

LITURGY FOR BIBLE SUNDAY

26th January, 2025 – 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Suggestions for enhancement of the Sunday Liturgy

Prior Preparation

- *A large Bible*
- *Separate lectern to be prepared to install the Bible on it*
- *Decoration of the lectern with flowers and candles*
- *Incense to be prepared*
- *One Bible Committee member to be informed to carry the Bible at every mass*
- *People could be asked to carry their Bibles to Church*
- *Bibles could be made available to the people*

Introduction

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God and the Word became flesh and dwells among us. Today as we celebrate Bible Sunday we venerate the Word. The Word that has been our guiding force from centuries together, the Word that has inspired millions of lives and the Word that encourages us to love, serve and live according to God' plan. Today we pledge to give the Word it's due significance in our lives and in our homes; we pray that the Word may fill us with new life of the Spirit and invigorate us to love God and our neighbour.

Kindly stand as we now welcome the main celebrant _____ and the Word, as it is being carried in procession.

Entrance Procession

- *In addition to the Lectors and Acolytes joining the procession, the Bible is brought in solemnly by a member of the Bible Cell.*
- *The Large Bible is placed on the Lectern; incensed and garlanded.*

First Reading: Is 49:14-15
Second Reading: 1 Cor 4:1-5
Gospel: Matthew 6:24-34

Prayer of the Faithful

Celebrant:

Heavenly Father, we thank you for giving us this celebration of Bible Sunday in order to remind us of the importance of your Word in our lives. We bring before you our innermost concerns so that you may continue to be our strength and our support.

R: Thy word is a lamp unto my steps and a light unto my path!

1. That our Holy Father, Pope Francis and his team may purposefully guide the Church all over the world with a complete openness to the promptings of the Holy Spirit to deepen our ministry of the word, let us pray to the Lord ... R/-
2. That the heavenly Father gives to the followers of Christ his Son a constant hunger for His word, and makes them His witnesses before the world, let us pray to the Lord... R/-
3. That all those in our Archdiocese who are involved in the ministry of the word may find joy in helping other people to make the Bible a firm foundation of their lives in this turbulent world, let us pray to the Lord.... R/-
4. That each one of us may grow in familiarity with the pages of the Bible and be motivated to interact with people of other faiths in order to share with them in a spirit of dialogue the deeper truths of God's revelation, let us pray to the Lord... R/-
5.

Celebrant:

Heavenly Father, on this Bible Sunday we ask you to bless each one of us, and help us to grow in our commitment to listen to your word and to celebrate your gift of love. We make this prayer through Christ, our Lord... Amen.

Blessing on the Members of the Bible Cell after the Homily or after Holy Communion

- *The Celebrant now invites all the members of the Bible Cell to come forward in order to ask for God's blessings on their ministry.*
- **Celebrant: I now invite all the Bible Committee members to kindly come forward to ask for God's blessings on their ministry**
- *He also invites the congregation to place their hand on the Bibles they have carried from home and pledge to the Word their commitment.*
- **Celebrant: I now invite all the people to kindly place their hand on the Bible and pledge to the Word their commitment to read it diligently and to live by it faithfully.**

- *He invites the committee members to make a personal commitment by laying their hands for a short while on a Bible which he himself takes from person to person (A hymn could be sung as this is done).*
- **Celebrant:** **As the committee members now place their hands on the Bible I ask the congregation to pray for each and every member that they may be living examples of the Word.**
- *The Celebrant then returns to the altar and, with hands stretched out over the Bible Cell Members, says the following or similar prayer:]*

Celebrant:

O God, you have called us out of darkness into your own wonderful light, we owe you our thanks at all times.

You satisfy the hunger of our hearts with the sweet nourishment of your word. When we gather together around the Book of the Scriptures, you remind us again and again of your wondrous words and works.

We pray that we may all listen to the voice of your Son, so that, responding to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, we may not be hearers only, but doers of your word.

Grant that those who proclaim your message through the ministry of the Bible Cell may lead people to explore your word, so that we will all walk in the ways of Christ, following him faithfully until we reach eternal life. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(The priest could now go around sprinkling holy water... and bless the Bibles that people have carried along with them for Mass)

The Mass continues as usual.