

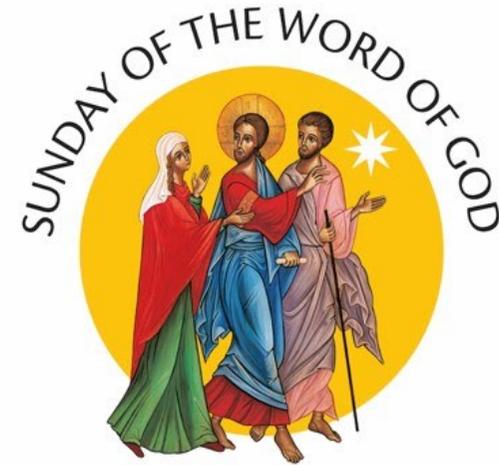
ENTHRONEMENT PRAYER

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.

Your Word, O Lord, is a lamp for my steps and a light for my path.
Psalm 119:105



II

Enthronement of the Word of God



© The official logo for the Sunday of the Word of God was unveiled at the Vatican January 17 2020 by the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization.' The colourful logo depicts "The Road to Emmaus" and is based on an icon written by the late Benedictine Sister Marie-Paul Farran.

Cork Scripture Group
www.corkscripturegroup.com

When Pope Francis launched the Sunday of the Word of God in September 2019, he invited 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”. We offer the following Enthronement Ceremony as a guide to help the parishes of our diocese celebrate Sunday of the Word of God.

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.

Further ways to celebrate the Sunday of the Word of God

- The Sunday of the Word of God is also an ideal opportunity to commission new Ministers of the Word or for a recommitment of those already serving in the role for the parish if desired.
- On this feast day, we can encourage parishioners to enthrone their own Bibles in a similar place of honour at home for the day and to pray that their family will be guided by Sacred Scripture in their lives. An Enthronement Prayer might be printed on the parish newsletter etc. for praying at home.
- On this feast day we are invited into a time of reflection on the Word of God in our lives, as individuals and as a parish community. We could use this feast day as an opportunity to announce the formation of a *Lectio Divina* group or an *Unfolding the Word* group in our parish to explore the Sacred Scriptures through discussion, contemplation, and prayer.
- We should aim to celebrate Sunday of the Word of God each year going forward.

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.