



# Sunday of the Word of God

The Church in Australia will celebrate the Sunday of the Word of God on the first Sunday in February each year, starting with February 7 in 2021.

Pope Francis last year instituted the celebration when issuing the apostolic letter [Aperuit Illis](#). The letter encouraged the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God.

The date for marking the Sunday of the Word of God was set as the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time. However, in light of the regular coincidence of the Australia Day holiday or associated long weekend with the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference have decided to assign the first Sunday in February as Sunday of the Word of God in Australia.

The National Centre for Evangelisation and the National Office for Liturgy [have prepared a number of resources](#) to help individuals, families, parishes, schools and other ministries commemorate the Sunday of the Word of God.

Among the ways that Catholics and Catholic communities are being encouraged to mark the day include a special display of Sacred Scripture or the Book of the Gospels, the establishment of Bible study groups or the adoption of *lectio divina*, a common practice of reflection on Scripture.

'The Second Vatican Council explained that the proclamation of the Word is one of the primary ways the faithful encounter Christ's sacramental presence during the liturgy,' Archbishop O'Regan said.

'May the first Sunday in February become a day when that presence is felt and celebrated in a particular way.'

[View resources for this year's Sunday of the Word of God](#)