

# Sunday of the Word of God

## Parish Guide

*Resources for  
Sunday 7 February 2021*

## Table of Contents

Introduction .....	3
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### **Celebrate the Word of God**

Sunday of the Word of God - Video, Bulletin Notices, Universal Prayer .....	4
Highlighting the Book of the Gospel / Sale of Bibles at Mass.....	5
Blessing of Readers .....	6

### **Disseminate the Word of God**

Diocese of Broken Bay Lenten Program 2021 .....	7
Sale of Bibles in Parishes .....	8
Subsidised Bibles Offered Through the Fr Harry Davis Estate .....	9

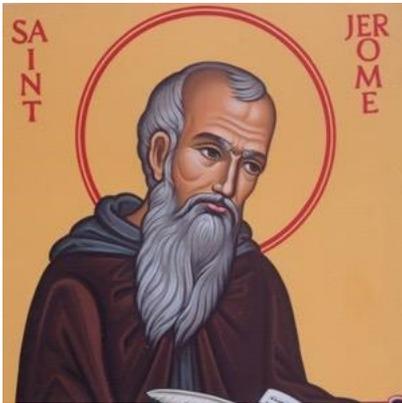
### **Study the Word of God**

Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible .....	10
The Big Picture .....	11
The Gospel According to Mark Part 1 and 2 .....	12
Introduction to the Bible .....	13

### **Appendix**

Quotes from <i>Aperuit Illis</i> .....	14
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At the conclusion of the Year of Mercy in 2016, Pope Francis proposed: “It would be beneficial if every Christian community, on one Sunday of the liturgical year, could renew its efforts to make the Sacred Scriptures better known and more widely diffused. It would be a Sunday given over entirely to the word of God, so as to appreciate the inexhaustible riches contained in that constant dialogue between the Lord and his people.” (*Misericordia et Misera*, 7)



On 30 September 2019, Pope Francis made this a reality for the Church by instituting the **Sunday of the Word of God**. The announcement was sparked by 2020 being the 10th anniversary of *Verbum Domini*, Pope Benedict XVI’s Apostolic Exhortation on ‘The Word of the Lord’ and the 1,600 anniversary of St Jerome’s death (30 September 2020).

St Jerome (347 – 30 September 420), Priest and Doctor of the Church, is best known for translating the Bible from the Greek (Septuagint) into the Latin (Vulgate).

In Australia, this special Sunday is to be celebrated on the **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of February each year**.

Pope Francis, in instituting this day, wrote a letter *Aperuit Illis* (from the first line: “He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures”, Lk 24:45), which seeks to remind us to receive the Scriptures “**not as a human word but as what it really is, the word of God**”. They are not just empty words. It is the Holy Spirit that “makes human words written in human fashion become the word of God” (*AI*, 5)

He reminds us that when we read the Scriptures, we are entering into a true dialogue, a true encounter, a participation in the great story of salvation. As well as speaking to us personally, the Scriptures speak to us communally, “**for we urgently need to grow in our knowledge and love of the Scriptures and of the risen Lord, who continues to speak his word and to break bread in the community of believers.**” (*AI*, 8)

Pope Francis asks us to mark this Sunday with a certain solemnity, and to ‘celebrate, study, and disseminate’ the word of God. These three verbs inform this Guide, with each activity explored in separate sections below.

He suggests that “in the Eucharistic celebration the sacred text be enthroned, in order to focus the attention of the assembly on the normative value of God’s word.”

He also suggests highlighting in a particular way the proclamation of the word in our Liturgies, and to

emphasise the homily which breaks open the word; to consider commissioning readers on this day; and to perhaps consider offering training for readers. It could include giving away or selling Bibles or particular books of the Bible at Masses; and taking up parish Bible Study or *lectio divina* practice. (*See AI*, 3)

This Guide includes suggestions for celebrating this Sunday within the Liturgy, as well as other initiatives to promote reading and study of scripture in parish life. As Pope Francis says, “**A day devoted to the Bible should not be seen as a yearly event but rather a year-long event.**” (*AI*, 8)

### Planning for a Biblical 2021



If you would like guidance in the implementation and facilitation of any of the resources and initiatives in this Guide, please contact the Parish Renewal & Discipleship team.

Email: [faith.formation@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:faith.formation@bbcatholic.org.au)

Phone: Pina Bernard 8379 1627

or Hazel Lim 8379 1626

# CELEBRATE THE WORD OF GOD

Resources to celebrate the Sunday of the Word of God in the Liturgy

## Video Clip for Sunday of the Word of God

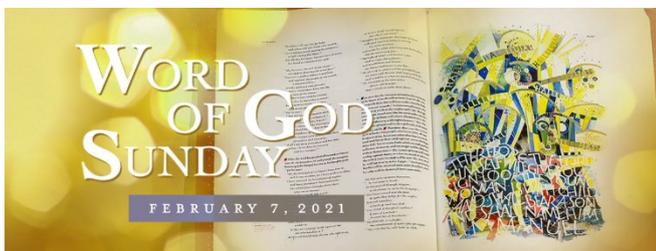


A short video clip (approximately 2 minutes) has been prepared by the Diocese of Broken Bay for the Sunday of the Word of God. This video can be played at all Masses to further highlight this occasion, and to help people reflect on engaging with the Scriptures in a new way this year. Please consider showing this video at Masses, as well as distributing through social media.

It can be accessed at [www.bbcatholic.org.au/bible](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au/bible)

## Bulletin Notice for 7 February

### Sunday of the Word of God



This Sunday marks *Sunday of the Word of God*, a new observance to be celebrated in Australia on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of February each year.

Pope Francis reminds us that when we read the Scriptures, we are entering into a true dialogue, a true encounter, a participation in the great story of salvation. As well as speaking to us personally, the Scriptures speak to us communally, “for we urgently need to grow in our knowledge and love of the Scriptures and of the risen Lord, who continues to speak his word and to break bread in the community of believers.” (*Aperuit Illis*, 8)

We are encouraged to see this day of the Word of God as a year-long event, where we grow in our knowledge and love of the Scriptures. Consider taking some steps to read or study the Scriptures more this year.

## Additional Bulletin Notice

### Read the Bible in A Year



WITH FR. MIKE SCHMITZ, FEATURING JEFF CAVINS

Reading the Bible has now been made easy with a new podcast from Ascension featuring Fr Mike Schmitz called ‘The Bible in a Year’.

With the touch of a button, hear passages of Scripture and a short commentary each day. Each session is about 20 minutes. Download the App, and make listening to God’s transforming word a part of your life in 2021.

## Universal Prayer

***One or more of the following prayers of intercession may be used for this occasion.***

For Pope Francis, our Bishops, Clergy, and all those who minister in the Church, that they find nourishment and guidance through God’s Word in our sacred Scriptures.

For the Church, that the Word of God continues speak and be heard clearly in the midst of her people.

For our parish community, that we grow in our knowledge and love of the Scriptures so as to be able to meet God there and be transformed by God’s word.

For all gathered here, that we may learn to dialogue with the living God through the pages of the Bible.

## Highlighting the Book of the Gospels

*In all activities, please adhere to the covid guidelines regarding safe distancing and singing restrictions.*

### Entrance Procession

The Book of the Gospels should be entered into the Church in the Entrance Procession, either by a Deacon or Lector where present, or a Reader, and placed lying flat on the Altar.

Please consider the following suggestions:

1. Decorate the Book of the Gospels with green ribbons to give additional focus to the Book
2. Pace the Entrance Procession so that sufficient space and reverence is given to the Book of the Gospels as it is processed in, held high
3. Place the Book of the Gospels slowly and reverently on the Altar

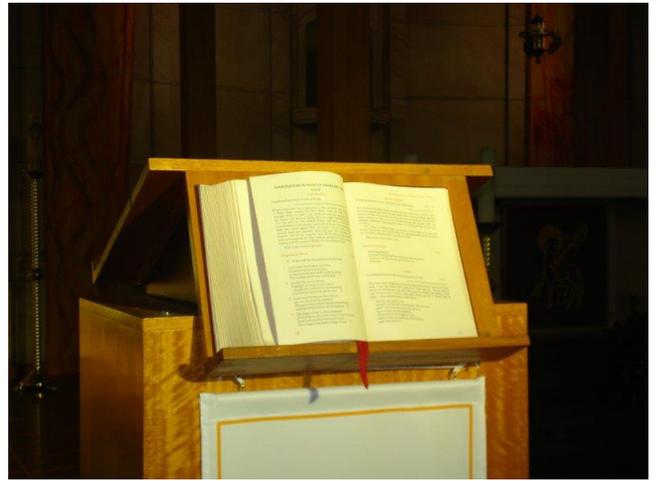
### Gospel Procession

Please consider the following suggestions:

1. The Gospel procession can be accompanied by two Altar Servers carrying candles
2. Additional reverence can be given to Book of the Gospels by ensuring it is held high and shown to the congregation in a deliberate way
3. Include a longer Gospel Acclamation. Note that if the Acclamation is not sung, it should be omitted.

## Sale of Bibles at Masses

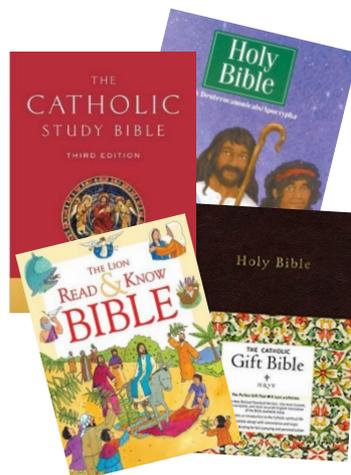
Please consider making Bibles available for sale after Masses on this day. Please see the section below in this Guide titled *'Disseminate the Word of God'*.



### Enthronement of the Book of the Gospels

Please consider the following suggestions:

1. Prior to Mass, set up a table at the foot of the ambo. It can be decorated with a cloth or fresh flowers. Include a book stand. After the Gospel is read, place the Book of the Gospels open on the book stand so that it is open for the rest of the Mass facing the congregation, so that it can clearly reflect being fed from both the Table of the Eucharist and the Table of the Word.



## **Blessing of Readers**

You may consider offering a blessing for readers on this day. The following is from the Book of Blessings, pp.775-7.

*This blessing would take place immediately after the Liturgy of the Word, following on from the General Intercessions. Note: If desired, each new reader may be presented with a Bible after the prayer of blessing. Please adhere to the covid guidelines regarding safe distancing.*

## **Order of Blessing within Mass**

**1831:** *After the gospel reading, the celebrant in the homily, based on the sacred text and pertinent to the particular place and the people involved, explains the meaning of the celebration.*

## **General Intercessions**

**1832:** *The general intercessions follow, either in the form usual at Mass or in the form provided here. The celebrant concludes the intercessions with the prayer of blessing. From the following intentions those best for the occasion may be used or adapted, or other intentions that apply to the particular circumstances may be composed.*

## **The celebrant says:**

The word of God calls us out of darkness into the light of faith.  
With the confidence of Gods children  
let us ask the Lord to hear our prayers and to bless these readers.

**R** Lord, hear our prayer.

## **Assisting minister**

For the Church, that we may continue to respond to the word of God  
which is proclaimed in our midst,  
we pray to the Lord.

For all who listen as the Scriptures are proclaimed,  
that God's word may find in them a fruitful field,  
we pray to the Lord.

For those who have not heard the message of Christ,  
that we may be willing to bring them the good news of salvation,  
we pray to the Lord.

For our readers, that with deep faith and confident voice  
they may announce Gods saving word,  
we pray to the Lord.

## **Prayer of Blessing**

**1833** *With hands extended over the new readers the celebrant says immediately:*

Everlasting God,  
when he read in the synagogue at Nazareth,  
your Son proclaimed  
the good news of salvation  
for which he would give up his life.

Bless these readers.  
As they proclaim your words of life,  
strengthen their faith  
that they may read with conviction  
and boldness,  
and put into practice what they read.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

# DISSEMINATE THE WORD OF GOD

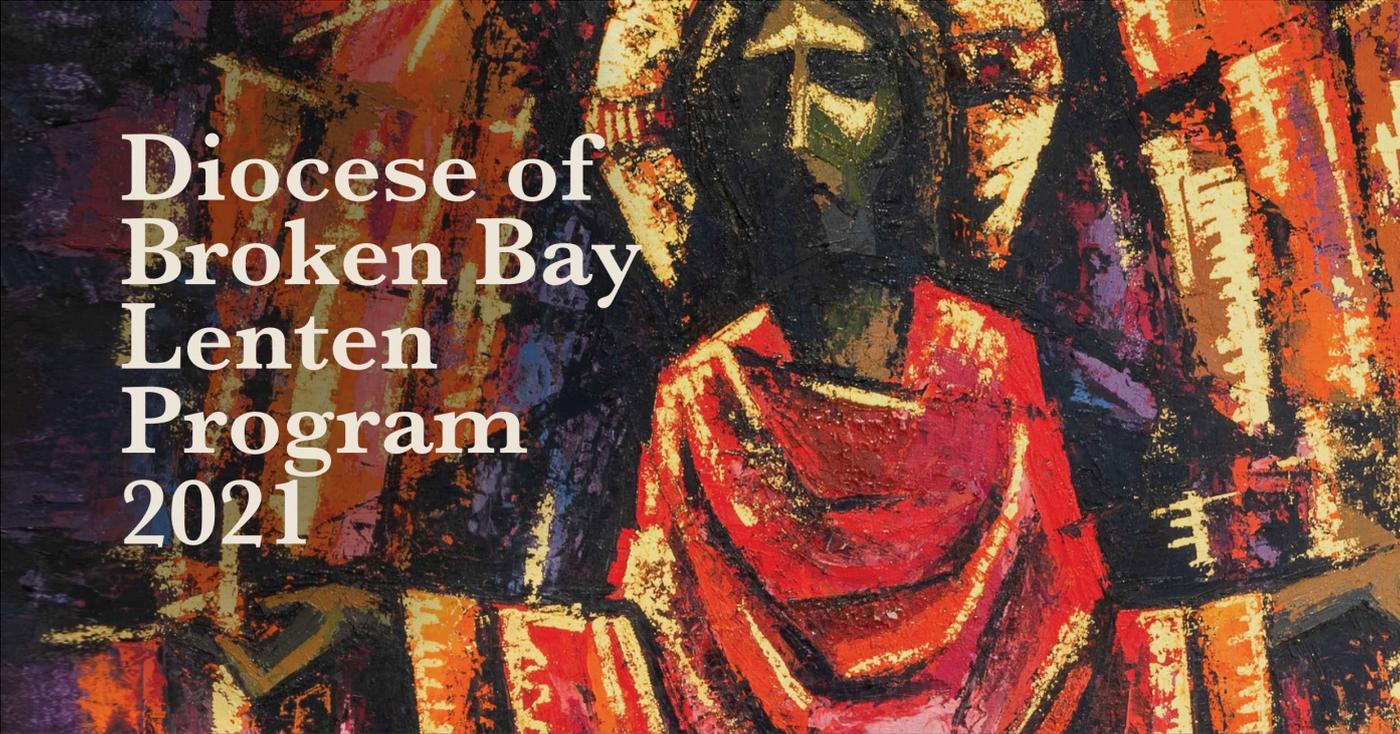
Resources to disseminate the Word of God to all parishioners

## Jesus Christ, the Alpha and the Omega – A Lenten Program for the Diocese of Broken Bay

This year, parishes of the Diocese of Broken Bay will take part in a Diocesan Lenten Program, *Jesus Christ, the Alpha and the Omega*. This resource invites you to prayerfully reflect on the Sunday Gospel readings in Lent together with the six priorities set before us by Bishop Anthony Randazzo in his Pastoral Letter to the community of the Church of Broken Bay, dated 29 November 2020.

For each of the 6 weeks of Lent, this resource includes a reading of the Gospel text; a reflection on the text which draws on one of Bishop Anthony's priority areas; and a personal testimony on an aspect of that particular priority area. All materials and reflections have been prepared by members from our Broken Bay Church community, making this resource relevant to us and the journey we are on as a community.

Lenten booklets will be delivered to all parishes in early February, and the resource will also be available online at [www.bbcatholic.org.au](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au)



# Diocese of Broken Bay Lenten Program 2021

A Diocesan Lenten Program reflecting on Bishop Anthony's six priorities for the Diocese of Broken Bay as outlined in his Pastoral Letter "**Jesus Christ, Our Beginning and End**":

- Jesus Christ
- Culture of Vocation
- Unity
- The Holy Spirit
- Catholic Education
- Justice and Mercy

## Sale of Bibles in Parishes

Through the generosity of the Fr Harry David Estate, the Diocese of Broken Bay continues to offer Bibles at a subsidised cost for different age groups (*please see descriptions below*).

### After Masses

All Bibles on offer through the Fr Harry Davis Estate are now available and can be purchased in time to make them available for sale at the parish on the weekend of, and after, the Sunday of the Word of God. Making Bibles available in a prominent way over these weekends will provide the opportunity for parishioners to purchase a Bible, helping get the Bible into homes and hands as the new year commences.

### Piety Stalls

Bibles can also be purchased to stock piety stalls throughout the year.

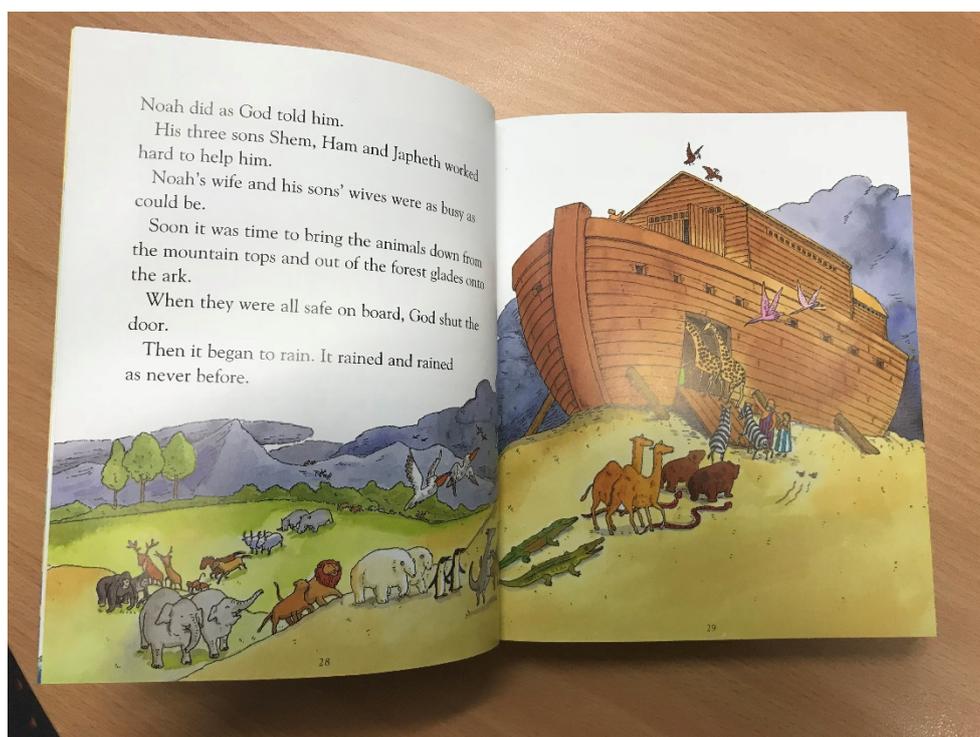
## New Children's Storybook Bible

A new children's storybook Bible is now part of the collection of Bibles on offer, for some of the youngest in our community. ***The Lion Read & Know Bible*** is easy to understand and read, and has wonderful illustrations which are sure to keep the little ones engaged.

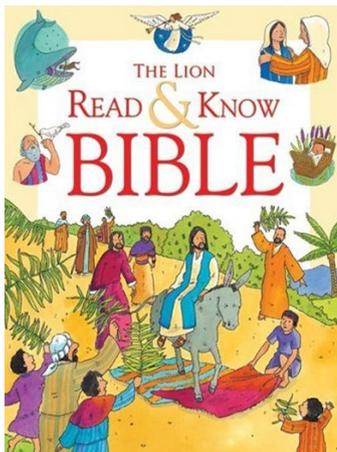
### Bibles for Year 6 Students

A number of parishes offer Bibles to their graduating Year 6 students each year, both from the Catholic Primary School, and from state schools in SRE classes. The Catholic Gift Bible offered through the Fr Harry Davis Estate for \$14 is an excellent choice for this purpose. Please consider offering Bibles in this way as a gift to the young people of the parish.

**For all Bible queries and purchases please contact Pina Bernard at [pina.bernard@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:pina.bernard@bbcatholic.org.au) or 8379 1627.**



## Subsidised Bibles Offered Through the Fr Harry Davis Estate

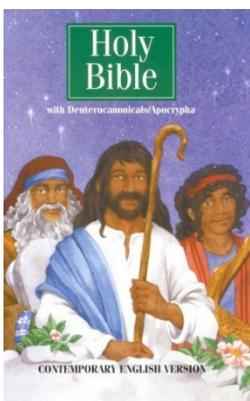


**NEW!**

### **The Lion Read & Know Bible** **Fr Harry Davis Estate Price \$15.00** **RRP \$24.99**

This hardcover edition features over 50 bible stories, retold in simple language, easy for young readers to engage with.

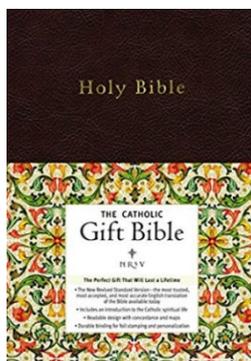
Stories are accompanied by colourful double-sided page illustrations throughout and includes 30 fun and informative encyclopaedic features helping children develop a more in depth understanding of the themes and settings in which the stories take place. Ideal for ages 5-8.



### **CEV Young Christian's First Bible** **Fr Harry Davis Estate Price \$18.00** **RRP \$39.99**

This Children's Bible in hardcover, uses the Contemporary English Version translation and is a proper translation of the entire Bible making it easy for children of primary age onwards to read the bible themselves. This Bible features 34-pages of full colour illustrations; maps; a chronology of the Bible; and a mini-dictionary.

Ideal for ages 9 to teens.

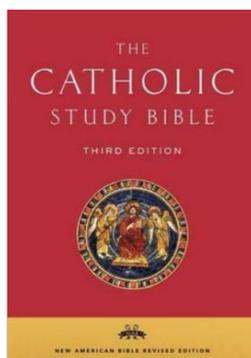


### **The NRSV Catholic Gift Bible** **Fr Harry Davis Estate Price \$14.00** **RRP \$32.99**

The Catholic Gift Bible comes in either black or white leather-like binding and contains presentation pages for dedication and recording family history.

Additional features include an introduction to Catholic Spiritual life; 16-pages of Bible maps; and introduction to each book of the Bible; a Church history timeline.

This Bible is great as a gift or for personal use.



### **The Catholic Study Bible** **Fr Harry Davis Estate Price \$55.00** **RRP \$76.95**

This Catholic Study Bible in hardcover in the New American Revised Edition translation, is essential for those looking to delve deeper into Scripture.

This Bible features an extensive reading guide on each book; extensive commentary on biblical background, including history and archaeology; 15-page glossary; thirty-two detailed full-colour pages of Oxford Bible Maps with place-name index or easy reference; study notes and expanded essays; informational sidebars.

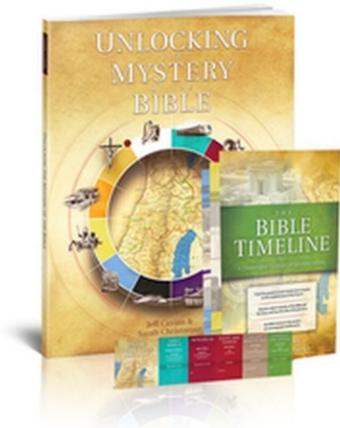
This study Bible is ideal for Bible study groups, clergy or for individuals looking to study Scripture in more depth.

# STUDY THE WORD OF GOD

## Resources to study the Word of God throughout the year

Below is a selection of resources that can be used in parishes. These resources are held by the Evangelisation Broken Bay and can be reviewed by arrangement with the Parish Renewal & Discipleship team by emailing [faith.formation@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:faith.formation@bbcatholic.org.au)

## Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible – Ascension



### Introduction:

Many people want to read the Bible because they know it is God's Word but give up because it is so complicated. The *Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible* study program helps you to get the "big picture" of the Bible by showing how fourteen narrative books of the Bible tell the complete story from Adam and Eve to Christ and the Church.

In this study, presenter Jeff Cavins will show you how to read the Bible so that you can actually understand it. Aided by a unique color-coded *Bible Timeline*<sup>TM</sup> Chart that arranges the key people, places, and events of Scripture in chronological order, *Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible* will help you discover the story of salvation history and understand how you fit into God's plan.

The 8-session *Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible* study program includes video presentations that explore the twelve time periods of *The Bible Timeline* Chart.

### Components of This Study Program:

- ***Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible* DVD set**, which includes eight 30-minute video presentations.
- ***Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible* Leader Guide**

- ***Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible* Student Workbook**, which contains talk notes, discussion questions and responses, and home preparation questions and reading assignments designed to accompany these videos. ***The Bible Timeline* Chart** and ***The Bible Timeline* Bookmark** are also included with the Student Workbook.

### Sessions:

- 1: Introduction: Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible
- 2: Early World: Genesis 1-11
- 3: Patriarchs: Genesis 12-50
- 4: Egypt and Exodus; Desert Wanderings
- 5: Conquest and Judges; Royal Kingdom
- 6: Divided Kingdom; Exile; Return
- 7: Maccabean Revolt; Messianic Fulfillment Part 1
- 8: The Church: Acts of the Apostles

### Further information:

<https://ascensionpress.com/collections/unlocking-the-mystery>

### Purchase:

<https://store.parousiamedia.com/unlocking-the-mystery-of-the-bible/>

Starter Pack - \$149.99 (includes DVDs, Leader Guide, Student Workbook, Bible Timeline Chart)

Student Workbook – \$29.99 (includes Bible Timeline Chart)

**Note that discounts are available for this resource.**

**Online options are also available.**

Please contact us for further information at

[faith.formation@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:faith.formation@bbcatholic.org.au)

## The Big Picture – CaFE & Bible Society



### Introduction:

The Big Picture is a prayerful, inspirational Bible course that helps people find their place in the big picture of salvation history.

Each person needs their own Big Picture Book/Journal which includes a TV quality DVD.

The Course covers 12 engaging sessions taking you through Salvation History, starting at the very beginning with God the Creator right through to the End Times with the Second Coming of Christ. Your journal gives you 6 daily Bible reflections and questions for you to prayerfully ponder each week.

You then meet with a small group to discuss and share. The session concludes with an overview of the next week's topic, followed by a 15 minute DVD presentation from amazing speakers filmed around the biblical world. These are also available as free downloads to anyone who has bought the course book.

This could be a good resource for Lent, with the first 6 weeks covered during Lent, and the following 6 weeks during the Easter season until Pentecost.

### Components of This Study Program:

- **The Big Picture Book** includes the DVD
- Videos can be downloaded online using a link provided with the book.

### Sessions:

1. The Plan
2. God
3. Creation
4. The Fall
5. The People
6. Incarnation
7. The Cross
8. New Life
9. Resurrection
10. Holy Spirit
11. The Church
12. End Times

### Further information:

<http://www.thebigpicturecourse.org/>

### Purchase:

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/catholicfaithexplore/shop/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/catholicfaithexplore/shop/?ref=page_internal)  
[catholicfaithexplore@gmail.com](mailto:catholicfaithexplore@gmail.com)

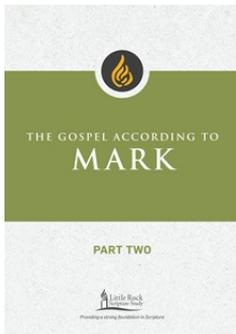
The Big Picture Book + DVD – \$29.95, with generous discounts for more than 10 copies.

## The Gospel According to Mark Part 1 and 2 – Little Rock Scripture Study



**Part 1:** Thought to be the earliest of the four Gospels, the Gospel of Mark is a fast-moving, vivid account of the ministry, suffering, and death of Jesus. Enter into a rich encounter with this preacher, wonder-worker, and messiah, whose very life delivered an

urgent message about repentance, transformation, and the meaning of suffering in a life poured out for others. Part One covers Mark 1:1-9:32, providing an in-depth study of Jesus' ministry of healing and preaching. Commentary, study and reflection questions, prayers, and access to online lectures are included. **5 lessons.**



**Part 2:** Part Two explores Mark 9:33-16:20, including Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and the events of his passion, death, and resurrection. Commentary, study and reflection questions, prayers, and access to online lectures are included. **4 lessons.**

This study includes daily personal study for about 20 minutes per day. Participants gather for a weekly sharing time, and to watch a wrap-up lecture for that lesson.

### Components of This Study Program:

- The Gospel According to Mark Part 1 Booklet (includes biblical text and commentary)
- The Gospel According to Mark Part 2 Booklet (includes biblical text and commentary)
- Note: DVDs can be downloaded online for free

### Sessions:

#### Part 1 :

**Lesson One** (Introduction and Mark 1)

**Lesson Two** (Mark 2-3)

**Lesson Three** (Mark 4-5)

**Lesson Four** (Mark 6-7)

**Lesson Five** (Mark 8:1-9:32)

#### Part 2:

**Lesson One** (Introduction and Mark 9:33-10:52)

**Lesson Two** (Mark 11-12)

**Lesson Three** (Mark 13-14)

**Lesson Four** (Mark 15-16)

### Further information:

<https://littlerockscripture.org/Products/6519/The-Gospel-According-to-Mark-Part-One>

<https://littlerockscripture.org/Products/6544/The-Gospel-According-to-Mark-Part-Two>

### Purchase:

<https://www.garrattpublishing.com.au/product/gmlrsr/>

**Both books together - \$49.95**

<https://www.garrattpublishing.com.au/product/9780814665190/>

**Mark Part 1 – \$29.95**

<https://www.garrattpublishing.com.au/product/9780814665442/>

**Mark Part 2 – \$29.95**

## Introduction to the Bible - Little Rock Scripture Study



**Introduction:** This study has 7 sessions, incorporating an introductory session and 6 lessons. The Study Set includes a Study Guide by Catherine Upchurch and a commentary, *'Introduction to the Bible, A Catholic Guide to Studying Scripture,'* by Stephen J. Binz (Liturgical Press).

This study opens the Bible for newcomers and experienced Bible students alike, providing a real boost to those looking to gain more from study of the Bible. Participants will become comfortable finding their way around the Bible, develop a better understanding of its themes and writing styles, and gain clear insights about Catholic use and interpretation of the Bible.

This study includes daily personal study for about 20 minutes per day. Participants gather for a weekly sharing time, and to watch a wrap-up lecture for that lesson.

### Components of This Study Program:

- Study Guide and Commentary per participant
- Set of DVDs and Answer Guide for the leader

### Sessions:

#### Introductory Session

**Lesson 1**—The Bible as God's Self-Revelation

The word of God in Christian Life

**Lesson 2**—Choosing a Bible Today

Exploring Your Bible

**Lesson 3**—The Scriptures of God's People

The Inspired Word of God's Church

**Lesson 4**—The Word of God in Human Words

The Challenge of Faithful Interpretation

**Lesson 5**—The Fallacy of Biblical Fundamentalism

The Canon of the Bible

**Lesson 6**—The Importance of Biblical Scholarship

How to Read and Study the Bible

#### Further information:

<https://littlerockscripture.org/Products/1716/Introduction-to-the-BibleStudy-Set>

#### Purchase:

<https://www.garrattpublishing.com.au/product/9780814617168/>

Study Set - \$24.95

DVD lectures - \$64.95

Answer Guide - \$4.95

## Appendix - Quotes from

***Aperuit Illis*** (from the first line: “He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures”, Lk 24:45)

*These are suitable for parish bulletins to maintain a focus on the word of God over coming weeks.*

The relationship between the Risen Lord, the community of believers and sacred Scripture is essential to our identity as Christians. Without the Lord who opens our minds to them, it is impossible to understand the Scriptures in depth. Yet the contrary is equally true: without the Scriptures, the events of the mission of Jesus and of his Church in this world would remain incomprehensible. Hence, Saint Jerome could rightly claim: “Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ.” (*Aperuit Illis* #1)

The Bible cannot be just the heritage of some, much less a collection of books for the benefit of a privileged few. It belongs above all to those called to hear its message and to recognize themselves in its words. At times, there can be a tendency to monopolize the sacred text by restricting it to certain circles or to select groups. It cannot be that way. The Bible is the book of the Lord’s people, who, in listening to it, move from dispersion and division towards unity. The word of God unites believers and makes them one people. (*Aperuit Illis* #4)

The Bible, as sacred Scripture, thus speaks of Christ and proclaims him as the one who had to endure suffering and then enter into his glory (cf. v. 26). Not simply a part, but the whole of Scripture speaks of Christ. Apart from the Scriptures, his death and resurrection cannot be rightly understood. That is why one of the most ancient confessions of faith stressed that “Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and

that he appeared to Cephas” (1Cor15:3-5). Since the Scriptures everywhere speak of Christ, they enable us to believe that his death and resurrection are not myth but history, and are central to the faith of his disciples. (*Aperuit Illis* #7)

A profound bond links sacred Scripture and the faith of believers. Since faith comes from hearing, and what is heard is based on the word of Christ (cf. *Rom* 10:17), believers are bound to listen attentively to the word of the Lord, both in the celebration of the liturgy and in their personal prayer and reflection. (*Aperuit Illis* #7)

As the Second Vatican Council teaches, “the Church has always venerated the divine Scriptures as she has venerated the Lord’s body, in that she never ceases, above all in the sacred liturgy, to partake of the bread of life and to offer it to the faithful from the one table of the word of God and the body of Christ.” (*Aperuit Illis* #8)

Regular reading of sacred Scripture and the celebration of the Eucharist make it possible for us to see ourselves as part of one another. As Christians, we are a single people, making our pilgrim way through history, sustained by the Lord, present in our midst, who speaks to us and nourishes us. (*Aperuit Illis* #8)

We should always keep in mind the teaching found in the Book of Revelation: the Lord is standing at the door and knocking. If anyone should hear his voice and open for him, he will come in and eat with them (cf. 3:20). Christ Jesus is knocking at our door in the words of sacred Scripture. If we hear his voice and open the doors of our minds and hearts, then he will enter our lives and remain ever with us. (*Aperuit Illis* #8)

Since the Scriptures teach with a view to salvation through faith in Christ (cf. *2 Tim* 3:15), the truths contained therein are profitable for our salvation. The Bible is not a collection of history books or a

chronicle, but is aimed entirely at the integral salvation of the person. The evident historical setting of the books of the Bible should not make us overlook their primary goal, which is our salvation. (*Aperuit Illis* #9)

To achieve this saving purpose, sacred Scripture, by the working of the Holy Spirit, makes human words written in human fashion become the word of God. The role of the Holy Spirit in the Scriptures is primordial. Without the work of the Spirit, there would always be a risk of remaining limited to the written text alone. This would open the way to a fundamentalist reading, which needs to be avoided, lest we betray the inspired, dynamic and spiritual character of the sacred text. (*Aperuit Illis* #10)

We need to have confidence in the working of the Holy Spirit as he continues in his own way to provide “inspiration” whenever the Church teaches the sacred Scriptures, whenever the Magisterium authentically interprets them, and whenever each believer makes them the norm of his or her spiritual life. (*Aperuit Illis* #10)

When sacred Scripture is read in the light of the same Spirit by whom it was written, it remains ever new. The Old Testament is never old once it is part of the New, since all has been transformed thanks to the one Spirit who inspired it. The sacred text as a whole serves a prophetic function regarding not the future but the present of whoever is nourished by this word. Jesus himself clearly stated this at the beginning of his ministry: “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing” (*Lk* 4:21). (*Aperuit Illis* #12)

God’s word constantly reminds us of the merciful love of the Father who calls his children to live in love. The life of Jesus is the full and perfect expression of this divine love, which holds nothing back but offers itself to all without reserve. (*Aperuit Illis* #13)