

## A PRAYER FOR MINISTERS OF THE WORD.

In the gospels Jesus often went away by himself to pray. He spent time giving praise and thanks to God and gathering his thoughts before returning to teach the crowds. Luke tells us Jesus stood up and read from the scroll of Isaiah (Lk4:16-17). It is our sincere hope that we as Ministers of the Word would read from our Lectionary with the same courage, conviction, and love. Having familiarised ourselves with the text and preparing to read it aloud, we too turn to God in prayer for help to proclaim his sacred word faithfully.

*We offer the following prayer to Ministers of the Word to be prayed as part of their preparation for proclaiming the Word of God to their faith community.*

Heavenly Father,  
Thank you for the gift of your Holy Word.  
May it always be a lamp to our feet and a light to our steps,  
a source of wisdom, hope, and strength as we go through life.  
Thank you for calling me to proclaim  
your holy Word to your people.  
Bless me and help me to prepare carefully and faithfully,  
that I may communicate Your Word  
clearly, enthusiastically, and reverently.  
May your Holy Spirit inspire my understanding and reading  
into courage and conviction so as to read well.  
Help all who hear your Holy Word to listen attentively  
so it may penetrate hearts and minds and transform lives,  
through Jesus Christ, Your Word made flesh. Amen

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit  
as it was in the beginning, is now  
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

*Your Word, O Lord, is a lamp for my steps and a light for my path.*

Psalm 119:105



# I

Celebrating the  
Sunday of the Word of God  
&  
A Prayer for Ministers of the Word

Cork Scripture Group  
[www.corkscripturegroup.com](http://www.corkscripturegroup.com)

## ENTHRONEMENT CEREMONY

*A short introduction might be led by a Ministers of the Word:*

Today we celebrate Sunday of the Word of God. In 2019, Pope Francis encouraged faith communities to find special ways to “mark this Sunday with special solemnity” and suggested that we enthrone the Bible today, to help focus our attention on the value of God’s Word as revealed to us in the sacred scriptures. We are carrying the Bible in solemn procession to enthrone it in a place of honour in the sanctuary, where it will remain open during mass. Today we reflect prayerfully on the Word of God and ask that we will always be guided by sacred scripture in our lives. *Your word, O Lord, is a lamp for my steps and a light for my path (Ps119:105).*

*The Bible is carried by the Celebrant in procession with Ministers of the Word and enthroned and opened, in the prepared space in the sanctuary.*

## ENTHRONEMENT PRAYER

*The celebrant leads the following prayer:*

Let us pray:

We gather on the Lord’s Day as people of faith  
to revere and honour the Word of God.  
From ancient times the open book of the Sacred Scriptures  
has been enthroned at Church councils and in cathedrals,  
in parish churches and in homes.  
Today, you invite us Lord  
to listen once more to your Word,  
to treasure it in our hearts,  
to meditate on it and to share it with others.  
We thank you for this opportunity to celebrate your Word.  
We ask you to send us your Holy Spirit  
that he may touch our minds and hearts,  
so that we may discover, understand,  
and live your message for us.  
We make our prayer through Christ your Son,  
your Word made flesh. Amen.

In September 2019, Pope Francis launched the Sunday of the Word of God, inviting local communities to find ways to “mark this Sunday with special solemnity” and suggested that the Bible be enthroned “in order to focus the attention of the assembly on the normative value of God’s word”. The Sunday of the Word of God will be celebrated this coming year on 21st January 2024.

### *What is a Bible Enthronement Ceremony?*

At the beginning of Mass, a large Bible is carried in procession from the entrance of the church to a specially prepared place of honour in the sanctuary, where the Bible is left open in this place of honour during the mass.

It is recommended that the Bible be used for this ceremony, not the Lectionary, since the Lectionary contains only selected readings for Sunday or weekday Masses and is not the entire Hebrew and Christian Scriptures that we revere in the Bible.

The place of honour may be decorated appropriately, with a cloth, a book-stand or some other device on which to lean an open Bible, a candle and some flowers if desired. An appropriate scripture text to open for this feast could be Isaiah 55:11 or John 1:1 which both reference the Word of God at work in the world.

Prior to the procession, after the opening Hymn, a Minister of the Word announces to the congregation the wishes of Pope Francis that we honour the Word of God on this feast day and explains that we will enthrone the Bible in procession today. Altar servers with candles, some Ministers of the Word from the parish and the Celebrant holding the bible walk in this solemn procession.