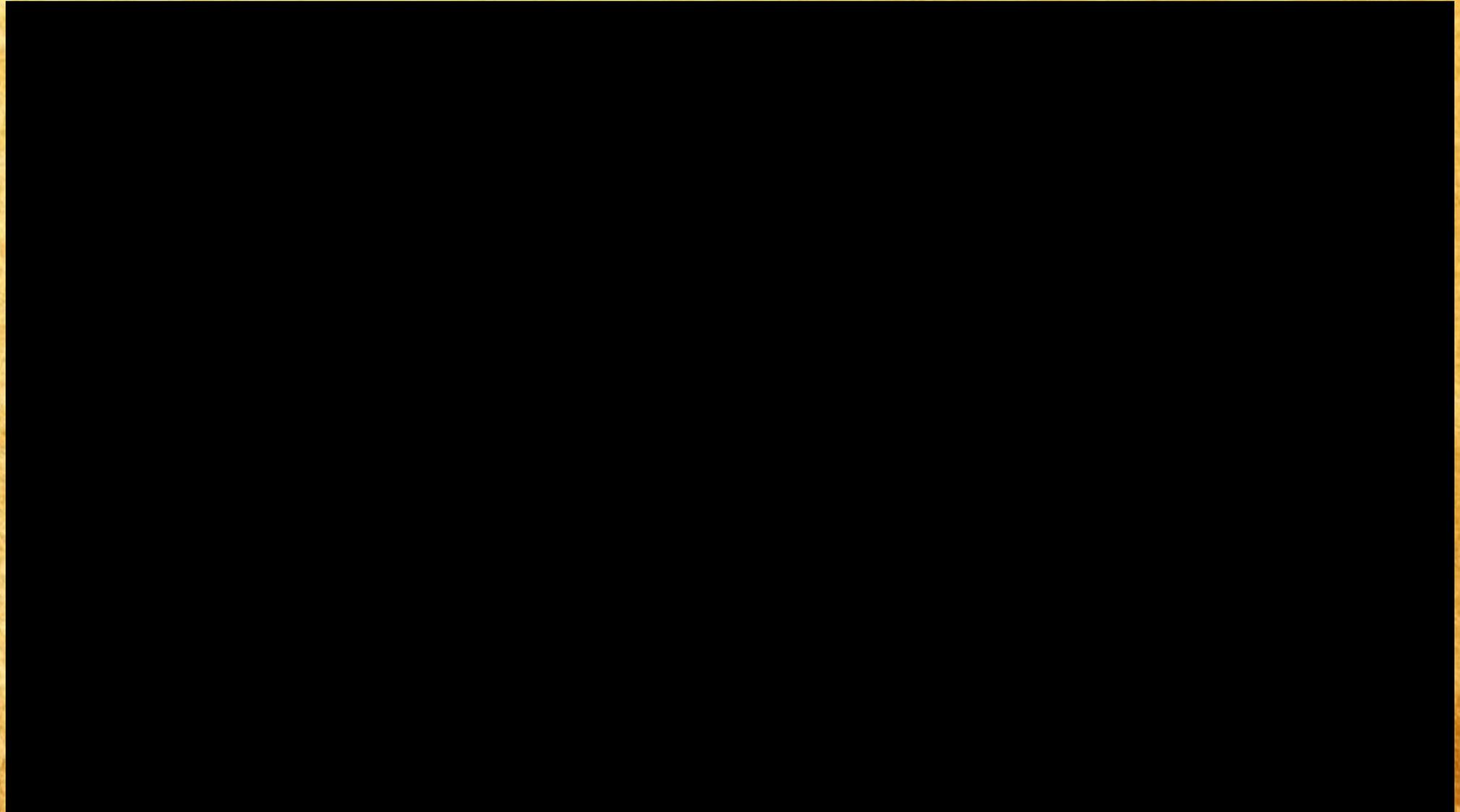
# Why St. Jerome?

Patron of archaeologists,  
Biblical scholars, librarians,  
students and translators

Of all the things that made Jerome famous, nothing was so legendary as his translation of the Bible; he spent his entire life translating the scriptures from Hebrew and Old Latin.



# The Life of St. Jerome



# 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

THE  
GOD  
WHO  
SPEAKS

[godwhospeaks.uk](http://godwhospeaks.uk)

# The Year Ahead



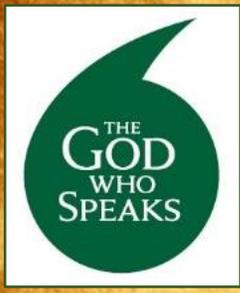
Following the official launch of the Year of the Word, we will focus on the following elements each term:

Term	Focus
Autumn 2019	Celebrating God's Word
Spring 2020	Matthew The Gospel Writer
Summer 2020	Living God's Word
Autumn 2020	Sharing God's Word

Term	Focus
Autumn 2019	Celebrating God's Word
Spring 2020	Matthew The Gospel Writer
Summer 2020	Living God's Word
Autumn 2020	Sharing God's Word

Initial plans for each term are outlined in the following slides; these will be added to once further resources/information are made available. Schools are of course welcome to use their own ideas which they are also encouraged to share with others.



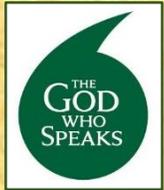


# Autumn 2019

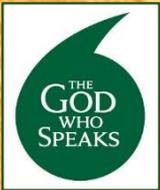
## Celebrating God's Word



Proposed activities for this term:



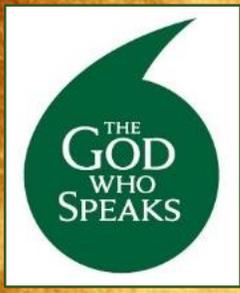
Introduce the YOTW to staff/pupils



Organise/prepare communal display for the  
Year of the Word



Prepare for the full launch on 1<sup>st</sup> December  
2019 (further resources will become available)

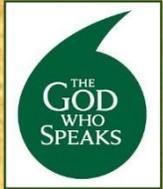


# Autumn 2019

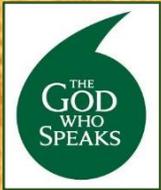
## Celebrating God's Word



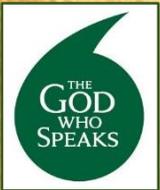
Proposed activities for this term:



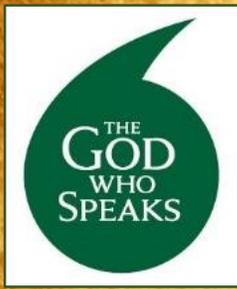
Appoint and train Scripture Champions



Encourage pupils to take a more active role in their parish by becoming readers



Use of autism-friendly resources to share the Christmas story.



# Spring 2020

# Matthew the Gospel Writer

**THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

[The Bishops](#) [Safeguarding](#) [The Church](#) [CBCEW](#) [Our Work](#) [Dioceses](#) [News and Media](#) [What's On](#) **God Who Speaks**

**GOD WHO SPEAKS**

## Everyday Matthew – you didn't know you knew

Tuesday, September 3rd, 2019 @ 2:20 pm

*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.*

**RELATED**

### A journey of Mindfulness with St Matthew

A journey of mindfulness with St Matthew

### Thy Kingdom Come

Matthew's Gospel is the Gospel of the kingdom of heaven



## The Prologue and Jesus' Birth and Significance

CHAPTER 1:18-25  
The Nativity

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel.

CHAPTER 2:7-12  
Three Wise Men

CHAPTER 3:13-17  
John Baptises Jesus

Always treat others as you would like them to treat you.

CHAPTER 4:18-22  
Simon Peter, Andrew, James & John

## The Kingdom of Heaven is Announced

CHAPTER 5:3-12  
Sermon on the Mount  
The Beatitudes

CHAPTER 6:9-15  
The Lord's Prayer

CHAPTER 7:7-12  
The Golden Rule

Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me.

## Signs of the Kingdom

CHAPTER 8:28-34  
Miracle of the Gadarene Pigs

CHAPTER 9:27-31  
Jesus Heals the Blind Men

CHAPTER 10:5-15  
Jesus Sends His Disciples

## The Church, the first fruits of the Kingdom of Heaven

CHAPTER 18:10-14  
The Lost Sheep

CHAPTER 17:1-8  
Jesus is Transfigured

CHAPTER 16:15-20  
Jesus Asks the Disciples  
Who do you say I am?

CHAPTER 15:22-28  
The Daughter is Healed

CHAPTER 14:13-21  
Feeding the Five Thousand

Where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them.

## The Mystery of the Kingdom of Heaven

CHAPTER 13:31-33  
Parable of the Mustard Seed

CHAPTER 12:40-42  
Death & Resurrection

CHAPTER 11:28-30  
Come To Me All Who Are Weary

I speak to you in parables.

## The Coming of the Kingdom of Heaven

Love God and love your neighbour as yourself.

CHAPTER 19:13-15  
Jesus Blesses the Little Children

CHAPTER 20:20-28  
Mother of the Sons of Zebedee

CHAPTER 21:1-11  
The Entry into Jerusalem

CHAPTER 22:1-14  
Parable of the Wedding Feast

CHAPTER 23:13-36  
Jesus Denounces the Hypocrites  
Woe to you!

CHAPTER 24:29-31  
The Coming of the Son of Man

CHAPTER 25:1-13  
Parable of the Bridesmaids

CHAPTER 26:26-29  
Jesus and the Eucharist

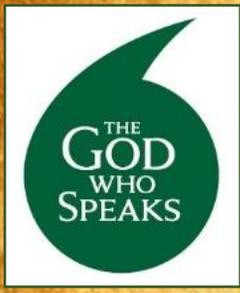
CHAPTER 27:31-44  
Jesus is Crucified and Buried

CHAPTER 28:1-10  
Women Find the Empty Tomb

## The Passion and Resurrection

And know that I am with you always to the end of time.

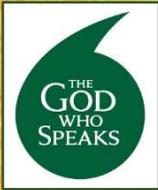
# JOURNEY WITH MATTHEW



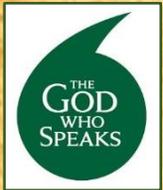
Spring 2020

# Matthew the Gospel Writer

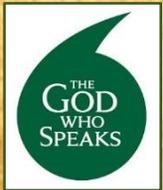
Proposed activities for this term:



Introduce 'Matthew the Gospel Writer' using diocesan prepared resources

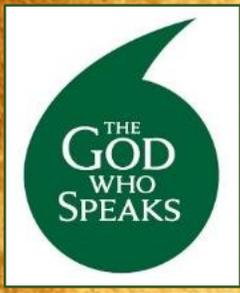


World Book Day – Bible character theme



'Moses and the Burning Bush' recording  
(Cardinal Nichols)



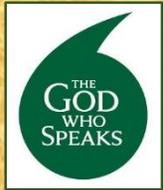


Spring 2020



# Matthew the Gospel Writer

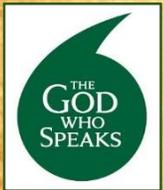
Proposed activities for this term:



Parents/pupils to share favourite scripture passages in first language



Passion Play based on Matthew's Gospel



Use of autism-friendly resources to share the Easter story.

# THE *Wednesday* WORD

Make 2020 a special year for  
your primary school.

A weekly scriptural leaflet bringing  
families together around the Word of God.

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

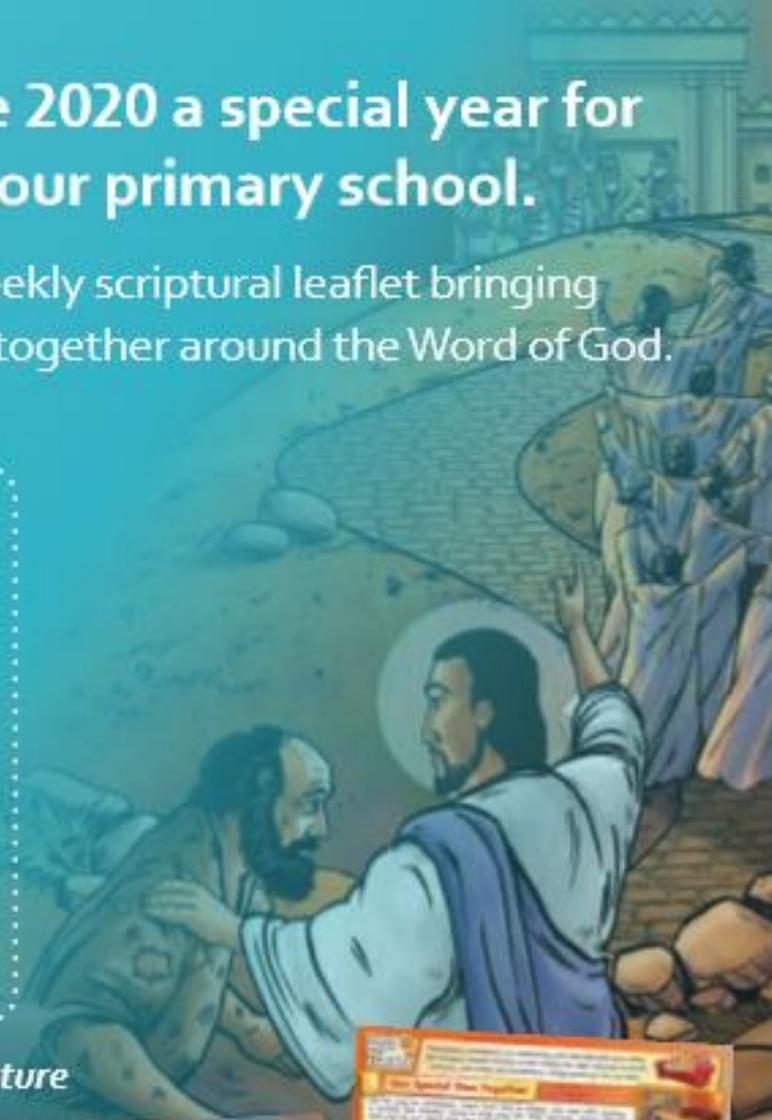
I offer my prayers and encouragement not only to those who provide  
The Wednesday Word but also to all those who use it.

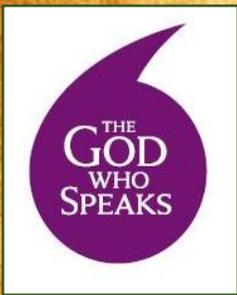
**Cardinal Vincent Nichols**

*2020: The Wednesday Word connecting Home, School & Parish through Scripture*

Find out more at [wednesdayword.org](http://wednesdayword.org) & [godwhospeaks.uk](http://godwhospeaks.uk)

The Wednesday Word Trust is a registered Catholic Charity supplying scriptural resources  
for parishes and primary schools.



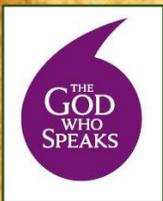


# Summer 2020

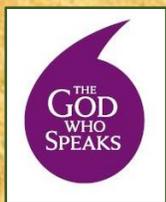
## Living God's Word



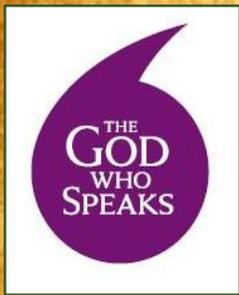
Proposed activities for this term:



Bible reflections led by pupils who have received the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation



'Scripture in our School' review: what is its presence and how could it be improved?

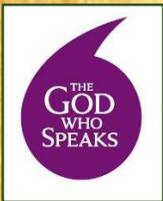


# Summer 2020

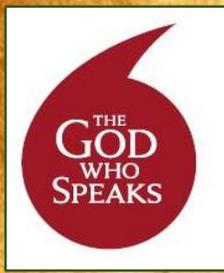
## Living God's Word



Proposed activities for this term:



Bible presentations (or Matthew's Gospel – The Bible Society) to those pupils leaving their schools as they transition and move onto the next chapter of their educational journey/lives.

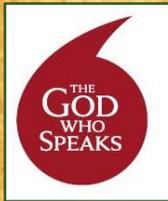


# Autumn 2020

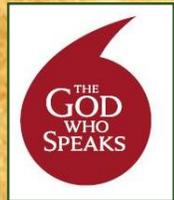


## Sharing God's Word

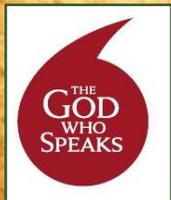
Proposed activities for this term:



30<sup>th</sup> September: St. Jerome assembly on the  
1600<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death



Use of autism-friendly resources to share the  
Christmas story



Review of the impact of the Year of the Word  
in your school.

# There Is Money Available!

There are a small number of Year of the Word grants available in the following streams.

## **Stream A: Engaging Disabled Catholics**

This stream of grant funding offers £1,000 for Scripture-based projects that equip and enable disabled Catholics to engage with the Bible.

## **Stream B: Creative Scriptural Projects**

This stream offers funding to dioceses for Scripture-based projects that encourage an exploration of the Scriptures in a creative, innovative and sustainable way.

In particular, projects will be expected to:

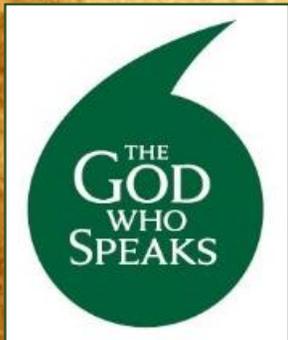
- Reflect one of our 3 themes: Celebrating God's Word, Living God's Word or Sharing God's Word
- Respond to the particular need of a definable group or network of Catholics in your diocese
- Explore how this group or network is currently being supported in their Scriptural engagement
- Be rooted in Scripture, with engagement with the Bible at its heart, whilst being fresh and innovative

# Grant Applications

If you have an innovative project which will inspire your pupils and the wider school community to engage more fully with scripture, the application window is open from:

1<sup>st</sup> October 2019 – 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

You can visit [godwhospeaks.uk](http://godwhospeaks.uk) for more information about grant applications.



# PILGRIM PRAYER FOR THE YEAR

Pilgrim God, you walk alongside us and speak to us throughout the Scriptures:  
in the message of the prophets, the songs of David and the vision of Paul.

Your Son, Jesus Christ, listens to our hopes and fears and shows us how to live:  
in our love of neighbour, our desire for justice, and in our dying and rising each day.

Send us the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds so that we may be your witnesses throughout the world:  
in our protection of the vulnerable, our words and actions and in our communion with the earth.

AMEN

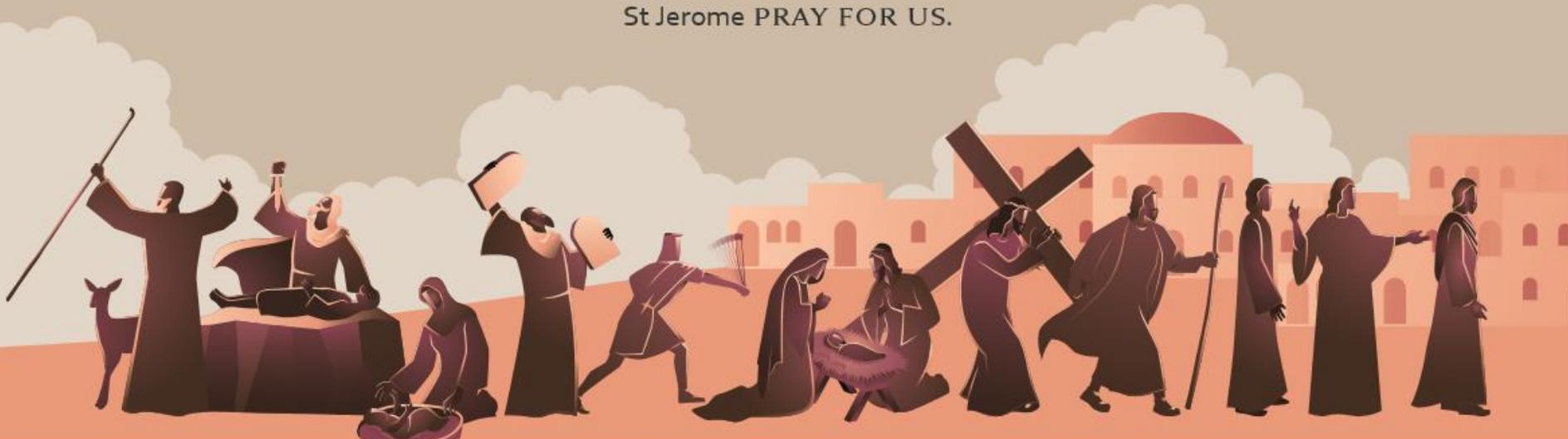
V. Your word is our path and your truth is our light.

R. This day and every day.

Our Lady of the Annunciation PRAY FOR US.

St Matthew PRAY FOR US.

St Jerome PRAY FOR US.



Please contact one of your Year of the Word diocesan advisers if you require further help or support.

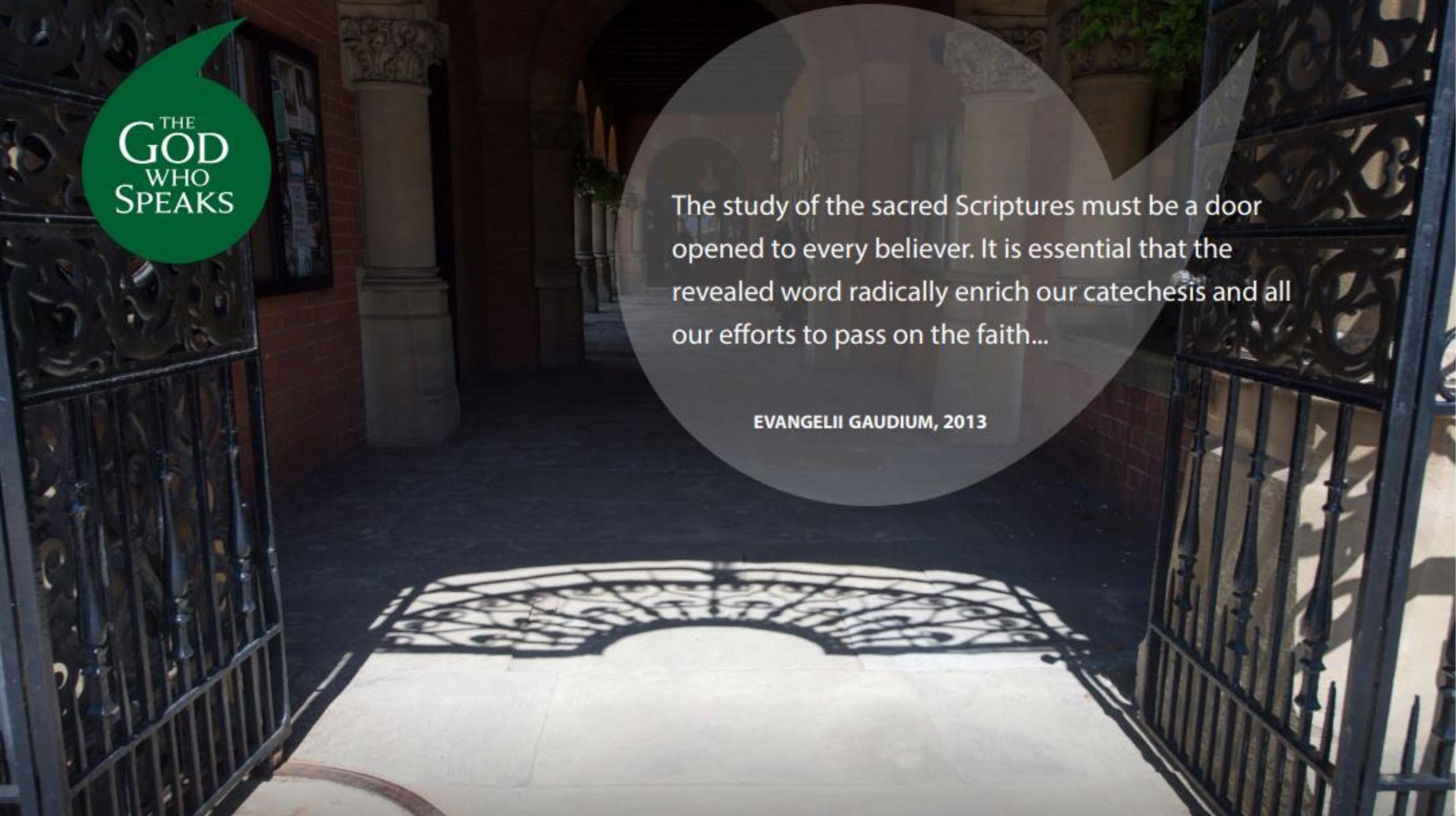
[claireoneill@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:claireoneill@rcdow.org.uk)

[tonygorton@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:tonygorton@rcdow.org.uk)



A rustic, handmade tag made of brown cardboard is the central focus. The tag is tied with a black string on the left side, which is visible as a dark line extending from the left edge. The tag is placed on a light-colored, textured surface, possibly wood or stone. To the right of the tag is a single, vibrant white daisy with a bright yellow center. In the background, two more daisies are visible, but they are out of focus, creating a sense of depth. The overall aesthetic is warm, natural, and heartfelt.

Thank  
you!

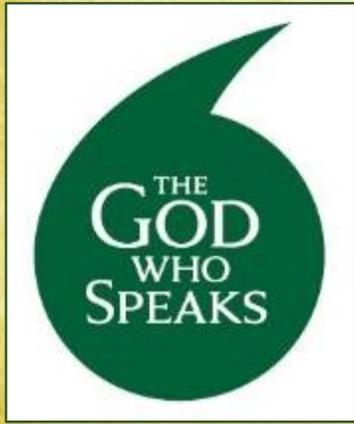


THE  
GOD  
WHO  
SPEAKS

The study of the sacred Scriptures must be a door opened to every believer. It is essential that the revealed word radically enrich our catechesis and all our efforts to pass on the faith...

EVANGELII GAUDIUM, 2013

# Celebrating Living Sharing



# The Old Testament



# The New Testament

