



**BIBLE SUNDAY 2014:
INTRODUCTORY LETTER**
DEPARTMENT FOR EVANGELISATION AND CATECHESIS,
CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Dear Friends,

On the second Sunday of Advent – **7th December 2014** - parishes in England and Wales are invited to celebrate Catholic Bible Sunday. This year's theme is **Hear, Reflect, Proclaim**.

Catholic Bible Sunday invites us all to hear afresh and be renewed in our attentiveness to God's Word through reading and reflecting on the Scriptures in our parishes and homes.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI wrote in a Church teaching document called *Verbum Domini*: "We need to **make every effort** to share the Word of God as an openness to our problems, a response to our questions, a broadening of our values and the fulfilment of our aspirations." (23) Bible Sunday encourages us to seek new ways of responding to these words by proclaiming God's life-giving Word to everyone day-by-day.

It is hoped that you and your parish might use the free Bible Sunday materials being provided by the National Scripture Working Group, which is an instrument of the Bishops' Conference Department for Evangelisation and Catechesis.

A particular resource emphasis this year is providing materials that **support parish Mass readers** who have an important role in proclaiming the Word of God in their local community. You'll therefore find online at www.thewordofthelord.co.uk a selection of free materials to assist both the celebration of the Sunday and resources for readers. Among the materials for download are:

- Homily Notes
- Prayers of the Faithful
- Parish newsletter and website notice
- Children's resource
- Materials to nurture and inspire parish Mass readers
- Renewal of commitment / blessing for parish Mass readers
- Links to further resources

In this time of Advent, St John the Baptist reminds us of the need for preparation. He knows that God's promise is soon-to-be fulfilled. As we journey towards the celebration of Christmas, please do support Catholic Bible Sunday so as to encourage a deeper desire within our Catholic community for the Word of God to be heard, reflected upon and proclaimed.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Seamus Cunningham
Department for Evangelisation and Catechesis, Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

For additional resources in support of Catholic Bible Sunday please see: www.thewordofthelord.co.uk

Catholic Bible Sunday resources are offered by the Scripture Working Group, which is an instrument of the Department for Evangelisation and Catechesis, Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. The work of the Group is supported by the Bible Society. www.catholicbiblesunday.org