

**6. JOIN OUR PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES
TRAVELLING OVERNIGHT BY LUXURY
COACH FROM 9TH TO 14TH
FEBRUARY 2026.**

It is always a beautiful and deeply spiritual experience soaking in the Spirit of Jesus as we travel to honour Our Blessed Mother.

Leaving Slough and Ealing Broadway on 9th Feb. 2026

[Be in Lourdes for the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes: Wednesday 11th Feb.] and departing Lourdes on 13th February for a visit to the Shrine of the Miraculous Medal in Rue de Bac, Paris, on 14th February morning and arriving in London later on 14th February 2026.

Full board, exciting festival devotional programme, experience THE BLESSED SACRAMENT PROCESSION OF THE SICK, THE CANDLELIGHT



MARIAN ROSARY PROCESSION and THE INTERNATIONAL MASS ON THE FEAST DAY followed by Stations of the Cross, Confessions and Adoration with Hour of Mercy. Travel, full board and programme cost £590. Call Millie on 07957 594 646 for more info.

**ACCOMMODATION TO RENT IN THE
BARNEHURST / SLADE GREEN AREA**

A double room available to rent in a quiet shared home (mum and 2 sons, 22 & 17) in Barnehurst.

I am looking for a suitable tenant and thought your congregation or community may be interested or know someone who might be interested. We attend New Generation Church in Sidcup.

- Double room with ensuite shower (furnished)
- Rent Option 1: £850 pcm all bills included (or Option 2: £425 each for two sharers)
- Deposit required £800
- Shared use of kitchen, dining room, living room & large garden
- No smoking / no pets/no parties
- Close to Barnehurst & Slade Green stations and local buses

• Available from beginning of Feb 26, minimum 6-month stay

- Working Professional preferred.
- References required.

**JESUS BEGAN TO PREACH,
SAYING, "REPENT,
FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
IS AT HAND."**

Matthew 4: 17

**THERE WILL BE
"A DAY WITH MARY"
HERE, IN
ST MARY OF THE CRAYS,
ON SATURDAY 7TH MARCH.
PLEASE,
put this date in
your diaries today and commit
to come to the whole, or part of,
A DAY WITH MARY.**



**3. + J. M. J. + = + JESUS, + MARY, and + JOSEPH +
Newsletter Supplement: 25th January Anno Domini 2026
THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)
WORD OF GOD SUNDAY (& THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL / SAUL)
Pages 127-130 in the Parish Mass Book**

**ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL
SECOND COLLECTION
25TH JANUARY**

For over half a century, St George's Cathedral has been the Mother Church of the Archdiocese of Southwark, home to 175 parishes and over 50,000 Roman Catholics. For many Catholics living and working across London and the South East of England, St George's has been a beacon of light.

Today, St George's Cathedral continues to attract thousands of worshippers and visitors each year, as well as serving a lively local parish community which proudly reflects the rich cultural and ethnic diversity of South London. The Cathedral frequently hosts important Diocesan and national celebrations, as well as concerts and events for various Catholic charities. There is a rich musical tradition, maintaining a choir of boys and men, as well as a girls' choir, both of which sing at Sunday Masses and on major feasts. In many respects, St George's Cathedral serves as a spiritual home and 'beehive' for Catholic evangelisation and mission across the Archdiocese of Southwark. St George's Cathedral is entirely reliant upon the generosity of its parishioners, volunteers and the Archdiocese of Southwark to keep its doors open. It does not receive Vatican or government funding, nor has an en-

dowment to rely on. Your support can enable the Cathedral to remain open daily to those seeking a place of peace, prayer and worship.

Thank you! · Donate Online:
www.rcaos.org.uk/Cathedral

- Telephone weekdays 9 am – 5 pm: **020 7960 2504**
- Cash / Cheque – please use the St George's Cathedral envelopes at the back of church.

**RESOURCES FOR
THE WORD OF GOD:**

Search for:

THE WEDNESDAY WORD

/Parish Edition (weekly, prayerful Preparation, with commentaries, for the Sunday Readings),

The School edition is offered through St Joseph's School;

UNIVERSALIS.COM,

(daily on e-devices, first month trial for free(?) £9.99 for smart phones, or £19.99 for laptops etc.)

also has possibilities of commentaries on the Lectionary Readings, with the Order of the Mass in various languages, and Daily:

Prayer of the Church, the Rosary and the Angelus;

ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION, Catholic Edition of the Bible: **ESV-CE;**

MAGNIFICAT (Monthly periodical £ 6.75 per month, or £ 69 for the year, email: magnificat@magnificat.com, or phone: + 44 (0)20 3882 9432

BLESSING OF PERSONAL AND FAMILY BIBLES

Please invite all the Faithful to bring their Bibles to Mass to be blessed during the Sunday of the Word of God as decreed by Pope Francis. Here's a model of an Order of Blessing within Mass with suggested intercessions and background notes.

(cf. Aperuit Illis N.3)

Introduction

To encourage the faithful to own a copy of the Bible and to read it prayerfully they might be invited to bring their Bibles to Mass for them to be blessed.

People should be encouraged to bring any edition or even a part such as the Gospels. It would be appropriate for the parish to provide those who do not come with a text, and may not have a Bible, with a copy of the Gospel for the current liturgical year, 2025 – St. Luke's Gospel.

In the homily the priest or deacon may speak on the importance of scripture in the life of the Church, different approaches to reading scripture and on the specific readings of the celebration. He may even invite people to find the Gospel text of the day in their own Bible.

The blessing takes place after the Renewal of Commitment of Readers/Lectors and before the Profession of Faith and the Prayer of the Faithful (some sample intercessions are given below).

It would be suitable to celebrate this blessing on the Sunday of the Word of God (3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time). To celebrate it well will require an invitation in the weeks before and the ordering of any Gospels to be given out.

Some Notes

BLESSINGS

Human sanctification and God's glorification are the ends towards which all the Church's activities are directed. The theology presented in the *Book of Blessing* is that God is the focus of our blessing - it is God whom we bless. We bless God for the gift of the object to be blessed and that those who use it will grow in their love of God and neighbour. '... the celebration of blessings should truly contribute to God's praise and glory and should serve to better God's people.'

Order of Blessing within Mass

PRAYER OF BLESSING

Introduction

The word of God, which comes from and leads back to Him who is truth itself, is living and effective. His word runs swiftly, and its clear truth is received when it is read, signed, heard, or when it reaches us through the other media of communication.

It is God who has inspired in the human spirit the desire to record and preserve through Sacred Scripture his word. The books of the Bible contain the truth in a unique way, because they are inspired by the Holy Spirit. Through the reading of the Bible, truth becomes the guide for living, wisdom encourages humility, we are more easily led to mutual understanding, and to the knowledge of God Himself.

The word of God, read in the sacred Scriptures enlightens our minds and hearts; God speaks to us and calls us to respond in faith and love, we ask his blessing.

The assembly is invited to hold up their copies of the Bible. With hands extended over the assembly the priest says:

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 + all who will read from these sacred texts.

As they read, listen and reflect on your words of life, strengthen their faith so that what they read in hope, they may live in love and charity.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer based on Order of Blessing of Readers, Book of Blessings)

COMMISSIONING OF AND RENEWAL OF MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Introduction

The word of God, as proclaimed in the sacred Scripture, lies at the heart of our Christian life and is integral to all our liturgical celebrations.

This order is not for the Institution of Readers/Lectors a rite reserved for use by the bishop and to be found in the Roman Pontifical.

This is a blessing of parish Ministers of the Word who have the responsibility and privilege of proclaiming the Scriptures at Mass and other liturgical services. (cf. General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) 101 & 352. Celebrating the Mass (CtW) 41-42.

It may be appropriate to present the new minister of the word with a lectionary or appropriate book of Scripture.

The blessings might be used most appropriately on **the Sunday of the Word of God celebrated on the 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time).**

Used on a Sunday and before a congregation draws attention to the dignity and importance of a right proclamation of the word in the liturgy of the Church.

The blessing follows the Homily and explanation of the Ministry, its purpose and reason.

ORDER OF BLESSING

After having invited forward by name those to be dedicated and blessed as Ministers of the Word and standing before him, the priest says:

Dear friends in Christ,
Our brothers and sisters are to be entrusted with proclaiming the Sacred Scriptures in the Liturgy of the Word of the Church's Rites. The word of God, proclaimed in the sacred Scriptures enlightens our minds and hearts evoking a response in faith and love. The ministry of reader is important therefore, for what they proclaim in nothing less than God's living word. They also are in the absence of a Deacon to announce the intentions for prayer in the Universal Prayer or Prayer of the Faithful.

Addressing the ministers to-be

In this ministry you are to be examples

of Christian living in faith and conduct, you must strive to grow in holiness through study, reflection and prayer on the Holy Scriptures, remembering that through the hearing of your proclamation of the word others will come to holiness and life in Christ, for the Lord himself said, 'Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it.' (Luke 11:28). And so I ask you:

Do you undertake this ministry of proclaiming the sacred scriptures in the liturgy to serve and build up the Church?

R/. I am

Do you undertake to proclaim the readings of the liturgy only after preparation and with care and reverence?

R/. I am

Do you undertake to continue to study and pray (with others) to deepen your understanding of the Word, your ability to read it well and for it to grow within you as the source of eternal life?

R/. I am

Do you undertake to take part in at least annually some on-going scripture study/formation and prayerful reflection?

R/. I am

PRAYER OF BLESSING.

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 Ministers of the Word. 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.

Profession of Faith: THE CREED