



The Launch of the Year of the Word Scripture Reflection

Although the Year of the Word will principally focus on the Gospel of St Matthew. At the start of the Year of the Word the message found at the start of St John's Gospel seems more pertinent to the launch. Especially, as during Advent we are preparing to celebrate the long awaited Birth of the Messiah at Christmas and for his Second Coming.

*In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
The same was in the beginning with God.
John 1: 1 - 2*

In these verses of the first chapter of John we are given a glimpse inside the Father/Son relationship before Jesus came to Earth in human form. He preexisted with the Father.

But God the Father is Spirit. He is invisible to the human eye. The message of love and redemption that God spoke through the prophets had gone unheeded for centuries. People found it easy to disregard the message of an invisible God and continued in their sin and rebellion.

So the Message became flesh, took on human form, and came to dwell among us. (This message is found in Matthew 1:23 also.)

*The Word was made flesh
and dwelt among us.
(and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only
begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.
John 1: 14*

The Word (Jesus) is the full embodiment of all that is God; Jesus is the total Message—everything that God wants to communicate to man. This happened that first Christmas over 2000 years ago and we will celebrate it again this year on Christmas Day.

*Are we truly ready to receive Him?
Is He in our hearts, minds and souls?
Do we reflect His teachings in our daily lives?
To all we meet?
If not Advent is the perfect time to prepare.*

One way we can prepare during Advent is through prayer: spending time with God Our Father and improving our relationship.

The Official Prayer of the Year of the Word

Living God
You walk along side us
And speak to us throughout the Scriptures

Your Son, Jesus Christ,
Listens to our hopes and fears
And shows us how to love for one another

Send us the Holy Spirit
To open our hearts and minds
So that we may be your witnesses throughout the World
Amen

V: Your word is our path and your truth is our light
R: This day and every day

Our Lady of the Annunciation – PRAY FOR US
St Matthew – PRAY FOR US
St Jerome – PRAY FOR US

Another way we can prepare during Advent is through almsgiving: helping those less fortunate than ourselves who have fallen on hard times; helping those who are struggling through infirmity or illness; helping those affected by war, famine or disaster; the Third World.
LOVING OUR NEIGHBOUR AS OURSELVES.

By now you should have received your "Family" CAFOD Advent Charity Box to collect money for the School Charity of World Gifts.

The money collected will be used to purchase gifts that can make a "World of Difference" to whole communities overseas that are less fortunate than many of us who live here.

Please give any change you can to support this good cause, even the smallest amount can mount up when added together. Thank you in advance for your support.

