

A Feast!!

Pope Francis declared a **Sunday of the Word of God** for Catholics. This year the Sunday falls on the **26th of January**, just after the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

The day of this new announcement was feast of Saint Jerome, who translated the Bible into Latin, and who famously said: **"Not to know the Scriptures is not to know Christ"**.

Passionate

Pope Francis is passionate about Jesus Christ and passionate about the Word of God. By inviting us to read the Word of God for ourselves, he hopes to help us all encounter Christ and catch again the energy and vision of the very first believers.

Inviting words...

"I love my old Bible, which has accompanied me half my life. It has been with me in my times of joy and times of tears. It is my most precious treasure," said Pope Francis. "I live out of it, and I wouldn't give anything in the world for it." (Pope Francis to young people)



Hands-on

The Bible is a hands-on kind of book and the best thing to do is to open it for yourself. There is no need to start at the front of the book. Instead, you could choose to read a Gospel (perhaps Matthew) or one of Paul's letters, such as Philippians...whatever is attractive to you. It might help to take shorter passages, such as the Sunday gospels, and use those for your prayer.

More resources

www.tarsus.ie

www.dublindiocese.ie



Or from our parish website -

www.clondalkinparish.com/?p=3840

Did you know?

EACH YEAR

The Gospels are read at Mass on Sundays in a three-year cycle.

THIS YEAR

For 2020, we will be hearing mostly from Matthew's Gospel.

WHERE?

The Gospel writer was probably living in Antioch in Syria (today's Antakya).

FIRST READERS

The first hearers of this Gospel were a mixed community of Jews and non-Jews. They all believed in Jesus, God-with-us.

WHEN?

It was written about AD 85 or 90.

2ND EDITION

Matthew is a second, expanded edition of Mark's Gospel

How to read the Gospel of Matthew

To begin at the beginning might not be the best advice when it comes to reading the Bible or the Gospels! A good place to start is today's Gospel, the beginning of the story of the ministry of Jesus.

Hearing that John had been arrested, Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town. ... From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'

The Gospel of Matthew runs to 28 chapters, so it is much longer than Mark's 16 chapters. One of the handy things about Matthew's Gospel is that he collects the teaching of Jesus into five blocks. If you want to get to the heart of the teaching of Jesus, you can go straight to these chapters:

1. **Sermon on the Mount** (Matthew 5-7)
2. **Mission sermon** (9:35-11:1)
3. **Parables** (13:1-52)
4. **Life in the community** (18:1-35)
5. **Final sermon** (24-25).

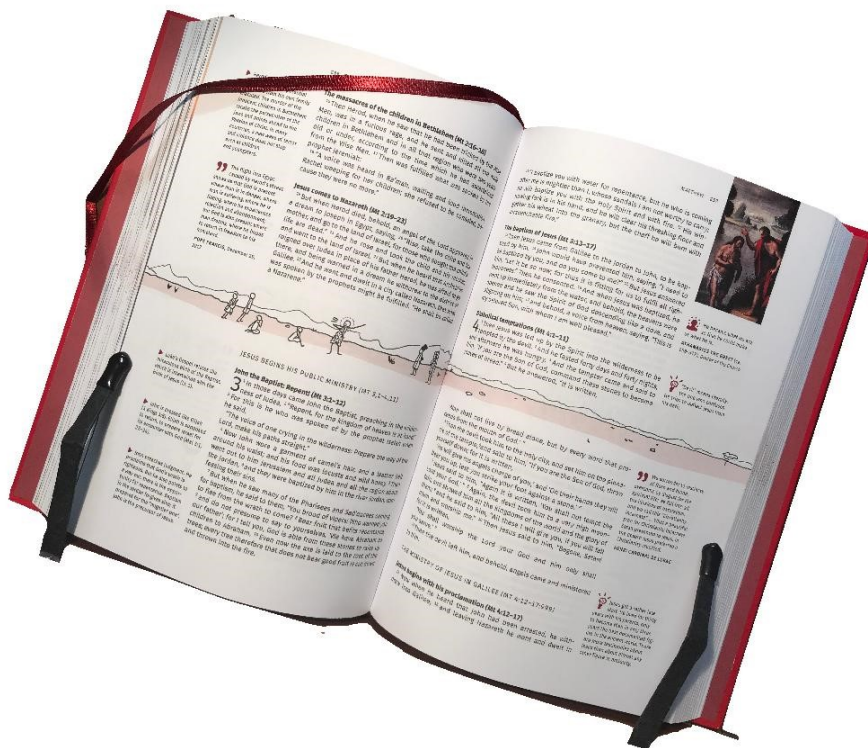
The very first story in this Gospel says that Jesus will be called Emmanuel, which means God-with-us. The very last sentence in this Gospel is: I will be with you always, to the end of the age.

Office for Evangelisation and Ecumenism, Dublin.

YouCat Bible

This Bible is available to help young people enjoy the Word of God.

- Any questions? It has handy information
- You'll find attractive photos and maps
- It'll help you to pray the Word of God



Indeed, the **word of God is living and active**, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow...

Hebrews 4:12

The Book is **the very voice of the pilgrim People of God**, and only within the faith of this People are we, so to speak, attuned to understand sacred Scripture.

Benedict XVI

There is also an app called YOUCAT Daily, available in many different languages.

- Bible (a story from the Bible)
- DOCAT (practical reflections)
- YOUCAT (exploring faith)

The YouCat Bible is aimed at young people...**BUT it is so attractive anyone of any age would enjoy it and benefit from it. It would be especially useful for a bible study group – again, of any age.**

Sacred Space app

The Sacred Spaced programme, by the Irish Jesuits, has enjoyed immense success. For people on the move, there is also an excellent app, available in a big choice of languages.



Getting going



Prayer before reading the Word of God

Lord, open our ears to your word! Let us hear your guidance and wisdom.

Open our hearts to your love! Let us feel again your presence and compassion.

Open our hands that we give as we have received.

May your Word penetrate our hearts and change our lives.
Amen.

In 2020, we read from the **Gospel according to Matthew**.

Starting with today's reading (Matthew 4:12-23), you could read the whole Gospel, story by story over the next year.

To prepare for Sunday, why not read the Gospel for that day in advance and spend a bit of time in prayer and reflection.

For children: The Gospel for this Sunday is the call of the first followers of Jesus, Simon, Andrew, James and John.

The children could be encouraged of colour in the scene to start with.

You will need: an outline drawing of the story. Questions: How did they feel? What did their families think? How would you have felt?

For prayer at home

A ten-minute prayer time:

- Music to start.
- Light a candle.
- Hear the Reading
- Short reflection and conversation.
- Prayers of intercession, closing with the Lord's prayer

You will need:

The gospel passage and someone to read it. A candle to set the scene; a speaker; an opening prayer; a closing prayer.

Which Bible? There are lots of versions of the bible "out there" and it can be hard to choose. it is a good idea to have more than one version to hand.

A handy mobile app is the NET (above).

The Bible used in the liturgy is the **Jerusalem Bible**. The newest edition of that translation is: the Revised New Jerusalem Bible, 2019.