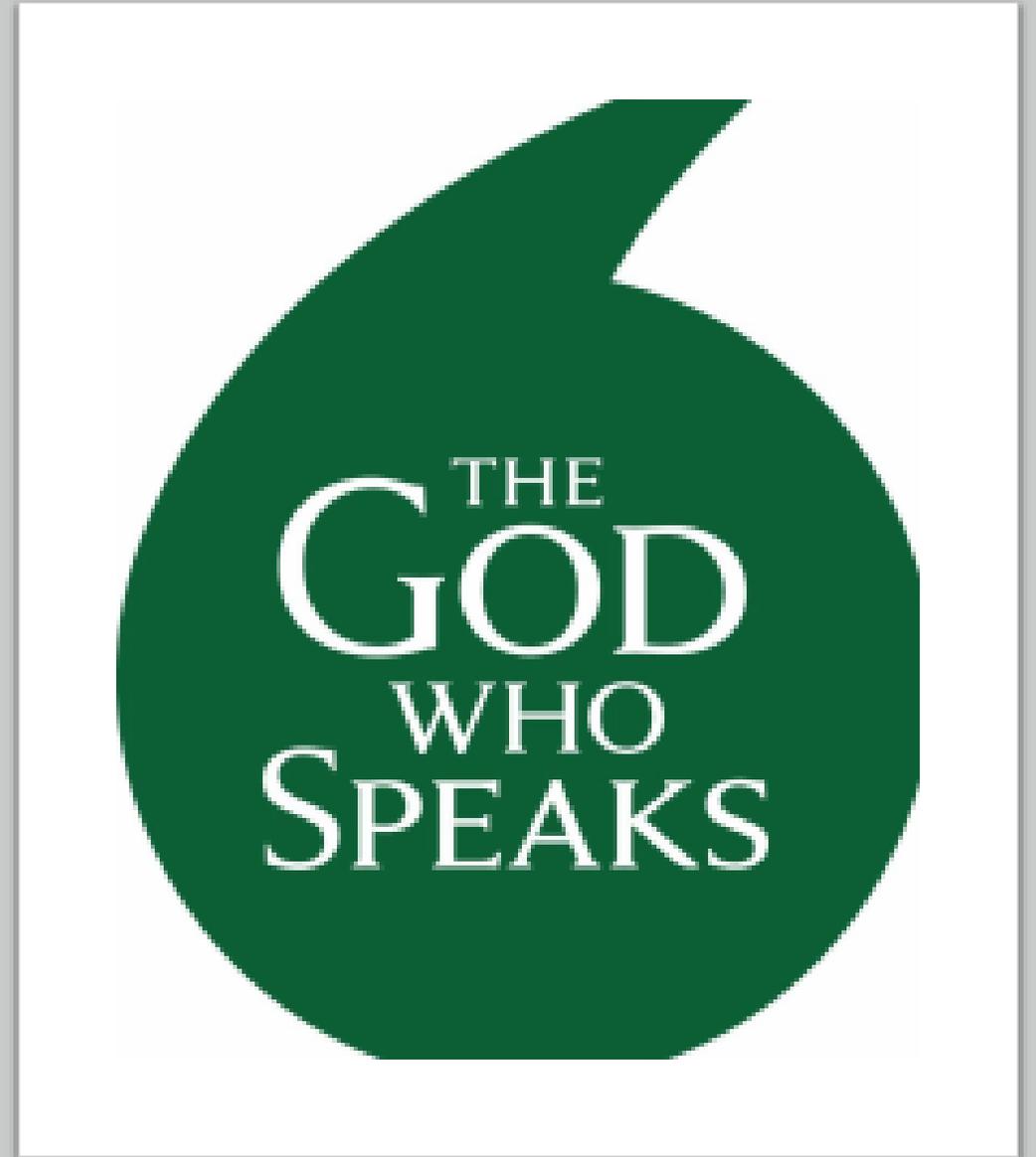
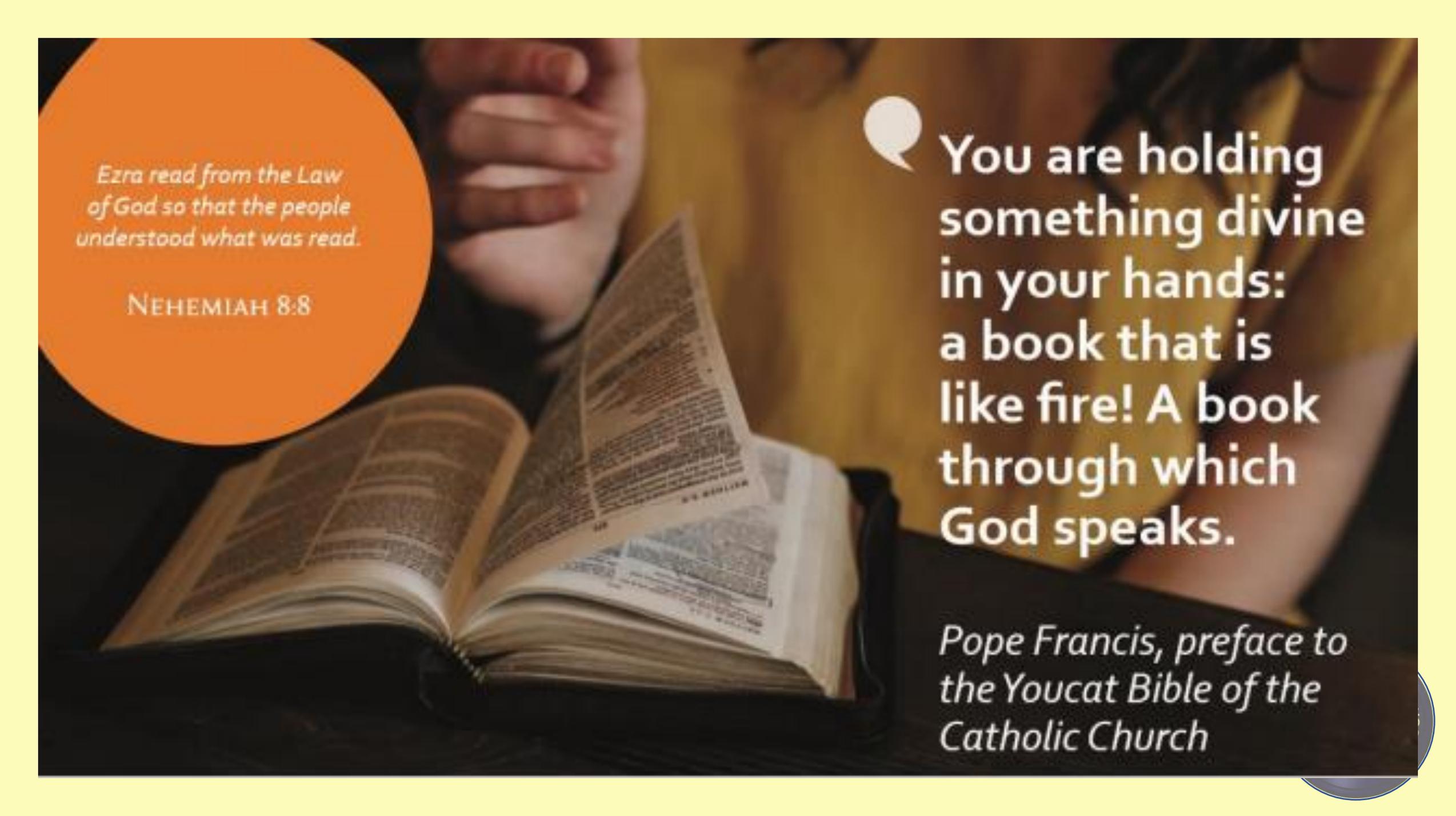


The God Who Speaks

The Year of the Word





*Ezra read from the Law
of God so that the people
understood what was read.*

NEHEMIAH 8:8

**You are holding
something divine
in your hands:
a book that is
like fire! A book
through which
God speaks.**

*Pope Francis, preface to
the Youcat Bible of the
Catholic Church*

‘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.’

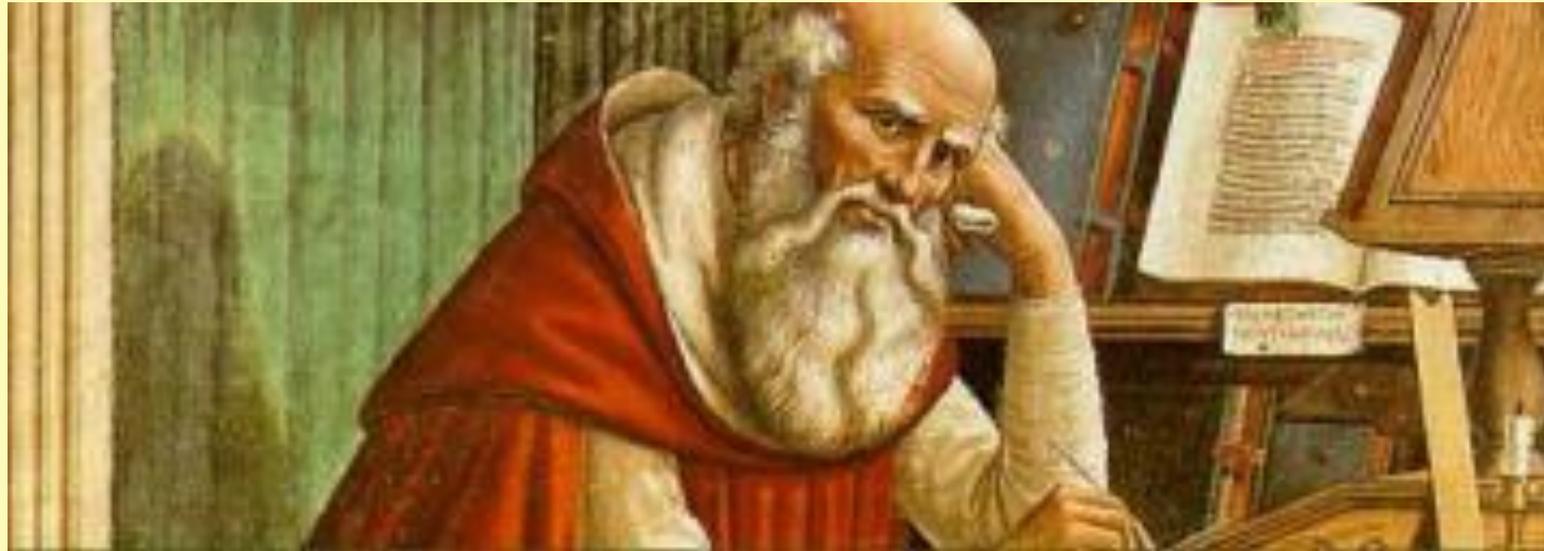


Last year was designated as '**The God Who Speaks - The Year of the Word**'. It has been continued into this year too!

There will also be a specific focus on St. Mark's Gospel. (Last year was St. Matthew's Gospel)

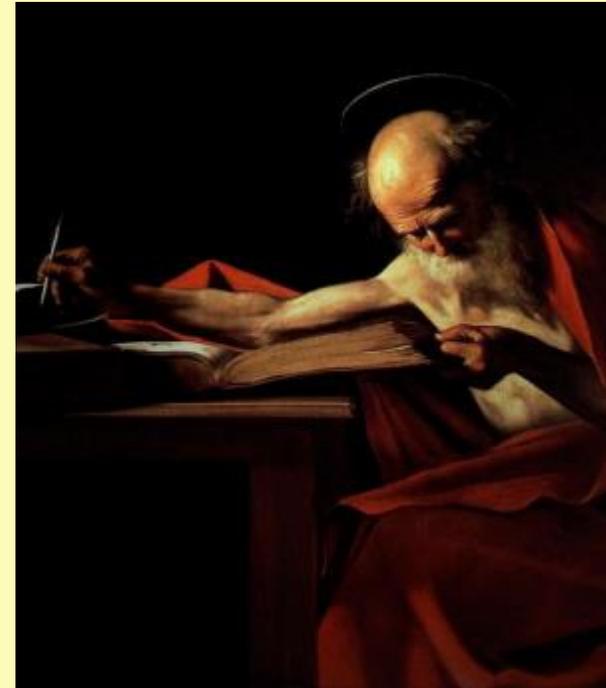


The Official Launch The official launch of **The God Who Speaks – The Year of the Word** was on 30th September 2019 with Cardinal Nichols' video in the National Gallery on the feast of St. Jerome.



Why St. Jerome?

Patron of archaeologists, Biblical scholars, librarians, students and translators of all the things that made Jerome famous, nothing was so legendary as his **translation of the Bible**; he spent his entire life translating the scriptures from Hebrew and Old Latin.



OFFICIAL PRAYER FOR THE YEAR

Living God,
you walk alongside us and
speak to us throughout the Scriptures.

Your Son, Jesus Christ,
listens to our hopes and fears
and shows us how to live for one another.

Send us the Holy Spirit
to open our hearts and minds
so that we may be your witnesses
throughout the world.

AMEN

V. Your word is our path and your truth is our light.
R. This day and every day.

Our Lady of the Annunciation PRAY FOR US. St Matthew PRAY FOR US.

St Jerome PRAY FOR US.

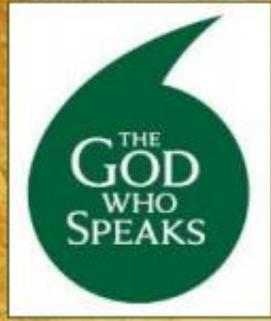
THE
GOD
WHO
SPEAKS

godwhospeaks.uk

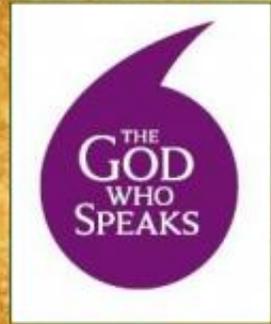


The aim of The God Who Speaks - The Year of the Word is: **‘Celebrating, Living and Sharing God’s Word.’**

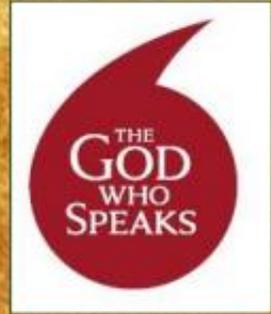
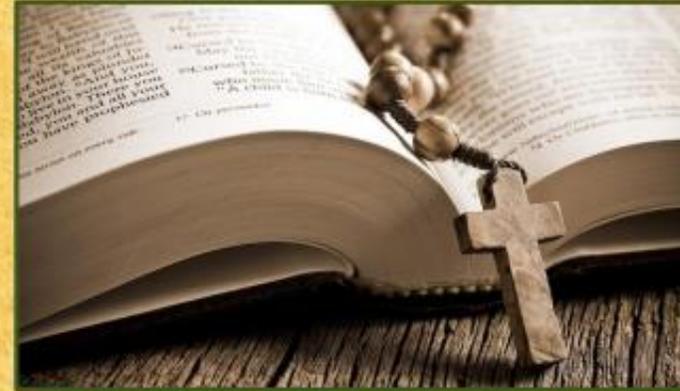




Celebrating



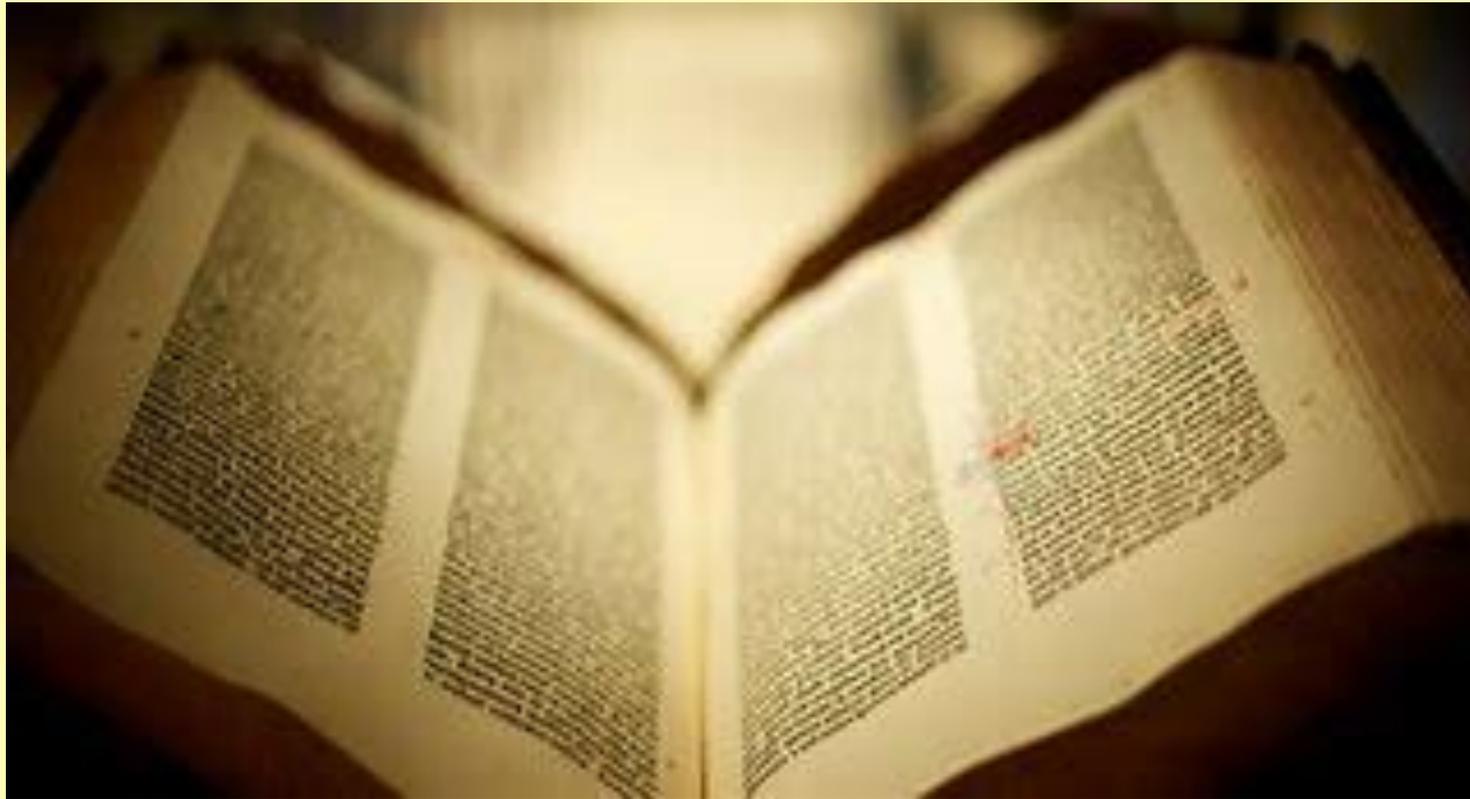
Living



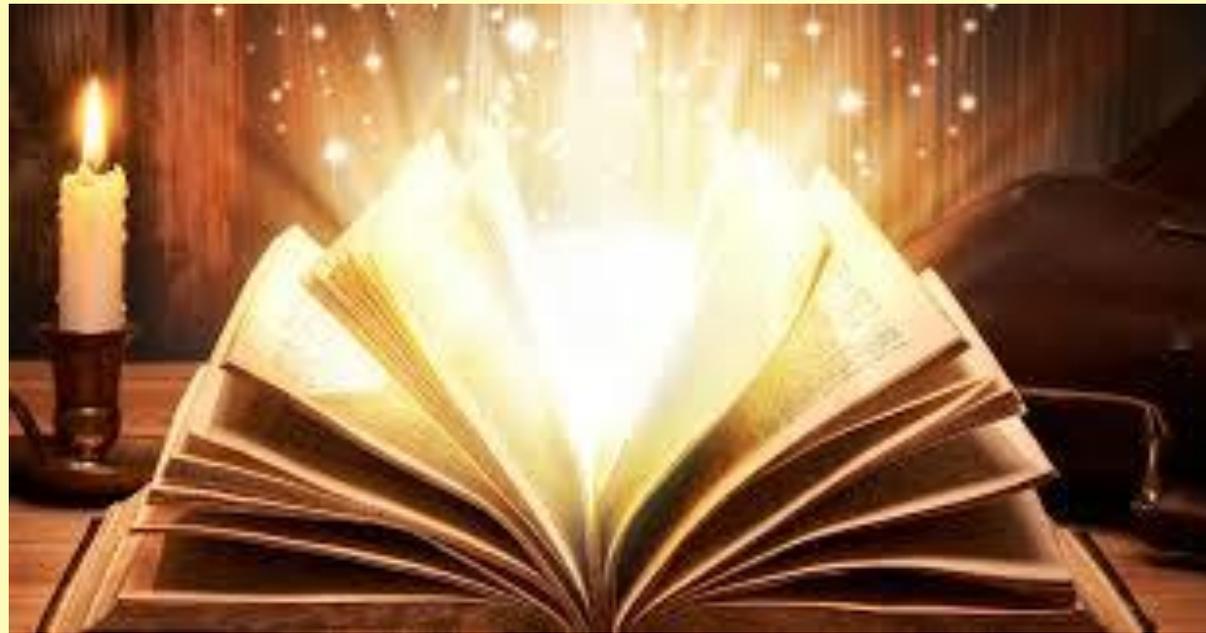
Sharing



Fun Bible Facts



Over 100 million copies of the Bible are sold each year!



The word 'bible' is from the Greek *ta biblia*, which means 'the scrolls' or 'the books'. The word is derived from the ancient city of Byblos, which was the official supplier of paper products to the ancient world.



The full Bible has been translated into **532 languages**. It has been partially translated into 2,883 languages.



The Bible was written by people from many different occupations. Parts of the Bible were written by kings. Half of the Psalms, a good chunk of Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes were written by royalty.



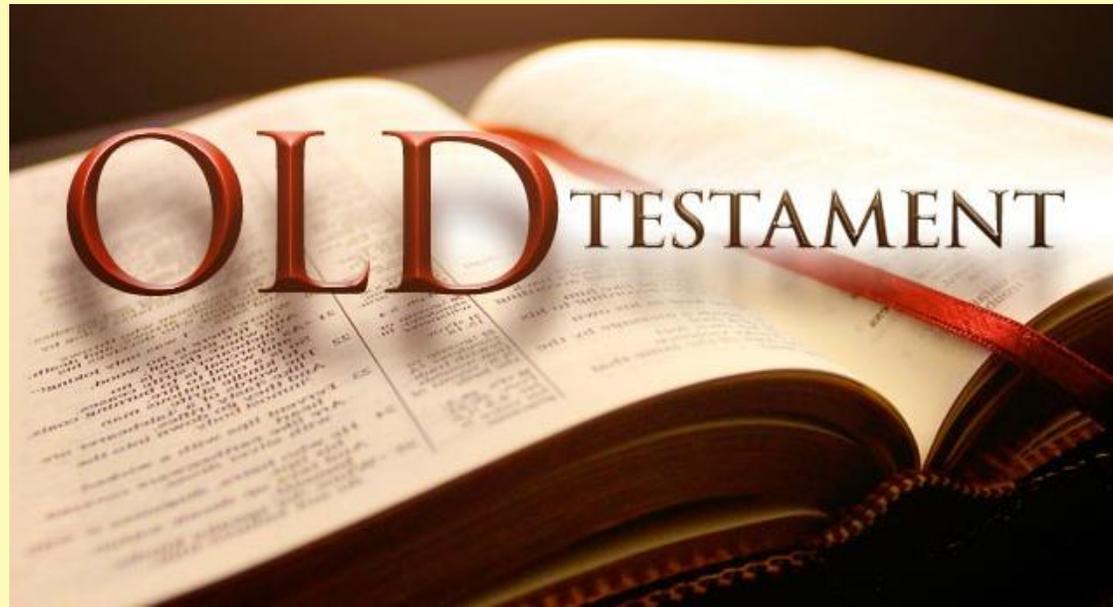
But other parts of the Bible are written by farmers, fishermen, a tentmaker, homeless prophets, a doctor, a professional scribe, musicians, pastors and many more besides!



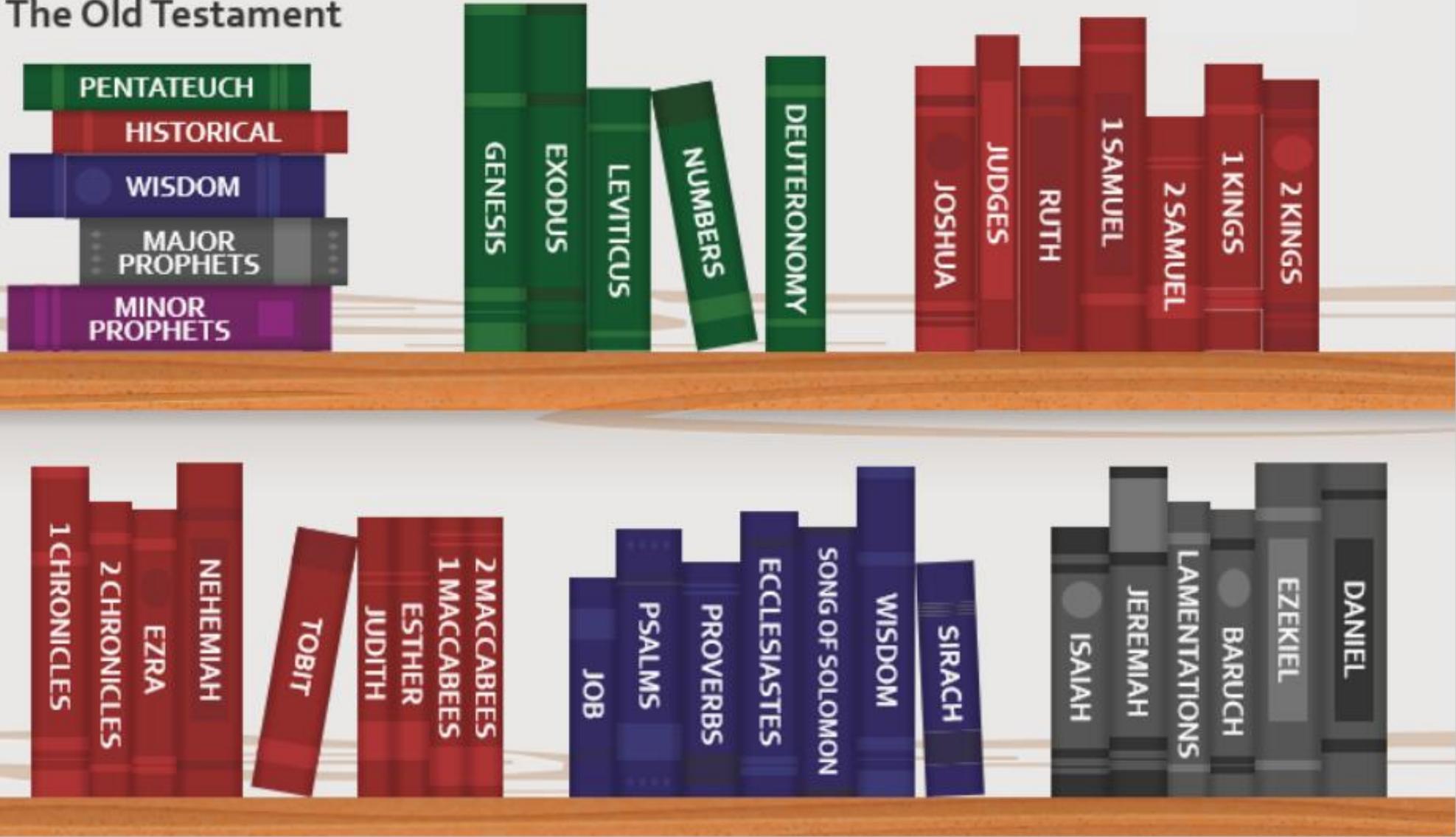
The Bible is split into two 'sections':

- The Old Testament
- The New Testament

There are 46 books in the Old Testament...

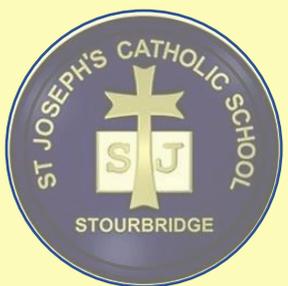


The Old Testament



...and 27 books in the
New Testament.





Making a total of how many
books altogether in the Bible?

73!



The **shortest verse** in the Bible is John 11:35, which states, 'Jesus wept.'



The longest word in the Bible is
'Mahershalalhashbaz' (Isaiah 8:3)



The Bible is about **611,000 words** long!

When translating the Bible from its original languages to English, translators tend to use more words to get across the original author's point.

And who wrote all of those words?!



The Bible was written in **three languages!**
Those languages are **Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.**

Most of our Old Testament was written in Hebrew, which was the language the original readers spoke.

A few bits of the Old Testament were written Aramaic (looking at you, Ezra and Daniel).

The New Testament was written in Greek, the commonly-spoken language of the time.



The Bible was written by more than **40 traditional authors!**

The books of the Bible are traditionally attributed to heroes of the Jewish and Christian faiths.

Moses is given credit for the first five books of the Bible, most of the prophets are given credit for the books named after them...and there are a few 'unknowns'!



Moses wrote about 20% of the Bible in terms of word count. Paul wrote the most individual documents. Ezra, Luke and Jeremiah make up the rest of the top 5 in the number of words written.



There are at least **185 songs in the Bible!**

About 150 of these are in the book of Psalms. (we say 'about' because there's some debate as to whether a few of the separate Psalms were originally meant to be sung as one.)

But throughout both the Old and New Testaments, people will sing songs about God or the events around them. And 185 is a bare minimum!



The Bible was written on **three continents!**

Most was written in what is modern-day Israel (Asia).

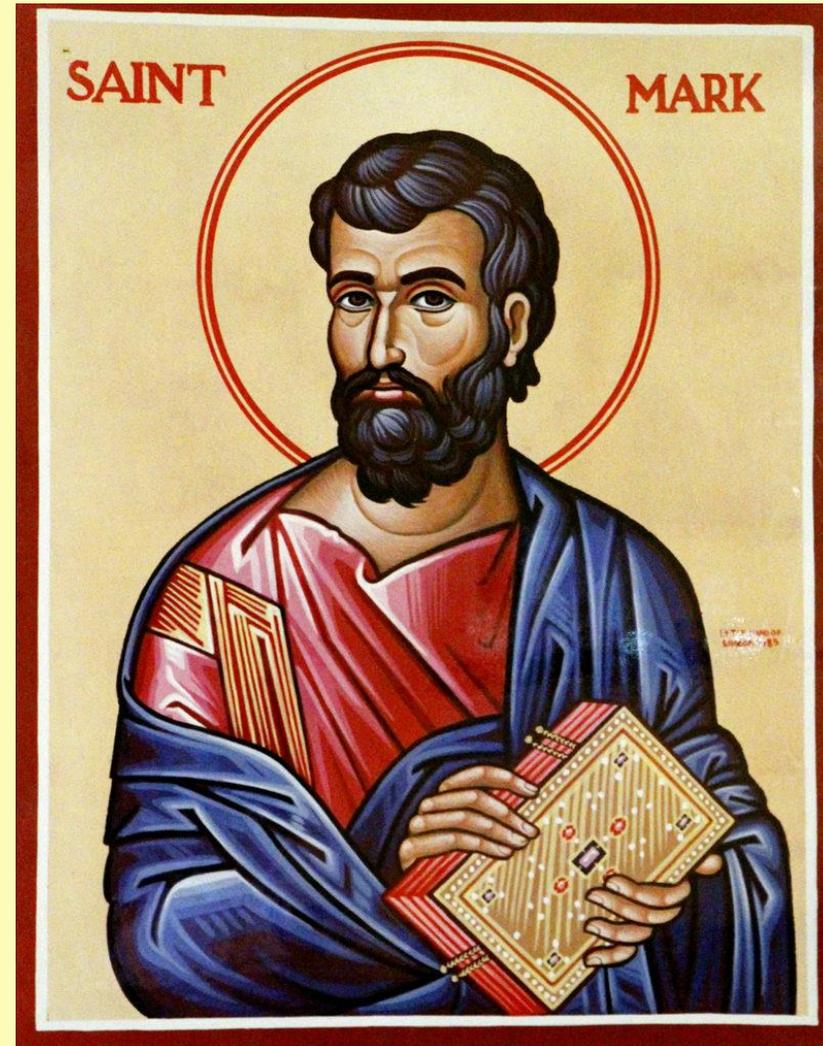
But some passages of Jeremiah were written in Egypt (Africa) and several New Testament epistles were written from cities in Europe.



There are **21 dreams** recorded in the Bible! And most of them are had by two different men named Joseph!



The Year of the Word will focus on the **Gospel of Mark**.

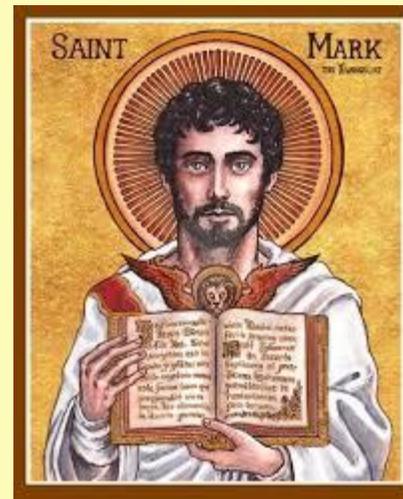


His feast day is [the 25th April](#).

Mark lived at the time of Jesus. Although he was not one of the twelve apostles of Jesus, he was a cousin of Saint Barnabas, an apostle.

Mark is called an [evangelist](#) because he wrote one of the four [gospels](#). Mark's gospel is short, but it gives many little details that are not in the other gospels.

While still young, Mark went with the two great saints, Paul and Barnabas, as missionaries to bring the teachings of Jesus to Cyprus and other new lands.



Before the journey was over, though, Mark had an argument with Saint Paul and immediately returned to Jerusalem. Paul and Mark later made peace with each other.

In fact, Paul wrote from prison in Rome that Mark came to cheer and help him.

Mark also became a beloved disciple and was like a son to Saint Peter, the first Pope.

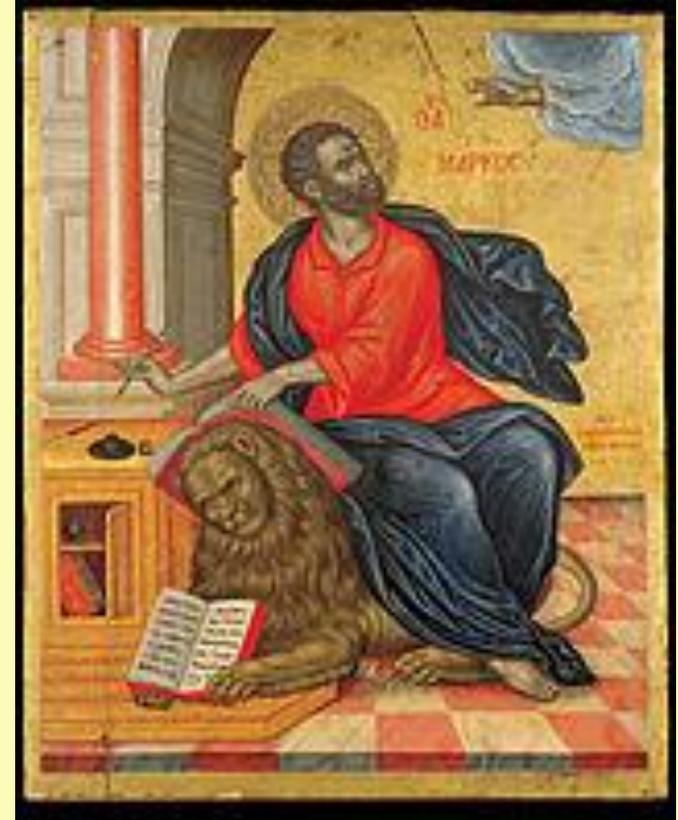
Saint Mark was made a bishop and sent to Alexandria, Egypt. There, many people who heard him preach became Christians. **He worked hard to spread love for Jesus.**



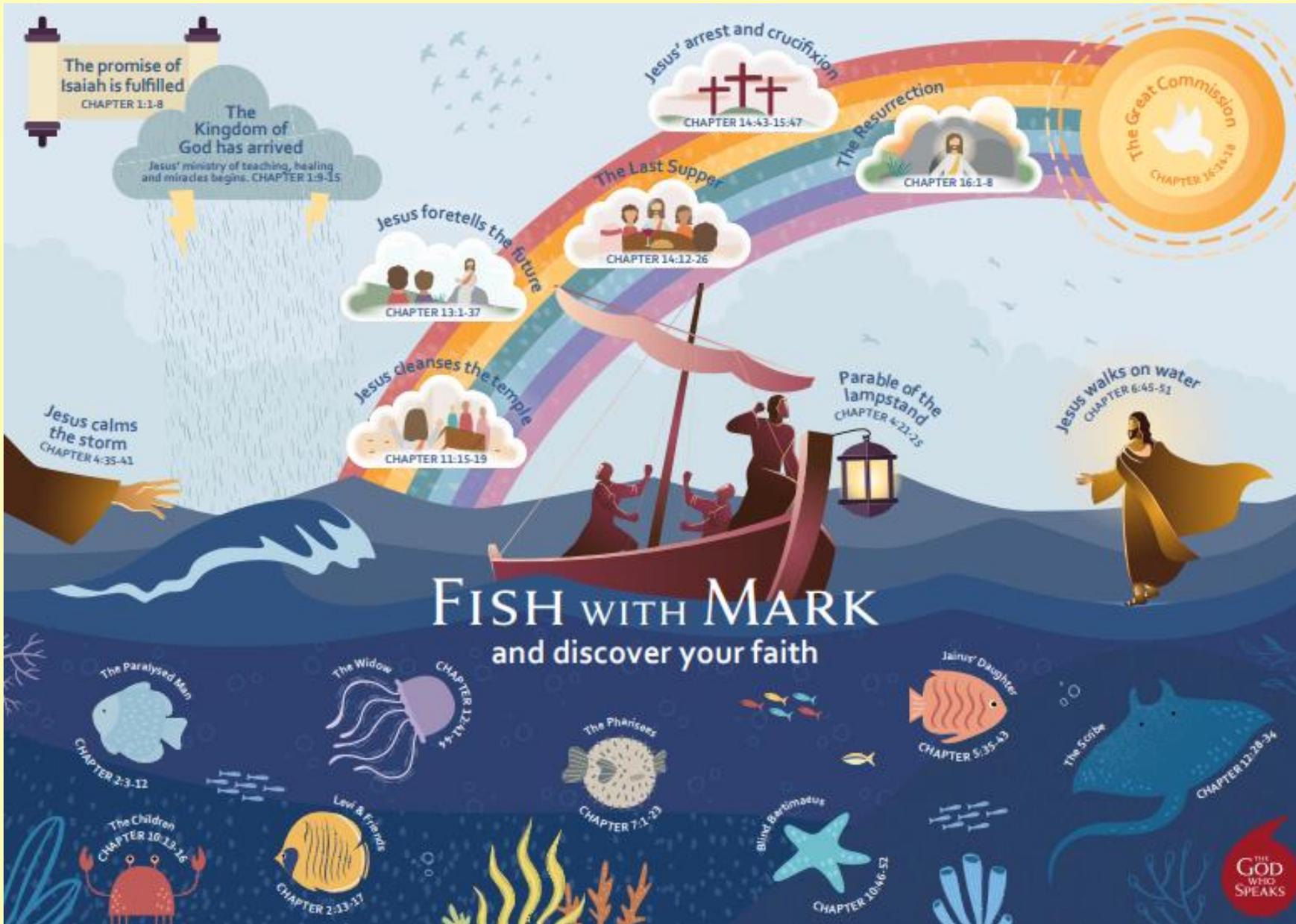
He went through long and painful sufferings before he died a martyr for his faith.

Saint Mark's relics were brought to Venice, Italy. He is the patron saint of that famous city.

People go to the beautiful Basilica of Saint Mark to honour him and to pray to him.



Fish with Mark Poster



You can download more resources here:
[The God Who Speaks](#)



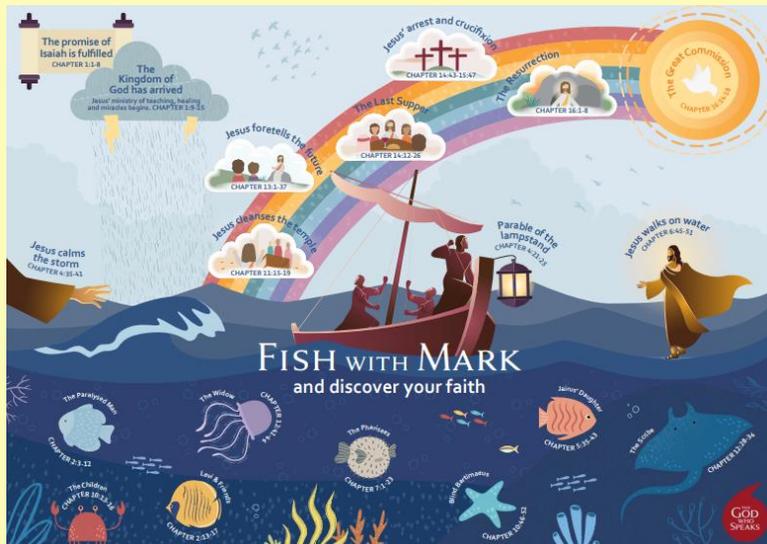
Take a look at the poster. You know most of the stories already from home and school! A lot of them are miracles that you have learnt about too.

- Jesus and the children
- The paralysed man
- Jairus' daughter
- Jesus walks on water
- Jesus calms the storm
- The Last Super
- Jesus' arrest and crucifixion
- The resurrection



Why don't you take time to read the Bible and Mark's Gospel with your family?

You could take some suggestions of which chapters to read from the “Fish with Mark” poster.



You can download more resources here:

[The God Who Speaks](#)



Create a Bible Journal Page

Important message
from today's story:

Bible reference:
Book: Chapter:

Verse:

Words I don't
understand and need
to look up or ask an
adult.

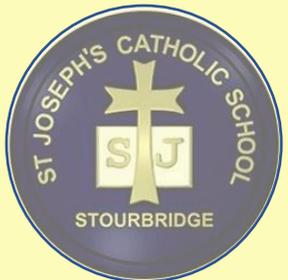


Questions I have
about today's
message.

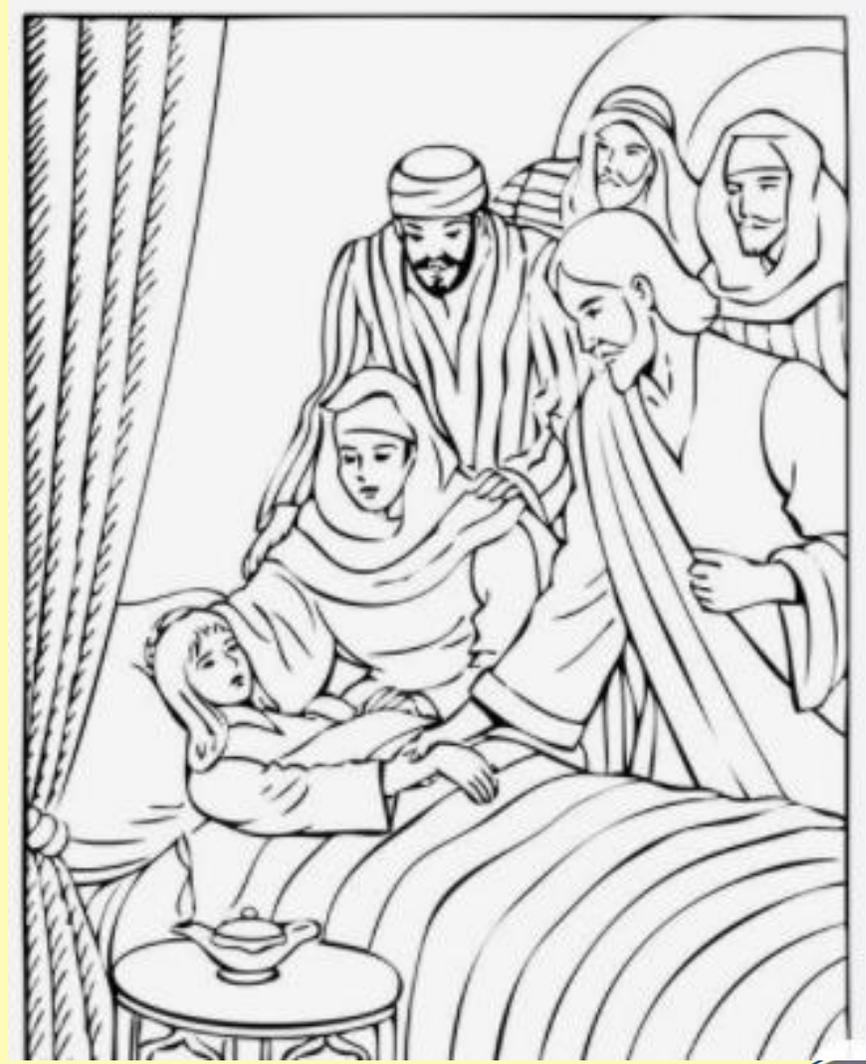
Tally mark every time you hear:



Art and Craft ideas to **show your learning** about St Mark's Gospel.



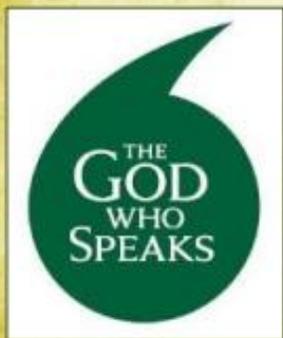
Wind
and Wave
Wind Sock
Craft





"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation." (Mark 16:15).





Celebrating Living Sharing

