

**Celebrating the word of God on Catholic Bible Sunday**  
**9 December 2012 - Free parish resources**  
**available now from [www.catholicbiblesunday.org](http://www.catholicbiblesunday.org)**

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*Date as postmark*

Dear Friend,

During Advent our cycle of prayer invites us to pray for openness to God's Word. This year, to support the Catholic community to celebrate the gift of Scripture, free resources for parishes are being provided for Bible Sunday which falls on 9 December 2012.

In this Year of Faith, there is an opportunity for us to truly give thanks to God for His Word. Over the millennia the Holy Spirit has enabled communities and individuals to encounter God through reading and praying with the Bible texts. One of the aims of this year's Bible Sunday therefore, is to encourage everyone to deepen their knowledge of the Bible and also to use it in service of the mission of the Church.

Pope Benedict XVI wrote in the recent Apostolic Exhortation, *Verbum Domini*:

*'I express my heartfelt hope for the flowering of "a new season of greater love for sacred Scripture on the part of every member of the People of God, so that their prayerful and faith-filled reading of the Bible will, with time, deepen their personal relationship with Jesus."' Verbum Domini 72*

Bible Sunday provides an opportunity for us all to respond to these words by asking if we own a Bible, and when we make time to read it daily.

9 December invites us to reflect too, if like Mary, we are open not only to listening to, but sharing God's Word with others. One small gesture that we can make in this regard is to include a short Bible verse in our Christmas cards, or when we send e-greetings. Some sample verses are provided on the Bible Sunday web page at [www.catholicbiblesunday.org](http://www.catholicbiblesunday.org). In this way you will be gently signposting someone to the Light of Christ, the reason for our Christian joy and hope.

Thank you for your response to this invitation and together, let us be celebrate the gift of Scripture, praying too for an ever deeper openness to God's Word.

Yours sincerely and God bless you,



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Catholic Bible Sunday resources are offered in partnership by **Bible Society** and the **Home Mission Desk** of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales