

Upcoming Events

Coloma Catholic Life.

Liturgical Year

3rd Week in Ordinary Time – Liturgical colour: Green
 Sunday of the Word of God



Pope Francis has asked that the third Sunday in Ordinary Time each year be observed as a special day devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the word of God.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for January Entrusted to the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

Promotion of World Peace

That Christians, followers of other religions, and all people of goodwill may promote together peace and justice in the world.

Sunday of the Word of God



An icon of the encounter with Jesus on the road to Emmaus was chosen as the official logo for the worldwide celebration of the Sunday of the Word of God.

The colourful logo is based on an icon written by the late-Benedictine Sr Marie-Paul Farran, a member of the Our Lady of Calvary Congregation, who lived and worked at its monastery on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem.



26th February

Ash Wednesday – Service & distribution of ashes during the day. Lent begins.

3rd March – Periods 5 & 6
 Reconciliation for Year 7

10th March – Periods 5 & 6
 Reconciliation for Year 8

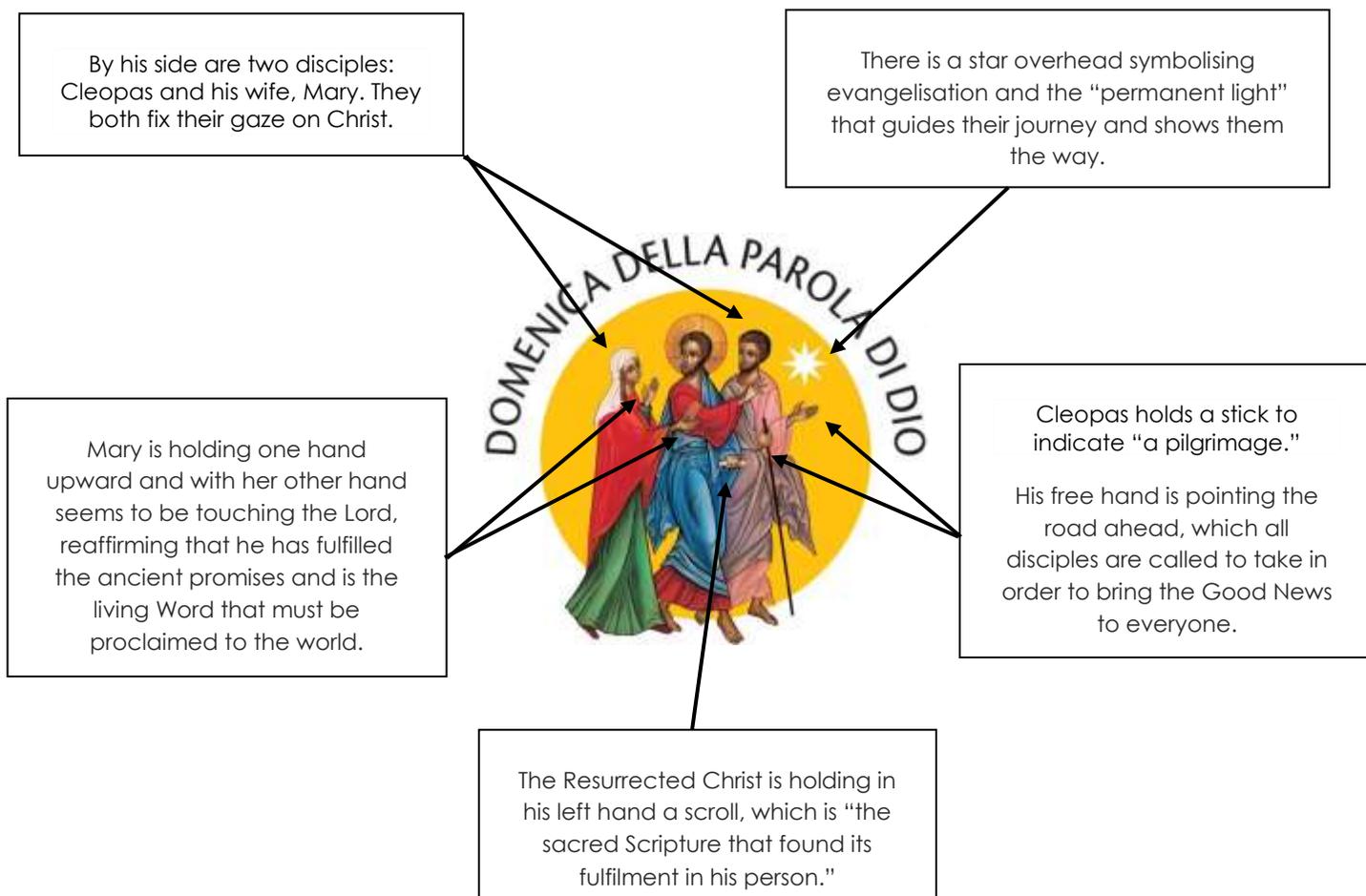
17th March – Periods 5 & 6
 Reconciliation for Year 9

24th March – Periods 5 & 6
 Reconciliation for Year 10

1st April - Periods 5 & 6
 Reconciliation for Year 11
 Years 12 & 13 are warmly invited to attend any of the above to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

10th April - Good Friday

11th – 18th April - Year 12
 Pilgrimage to Lourdes



Pope Francis Tweet

"Let us make room for the Word of God! Each day let us read a verse or two of the Bible. We will discover that God is close to us, that He dispels our darkness and, with great love, leads our lives into deep waters."

Reflection on Scripture

A really beautiful, moving, short video reflecting on 1 Corinthians 13 entitled 'How's your love life?' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wtfpr582Vso&feature=youtu.be>

Sunday of the Word of God

Pope Francis asks us all to meditate on the place of the Word of God in our lives today. In his letter ***Aperuit illis***, instituting the Sunday of the Word of God, he explains how our reading of Sacred Scripture depends on the action and presence of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Recalling the message in Luke's Gospel about the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24: 13 – 35) Pope Francis explains: ***Jesus appeared to the assembled disciples, broke bread with them and opened their minds to the understanding of the sacred Scriptures. To them, amid their fear and bewilderment, he unveiled the meaning of the paschal mystery.*** He further explains: ***At the conclusion of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, I proposed setting aside "a Sunday given over entirely to the word of God, so as***

to appreciate the inexhaustible riches contained in that constant dialogue between the Lord and his people” (Misericordia et Misera, 7). Devoting a specific Sunday of the liturgical year to the word of God can enable the Church to experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world.

Pope Francis emphasises that as Christian disciples we need to know and love the Scriptures, just as we must know and love Jesus: **A profound bond links sacred Scripture and the faith of believers. Since faith comes from hearing, and what is heard is based on the word of Christ (cf. Rom 10:17), believers are bound to listen attentively to the word of the Lord, both in the celebration of the liturgy and in their personal prayer and reflection.**

The journey that the Risen Lord makes with the disciples of Emmaus ended with a meal. The mysterious wayfarer accepts their insistent request: “Stay with us, for it is almost evening and the day is now far spent” (Lk 24:29). They sit down at table, and Jesus takes the bread, blesses it, breaks it and offers it to them. At that moment, their eyes are opened, and they recognize him (cf. v. 31). This scene clearly demonstrates the unbreakable bond between sacred Scripture and the Eucharist. As the Second Vatican Council teaches, “the Church has always venerated the divine Scriptures as she has venerated the Lord’s body, in that she never ceases, above all in the sacred liturgy, to partake of the bread of life and to offer it to the faithful from the one table of the word of God and the body of Christ” (Dei Verbum, 21).

He concludes: **we urgently need to grow in our knowledge and love of the Scriptures and of the risen Lord, who continues to speak his word and to break bread in the community of believers... Christ Jesus is knocking at our door in the works of sacred Scriptures. God’s word has the power to open our eyes and to enable us to renounce a stifling and barren individualism and instead embark on a new path of sharing and solidarity.**

The full text can be found at:

http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/motu_proprio/documents/papa-francesco-motu-proprio-20190930_aperuit-illis.html

The God Who Speaks – Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales

The focus for January is on the role of Scripture in Education and Catechesis.

The fourth focus is [When Two or Three are Gathered: Liturgical Catechesis](https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/the-god-who-speaks/focus/when-two-or-three-are-gathered-liturgical-catechesis/). Diana Klein highlights the key stages of our faith journey, the big moments in our lives and Church communities. How Scripture enriches these unique catechetical pathways. Further information is available at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/the-god-who-speaks/focus/when-two-or-three-are-gathered-liturgical-catechesis/>

Prayers for the Year of the Word: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/the-god-who-speaks/celebrating/official-prayers>

Holocaust Memorial Day – 27th January

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) takes place each year on 27th January.

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT) encourages remembrance in a world scarred by genocide. They promote and support Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) – the international day on 27 January to remember



the six million Jews murdered during the [Holocaust](#), alongside the millions of other people killed under [Nazi Persecution](#) and in subsequent genocides in [Cambodia](#), [Rwanda](#), [Bosnia](#) and [Darfur](#).

27 January marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp. It also marks the 25th anniversary of the genocide in Bosnia.

This year the chosen theme is **Stand Together**. The following explains the theme for this year; further information and resources can be found at the link below.

"The theme for HMD 2020 is Stand Together. It explores how genocidal regimes throughout history have deliberately fractured societies by marginalising certain groups, and how these tactics can be challenged by individuals standing together with their neighbours and speaking out against oppression. In the years leading up to the Holocaust, Nazi policies and propaganda deliberately encouraged divisions within German society – urging 'Aryan' Germans to keep themselves separate from their Jewish neighbours. The Holocaust, Nazi Persecution of other groups and each subsequent genocide, was enabled by ordinary citizens not standing with their targeted neighbours. Today there is increasing division in communities across the UK and the world. Now more than ever, we need to stand together with others in our communities in order to stop division and the spread of identity-based hostility in our society. Everyone can take some action to support others - by using our voices, presence, platform or influence."

<https://www.hmd.org.uk/what-is-holocaust-memorial-day/>

Saraswati Puja - Hinduism 29th January



This festival marks the beginning of Spring in and is widely celebrated in India. For Hindus it is usually linked with Saraswati, the goddess of learning, music, art, wisdom and nature. She represents the free flow of wisdom and consciousness. She is the mother of the Vedas. Saraswati is the daughter of Lord [Shiva](#) and Goddess [Durga](#). It is believed that goddess Saraswati endows human beings with the powers of speech, wisdom, and learning. She has four hands representing four aspects of human personality in learning: mind, intellect, alertness, and ego. In visual representations, she has sacred scriptures in one hand and a lotus, the symbol of true knowledge. Yellow is particularly associated with the festival and so murtis of Saraswati are dressed in yellow. Another tradition is kite-flying.

Jashn-E Sadeh – Zoroastrian 30th January

Jashn-e Sadeh is a mid-winter festival, celebrated 50 days and nights before the advent of the spring NoRuz, and signifies that the days are getting longer. On this day it is customary to pay visits to the Fire Temple to give thanks to the Creator God, to celebrate with a bonfire after sunset, to recite the *Atash Niyayeesh* or litany to fire, listen to stories of the legendary Iranians during the reign of King Hoshang, who discovered the art of making fire, share piping hot stew and bread, and enjoy the dancing and merry making.



Saints of the Week

27th January St Angela Merici



Born on March 21st, 1474, in Desenzano on the shore of Lake Garda in Lombardy, St Angela Merici was an Italian religious educator who had such a deep prayer life and relationship with the Lord that she had mystical encounters with God. When just ten years old she and her older sister were orphaned and moved to Salo to live with their uncle. They lived quiet, devout Christian lives. After her sister's sudden early death, Angela dedicated herself to the Lord and service of the Church helping everyone to grow closer to the Lord. At the age of twenty, after the death of her uncle, Angela returned to Desenzano and, seeing the lack of education available for many young girls she opened her own home and began to teach them, by example and instruction in the sacramental life of the Church. She founded an institution of

consecrated virgins who devoted their lives to the religious training of young girls. In 1535 Angela gathered twelve young women together and laid the foundation for the Order of the Ursulines. This was the first group of women religious to work outside the cloister and became the first teaching order of women in the Catholic Church. Angela died on January 27th 1540 and is buried in the Church of St Afra in Brescia. Before she died she assured her Sisters: 'I shall continue to be more alive than I was in life and I shall see you better and shall love more the good deeds which I shall see you doing continually, and I shall be able to help you more.' The Ursuline Religious Order was officially recognised by Pope Paul III in 1544 becoming a religious community of women with a teaching ministry. St. Angela Merici was beatified on April 30, 1768 by Pope Clement XIII and canonized May 24, 1807 by Pope Pius VII.

28th January St Thomas Aquinas

St. Thomas Aquinas is one of the most influential and holy saints the Catholic Church has ever produced. He is regarded as one of the greatest philosophers and theologians of the 13th century, and his work is within the curriculum of seminaries, colleges and schools around the world.



He has been called one of the most profound teachers on Eucharistic doctrine, expounding the mystery of how the bread and wine become the actual Body and Blood of Christ, calling it the **Doctrine of Transubstantiation**. His writings are for all people both the scholar and the simple believer and, as such the Church gives him the titles "Angelic," "Common" and "Universal Doctor of the Church."

Thomas Aquinas was born about the year 1225 at the castle of his father, the Count of Aquino, in Rocca Secca near Naples, Italy. A precocious child, he amazed his teachers at the Monastery of Monte Cassino, where he received his early education, with one persistent question: "What is God?" It was a question upon which he would reflect all his life. When attending the University of Naples, he was attracted to the intellectual apostolate of the Dominican Friars and joined the order. Outraged at his rejection of their own plans for him to become a prestigious abbot, and looking down on Dominicans as beggars, his aristocratic family kidnapped him on his way to Paris and imprisoned him at Rocca Secca. It took almost two years and the intercession of the Pope and the Emperor before his family finally gave up and allowed him to rejoin the Dominicans.

St. Albert the Great, became his mentor and taught him Aristotelian philosophy in Paris and Cologne. When Thomas was nicknamed the "Dumb Ox" by his classmates, most likely because of

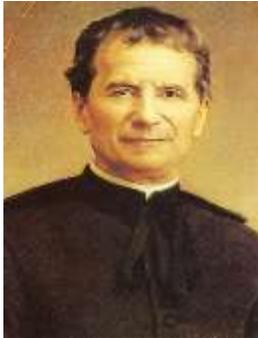
his bulky frame and quiet manner, Albert prophesied: "You call him a dumb ox, but I tell you this dumb ox will bellow so loudly that his bellowing will fill the world."

Aquinas became master teacher attracting thousands of people to his public lectures, he compiled more than 20 volumes of work, was consulted by popes and a king (Louis IX), and showed that one could use pure reason, not faith, to defend theological tenets such as the existence of God. His greatest work, the **Summa Theologica** (Summary of Theology), which he began in 1265, is a comprehensive treatise on all the Christian mysteries.

Despite his reputation as a thinker, Thomas remained a humble, devout priest who resisted attempts to make him a bishop, fasted frequently, and spent whole nights in prayer. He told his intimate friend, St. Bonaventure, that it was while he leaned his head against the tabernacle and turned his mind in sorrow to the image of the crucified Christ, that he derived all his learning.

In December 1273 when Thomas was lost in prayer while living in the Dominican priory in Naples, a sacristan concealed himself to watch. He saw Thomas lifted into the air and heard Christ speak to him from the crucifix on the chapel wall, "Thomas, you have written well of me. What reward will you have?" "Lord, nothing but yourself," he heard Thomas reply. A little while later, while saying Mass in that same chapel, Thomas had a profound revelation. He told his long time secretary that compared to this experience, "All that I have written seems like straw to me." After that, he never wrote again, leaving his Summa Theologica unfinished. Thomas Aquinas died on 7th March 1274, and immediately Albert the Great, who was then in Cologne, broke down into tears. He exclaimed to his community: "Brother Thomas Aquinas, my son in Christ, the light of the Church, is dead! God has revealed it to me."

31st January St Don Bosco



John Bosco was born on 16 August 1815 in a farmhouse near a small village east of Turin in northern Italy. His father died when he very young. He felt this very deeply and it made him want to care for young people who struggled with the same circumstances in their lives. His mother, Margaret, was a wonderful woman whose own faith made a deep impression on him.

When he was only nine years old, he had a dream that was prophetic. In the dream, he was with a whole lot of children who were playing. The problem was that they were going hell for leather and were pushing and shoving each other and swearing and cursing at each other. John didn't like this and tried to stop them by throwing himself into the game and swearing and cursing himself and trying to force them to stop what they were doing by being just as rough himself.

But a man appeared to him who said: "Don't hit them, you will only be able to win them over with kindness and love. I will give you a teacher who will help you to become really wise." He didn't realise it immediately, but the man was Jesus and the teacher he was promised was Mary. He eventually placed his whole life under her guidance and honoured her with the title "Help of Christians".

This experience led John to want to learn to be an acrobat, a magician, a singer and a juggler to be able to attract companions to him and to keep them far from sin. "If they are with me," he used to say to his mother "they don't curse". This also led him to want to become a priest and to

dedicate himself entirely to helping young people learn to love God. He used to work all day to earn his keep and would spend his nights studying to be able to enter the seminary to become a priest. Finally, when he was 20, he was able to enter the seminary and was ordained as a priest in Turin in 1841, at the age of 26.

Because the Industrial Revolution was in full swing, Turin was full of poor young people. They were either orphaned or abandoned, looking for work and were exposed to all sorts of dangers. Don, the Spanish title for 'Father,' Bosco started to gather them together on Sundays, sometimes in a Church, sometimes in vacant lots, sometimes in open public spaces where they could play and where he could teach them about their faith. After five years of enormous difficulties, he managed to establish his first oratory [youth centre] in an outlying suburb of Turin called Valdocco. This enabled him to provide food and accommodation for them. Eventually, he was also able to offer them a place to study or learn a trade. Above all they learned to love God. One of his more famous students was a young man called Dominic Savio. He was eventually canonised as a saint.

Don Bosco was loved no end by his "rascals" as he used to call them. Whenever anyone asked him the secret of such success, he would reply, "I always try to win them over with kindness and love." He spent what little money he had, his time, his most extraordinary talents and his health all to help them out. It was from among these young boys and men that he chose the first Salesians. Wishing to provide the same sorts of opportunities to girls, he founded with Saint Maria Mazzarello, the Salesian Sisters [The Daughters of Mary Help of Christians.] In his 'free' time, which he often snatched from his sleep, he wrote and popularised simple booklets on the Christian faith for the edification of ordinary people.

As well as being a practical man, he lived his life based on a deep love of God. His mother, Margaret, had instilled this in him from a young age. This was united with a profound sense of compassion for people from all walks of life based on humanity, kindness and a balanced attitude towards life.

He was convinced that everyone could be holy and constantly challenged his boys to love God and to accept responsibility for their own development as Christians and as good members of society. His famous quotes: "It is enough for me that you are young for me to love you" and "You will find writers far more talented than me, but, you will never find anyone who loves you and wants your true happiness more than I do", make clear his commitment to nurturing the fragile spirits of young people. Everyone he met felt as if they were especially loved by him.

Exhausted finally by his tireless work, he fell seriously ill. As he lay dying, many of his boys offered their own life to God in exchange for his. He died on 31st January 1888, at the age of 72. On Easter Sunday, 1st April 1934, Pope Pius XI, who had known him personally, proclaimed him a Saint.



**Good can exist without evil,
whereas evil cannot exist
without good.**

Thomas Aquinas