



ST. GABRIEL'S NOTES

24th January 2021



Sunday of the Word of God

In his Apostolic Letter of 30 September 2019, *Aperuit illis* Pope Francis established that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (today) is to be the Sunday of the Word of God, a day to be devoted to the celebration, study, and spreading of the Word of God. Pope Francis is clear from the very first paragraph of this letter that the relationship between the Risen Lord, a community of believers, and sacred Scripture is essential to who we are as Christians.

What is the Word of God?

We often identify the Bible as the Word of God. This is not wrong, but God speaks to our hearts in many different ways. For instance, he speaks to us in prayer and through our conscience, and often through other people. Hence, the Word of God covers much more than a printed book. Nevertheless, the Bible is the privileged collection of communications between God and his people. These stories and poems have nourished the lives of the people of Israel and the Christian Church right through the centuries, and they continue to nourish us today. They tell the story of God's love and our salvation from ancient times onwards. The scriptural texts offer us both challenge and encouragement for our lives, and are especially valuable to us through the hope they offer us at dark moments.

(Irish Bishops Conference)

Catholic Schools Week

This Sunday marks the beginning of Catholic Schools Week 2021, an annual week to celebrate the rich tradition and incredible value of Catholic education. The theme this year is "*Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith and Resilience*". With schools closed it is not possible to have any of the usual events this year.



However, RTE1 television is broadcasting a special Mass this Sunday at 11am to mark the opening of Catholic Schools Week.

The Celebrant will be Fr. Gareth Byrne!

(in his 'day job' Fr. Gareth is Associate Professor of Religious Education, & Director of the Mater Dei Centre for Catholic Education at DCU).

And Fr. Gareth is not travelling alone to RTE - two of our readers, Rita and Martin, and music group 'Solus' (Aisling, Helena & Kevin) will be there also.