



**SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD  
23 January 2022**



**INTRODUCTION:**

My dear brothers, and sisters, today we have gathered together to celebrate the Sunday of the Word of God. The theme that we have chosen for today's celebration is 'Enlightened by the Word on the Synodal Path.' Since October 2021 our Mother Church has been engaged in discerning the path for the local and the universal Church. In the process we are enlightened by the Word of God (Bible), the Word (Jesus), and the words of one another. Listening to the word is the first step towards the enlightenment. This celebration is a reminder that a life that is centred on the word will be fruitful, effective, and impactful. Now, the Word of God is being carried in procession. As we honour it let us resolve to be the keen listeners and constant doers of the Word.

[The Main Celebrant carries / receives the Bible and places it on a decorated ambo / table and garlands it. Homage could be done by incensing. As a sign of veneration, devotion, and love for the Word of God all would extend their hands towards the Bible enthroned and resolve to be listeners and doers of the Word.]

**READINGS:**

**First Reading:** Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15

**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 12:12-30; or 12:12-14, 27

**Gospel:** Lk 1:1-4, 4:14-21

**PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL:**

**Celebrant:** Gathered as the people of God, sustained by the Word of God, and called to be missionary disciples of Christ, together let us pray:

**Our Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Church: that rooted in the Word of God, we may continue to build up the Body of Christ and promote the common good. Lord, we pray.

For all who teach and preach the Word of God: that their words may renew the faith of those who listen and encourage them to trust in the promise of God. Lord, we pray.

For this community: that we may have an ever-greater openness to the Word of God and allow it to enlighten the darkness of our hearts and free us to follow Jesus evermore faithfully. Lord, we pray.

For our companions on the Synodal journey: that God will heal us from indifference and intolerance, so that all may work together for care for common home and humanity. Lord, we pray.

[In silence let us pray for our personal and local needs.]

**Celebrant:** 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 us. As we proclaim your words of life, strengthen our faith that we may read with conviction and boldness, and put into practice what we read. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF FROM THE CORONA VIRUS:**

Almighty and merciful God, who show Your love to all creation everywhere, hear graciously the prayers we make for all those affected by the Corona Virus in various parts of the world.

We come before You asking for an efficacious control of the outbreak, for a healing of those affected, for the victims and their families.

We thank You for blessing the efforts of our research scientists working on the development of a vaccine. We pray that these vaccines will be effective in combating the virus and its mutants, and in controlling the spread of the pandemic. We pray that the vaccine be available for all our people even the poor and those in rural areas.

We pray for doctors, nurses and health workers who are in the frontline of this battle, that they be kept safe and have the strength and courage to continue their heroic efforts.

We pray for the Government and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.