



## The Year of the Word

### 'The God Who Speaks'

30th Sep'19 - 31st Dec '20

*celebrating, living and sharing God's word*

Launch: 30th September 2019 – The Feast of St Jerome

Campaign Year Begins: 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019 – The First Sunday of Advent.

An initiative announced in February 2019 by The **Bishops' Conference of England and Wales** dedicated the **Year 2020 to Sacred Scripture**. It has been given the name **"The God Who Speaks"** and it takes the Bible as its focus. It takes place in cooperation with the British Bible Society and it offers all Catholics an opportunity to enrich current practice and to develop and explore new ways of responding to **'The God who Speaks'**.

Scripture is at the centre of everything the Church does. The Word of God shapes our prayer and worship. The Bible shows us how to understand the world, how we are called to live and relate to each other. We are invited to listen afresh to the Word of God, as did Our Blessed Lady at the Annunciation, to encounter anew the presence of the Word, and to proclaim it afresh in the Church and the World.

Throughout 2020 there will be a range of events, activities and resources to participate in all around the country. To help achieve transformation in our hearts and in our communities. There will be three themes of celebrating, living and sharing God's Word.

The year will also serve to commemorate two important anniversaries of Scripture's role in the Church;  
2020 will mark the 10th anniversary of Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation Verbum Domini;

It is also the 1,600th anniversary of St. Jerome's death, whose Latin Vulgate translation of the Bible served the Western Church up until the last century. For Catholics all over the world, St Jerome is a very important Saint and Biblical scholar. While here in School, he is especially important, as our Library was recently dedicated to him by Archbishop Longley.

As a Scripture scholar, St Jerome is usually depicted with the Bible by which he receives divine inspiration from the Holy Spirit. Angels are believed to have visited Jerome regularly to help him with his commentaries, and with his failing eyesight; we might like to think of it as a sort of spiritual dictation. St Jerome is also often depicted with a model of a typical 15th century Italian Church because St. Jerome is one of the four Doctors of the Church, together with St. Ambrose, St. Augustine and St. Gregory the Great, and he is also, a Father of the Church. These two symbols of Bible and Church represent St Jerome's life-long faith and vocation to the word of God.

***"We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life." 1 John***

***1:1***