

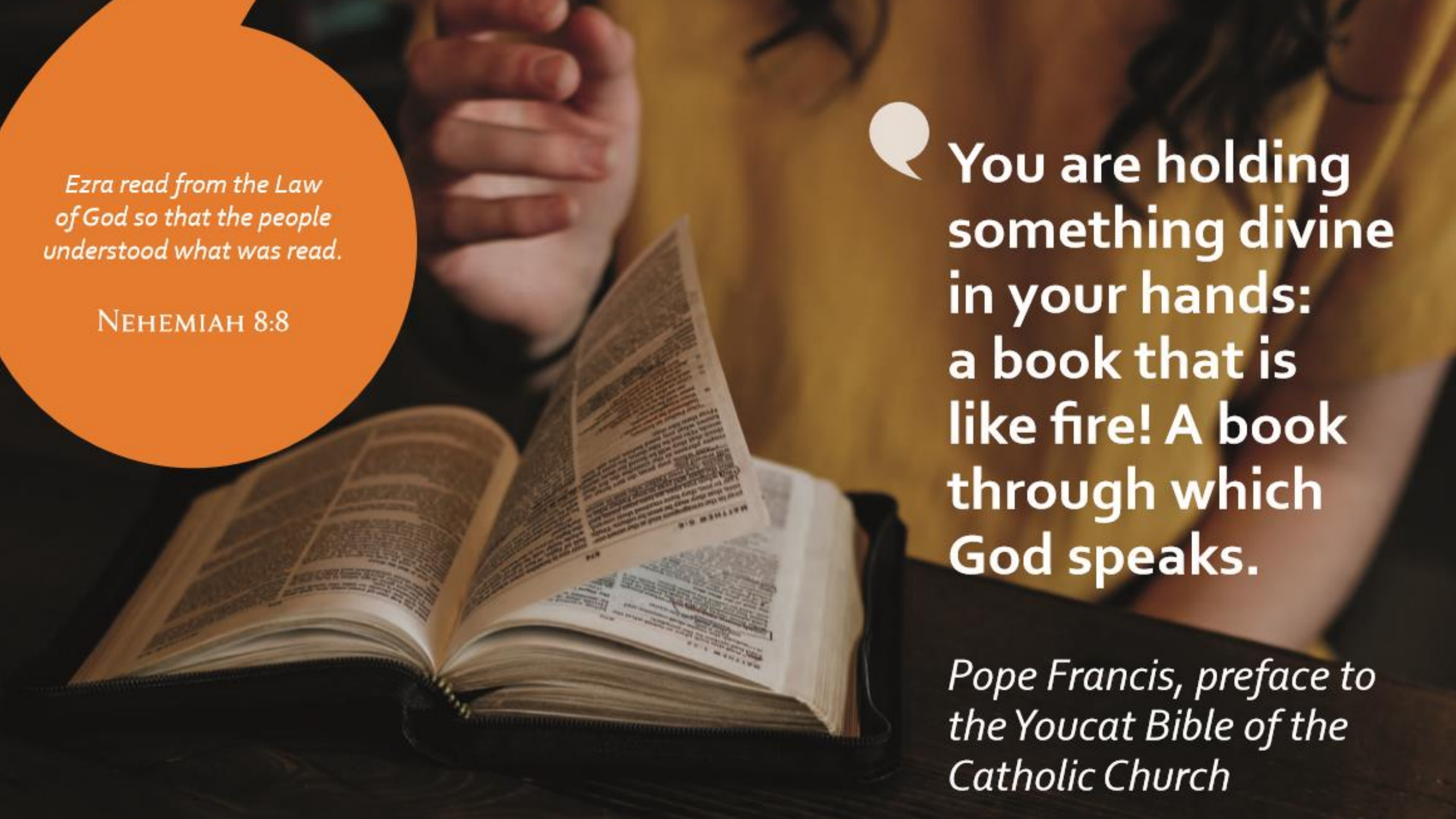
The God Who  
Speaks:  
The Year of the  
Word

30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup>  
December 2020



THE  
GOD  
WHO  
SPEAKS





*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.’





This year has been designated as 'The God Who Speaks - The Year of the Word'.

There will also be a specific focus on St. Matthew's Gospel.

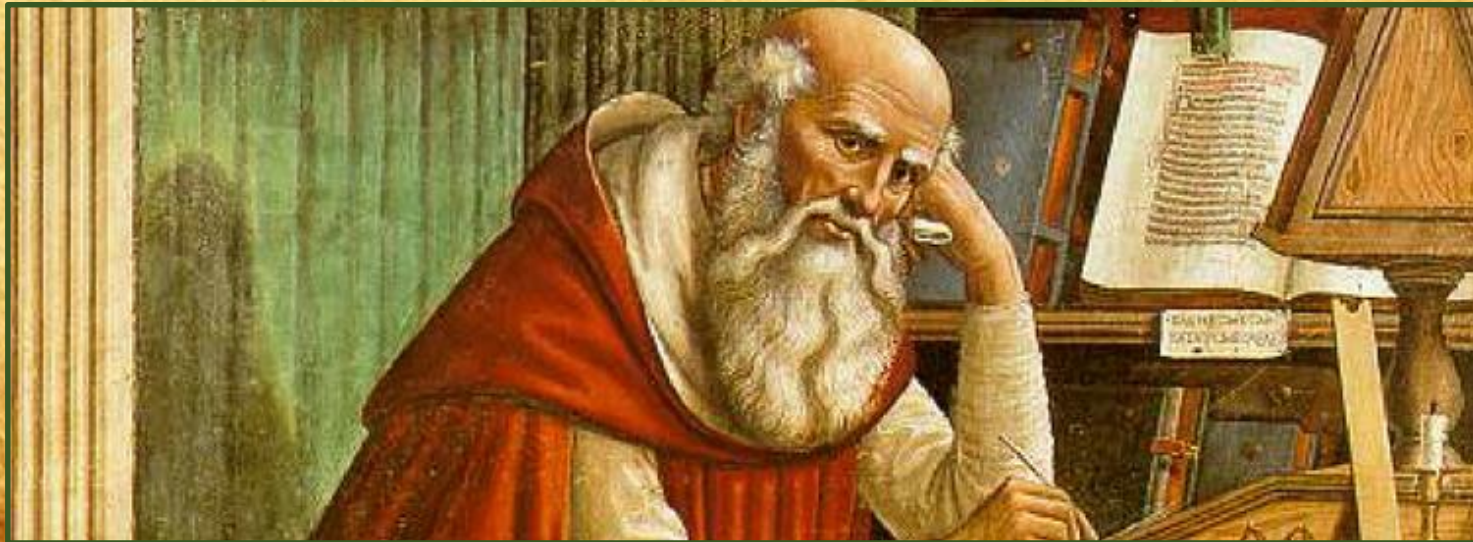




# The Official Launch

The official launch of The God Who Speaks – The Year of the Word is on **30<sup>th</sup> September** with Cardinal Nichols video in the National Gallery on the feast of St. Jerome.

The 'year' will officially start on **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019**, the first Sunday of Advent, the beginning of the Church's Liturgical Year.





# 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.

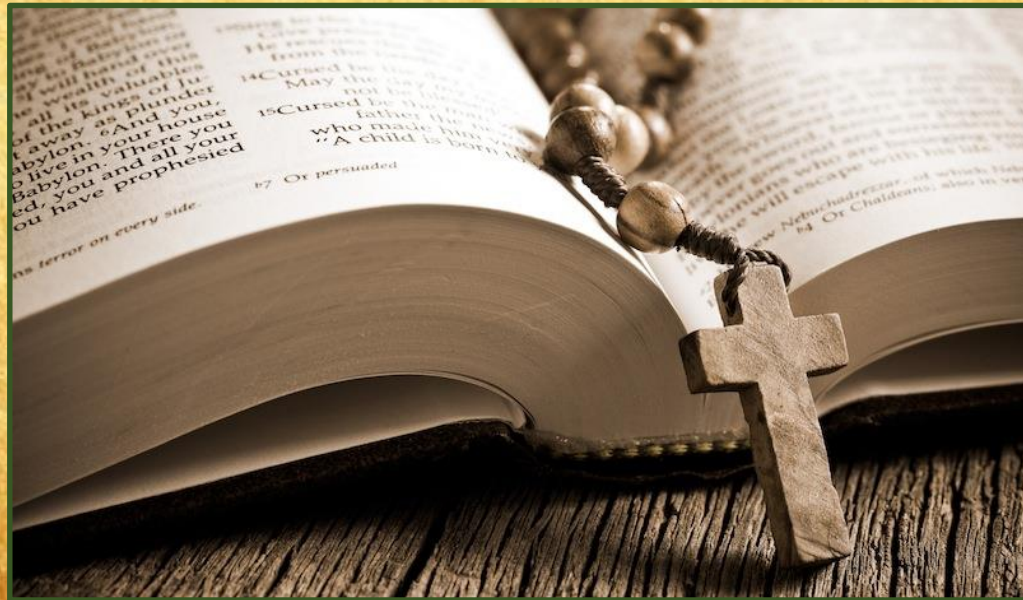
THE  
GOD  
WHO  
SPEAKS

[godwhospeaks.uk](http://godwhospeaks.uk)

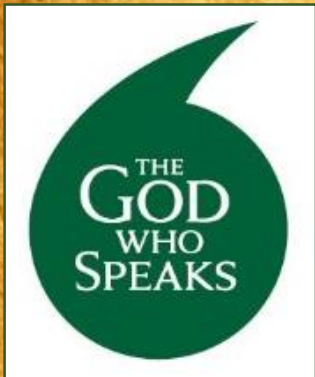


The aim of The God Who Speaks - The Year of  
the Word is:

‘Celebrating, Living and Sharing  
God’s Word.’







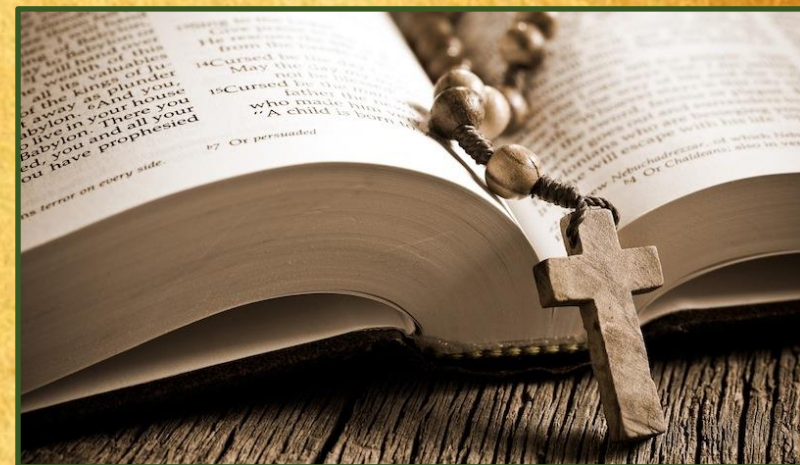
# Celebrating



# Living

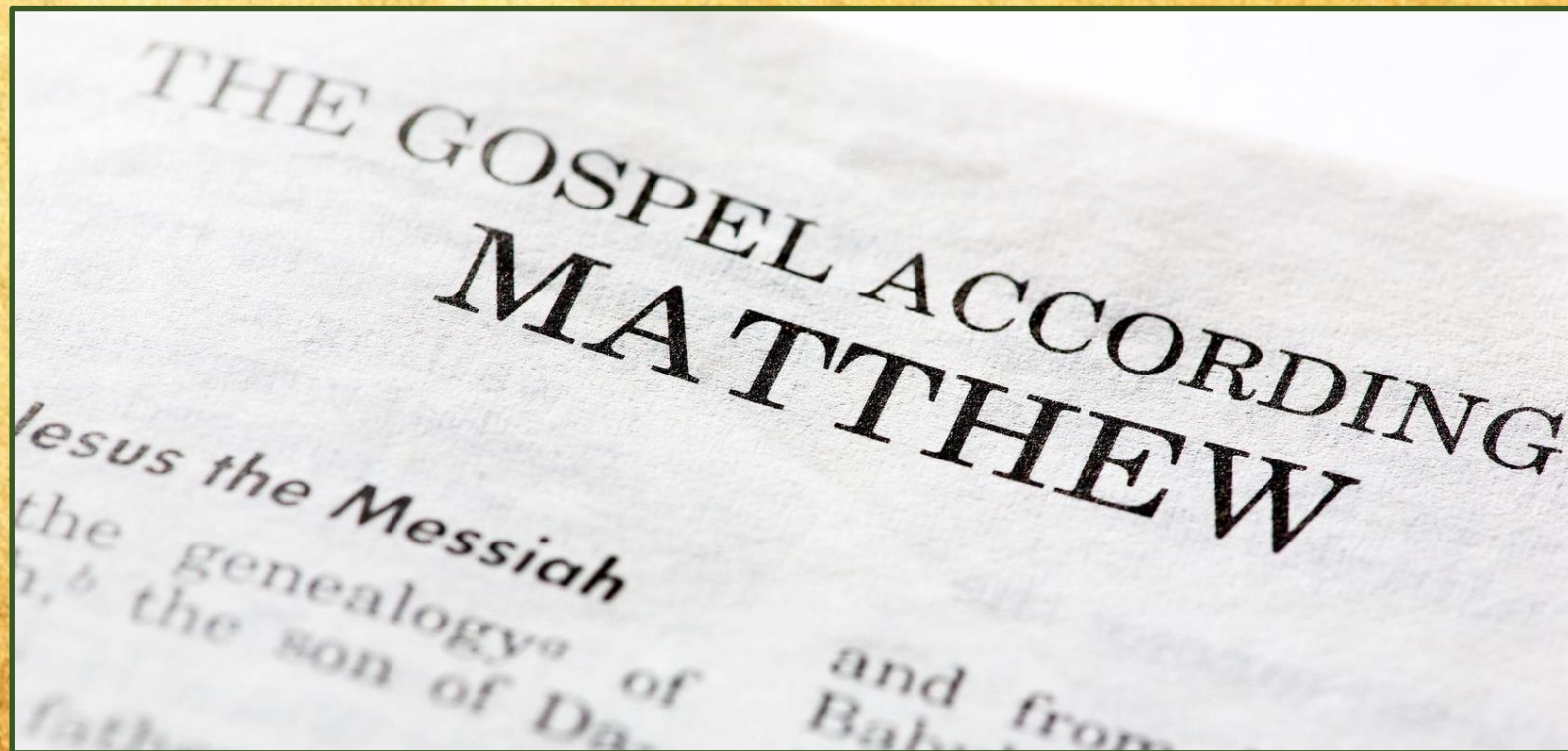


# Sharing





During this very special year we will have the opportunity to celebrate, live and share in the joy of scripture, and in particular the good news of Matthew's gospel.





# 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!

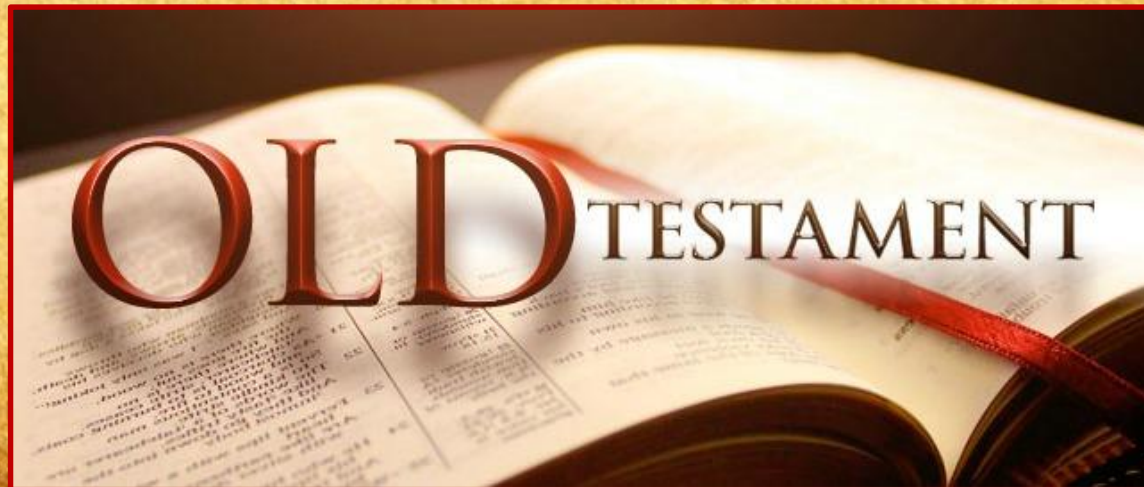




# The Bible is split into two 'sections':

- The Old Testament
- The New Testament

There are 46 books in the Old Testament...





# The Old Testament





...and 27 books in the New Testament.

# INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT





...and here they are!





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 shortest book of the Bible  
is **3 John**.

You can read this book in about  
one minute!

The book right before it, **2 John**, is the second-shortest  
book of the Bible.





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'!





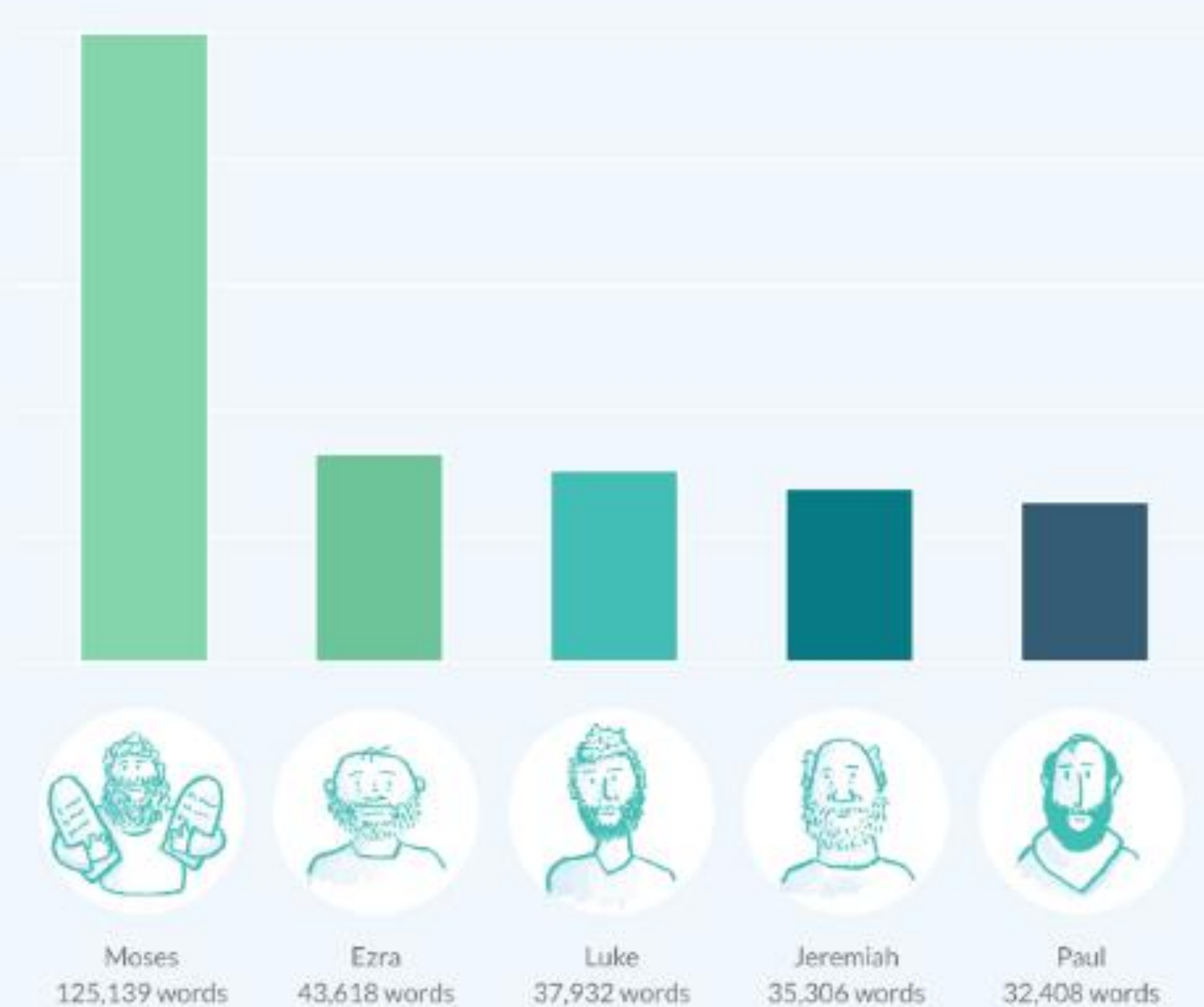
Moses wrote about 20% of the Bible  
in terms of word count.

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!

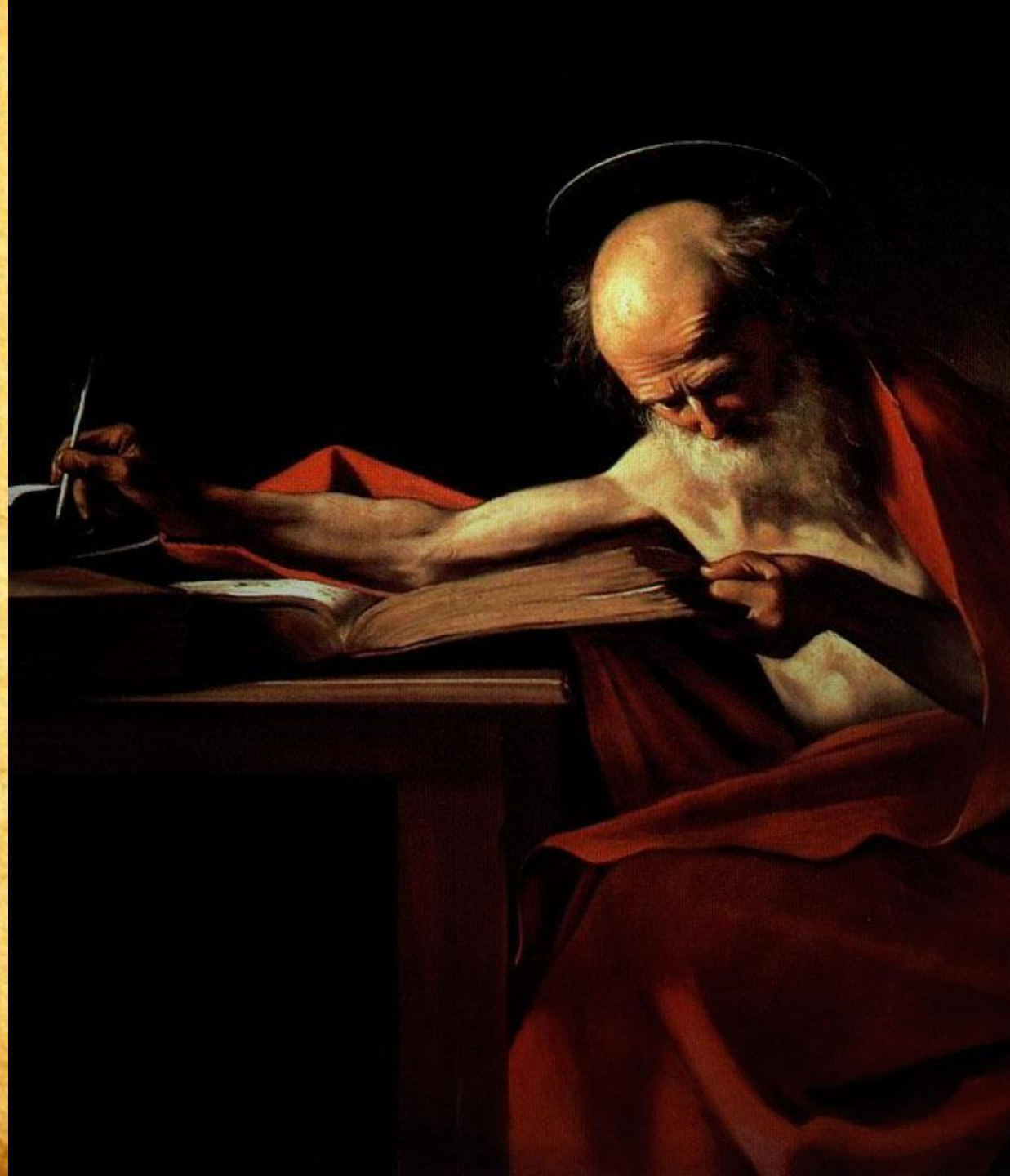




# Why St. Jerome?

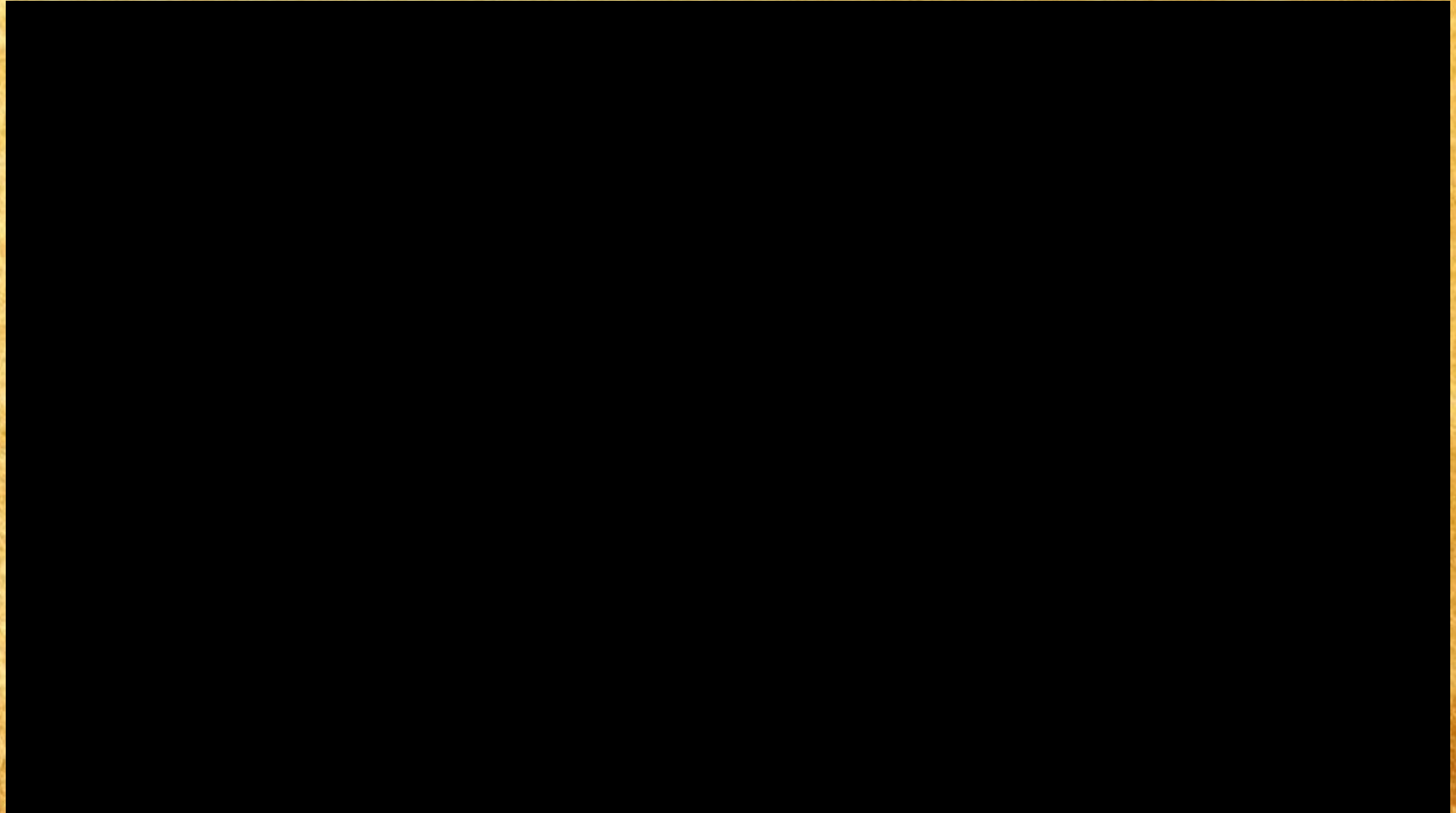
Patron of archaeologists,  
Biblical scholars, librarians,  
students and translators

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.





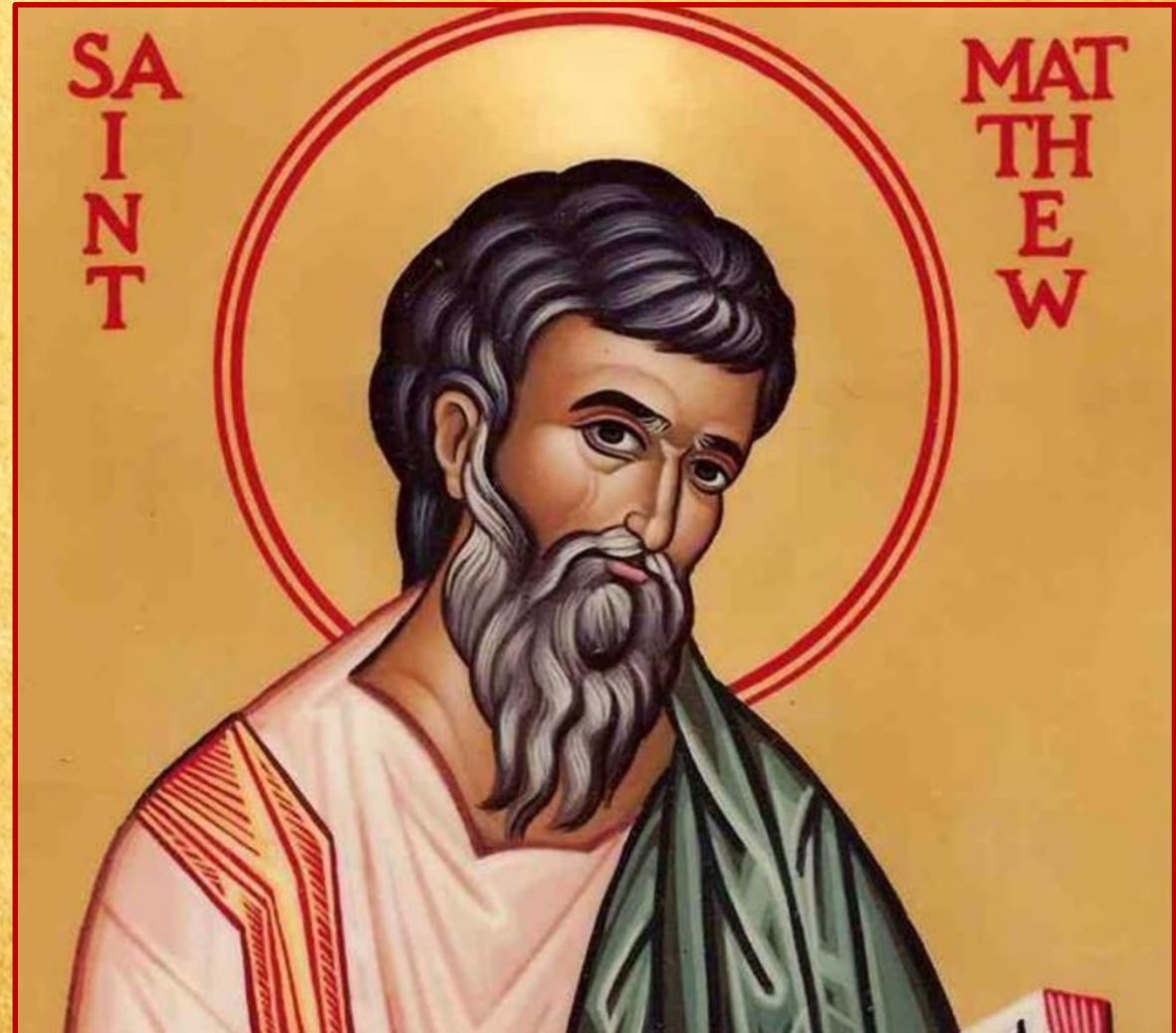
# The Life of St. Jerome





# Matthew the Gospel Writer

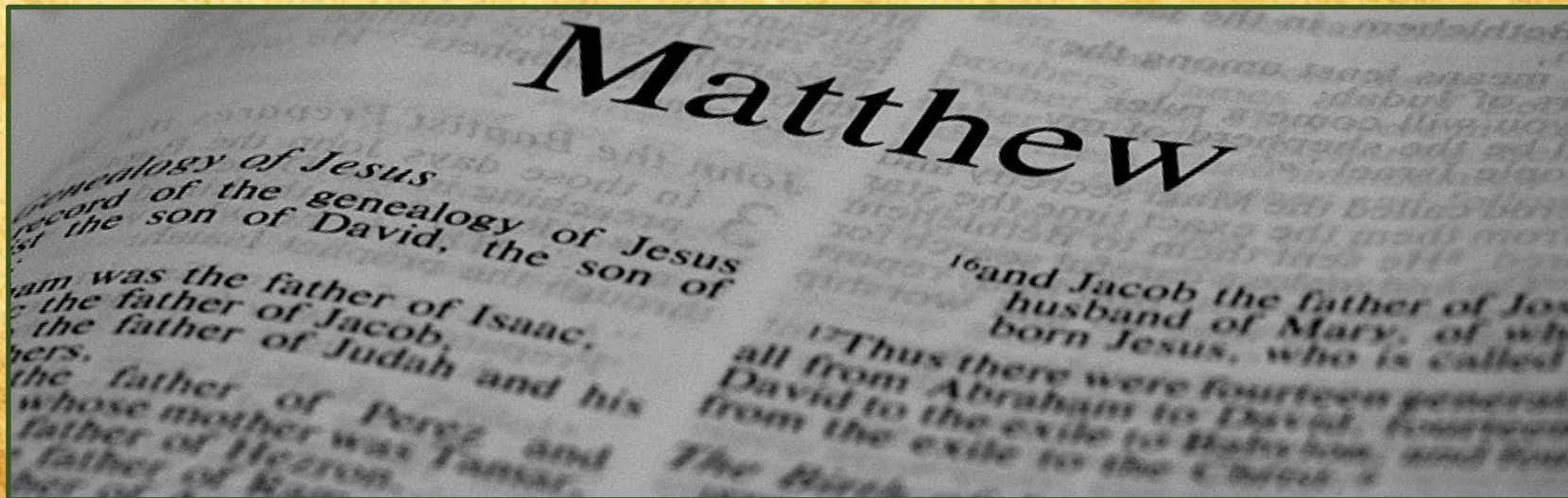
The Year of the Word will focus on the Gospel of Matthew which will start to be read at the beginning of Advent on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019.





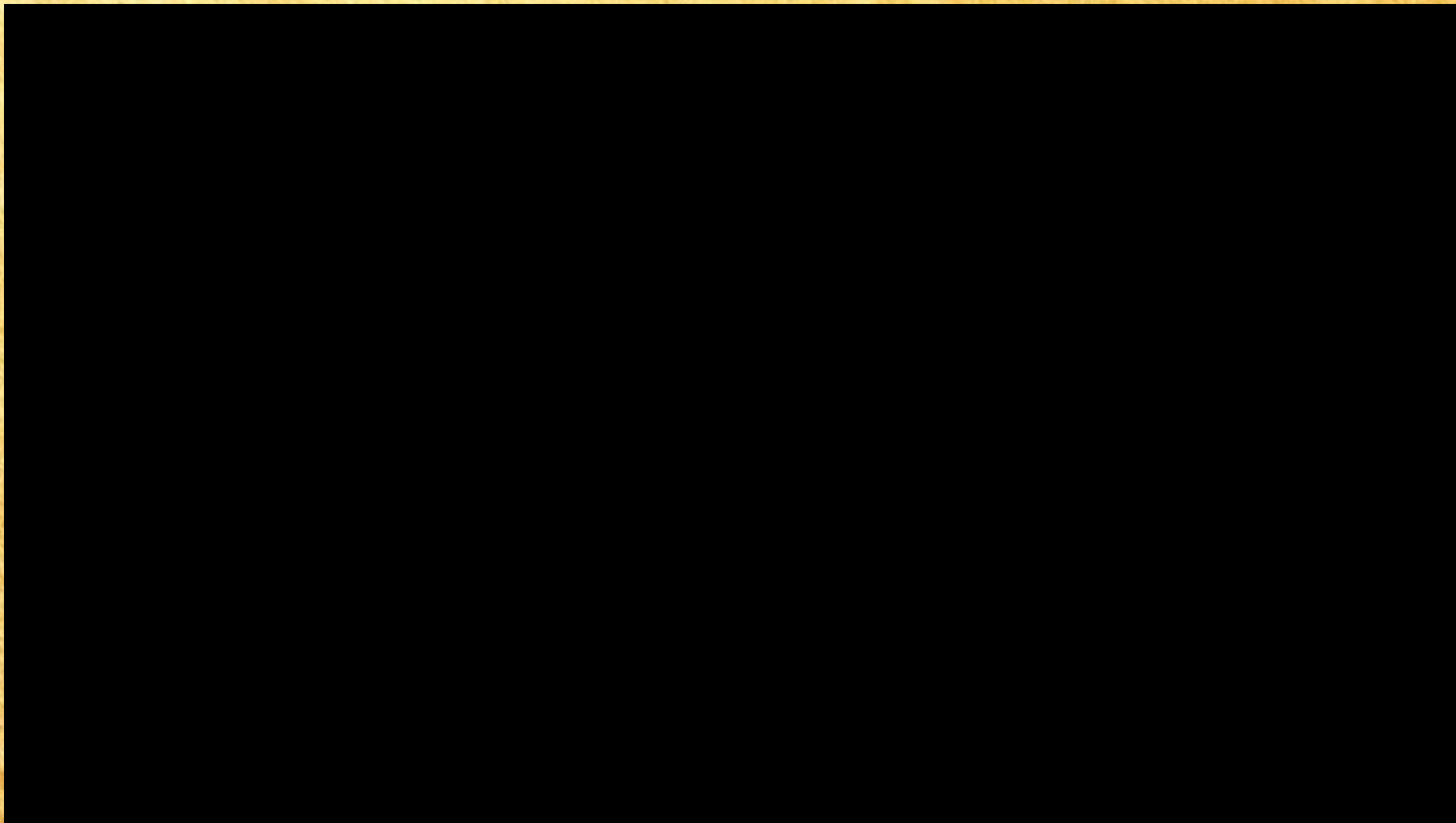
# Matthew the Gospel Writer

Little is known about St. Matthew, except that he was the son of **Alpheus**, and he was likely born in Galilee. He worked as a **tax collector**, which was a hated profession during the time of Christ.



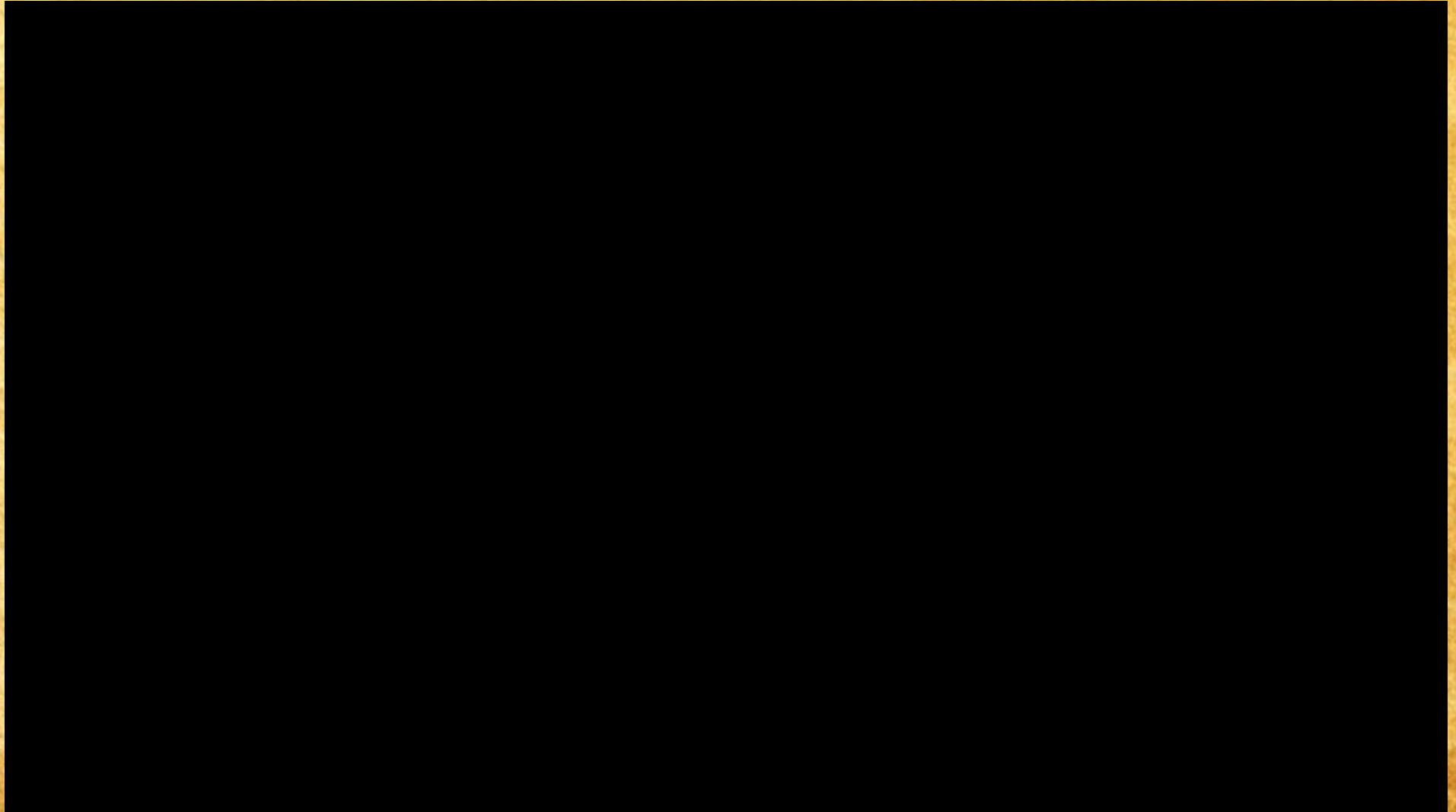


# St Matthew – Saints For Kids





# St. Matthew – Catholic On-line





## The Prologue and Jesus' Birth and Significance

CHAPTER 1:18-25  
The Nativity

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel.

Three Wise Men  
CHAPTER 2:7-12

CHAPTER 3:13-17  
John Baptises Jesus

Always treat others as you would like them to treat you.

Simon Peter, Andrew, James & John  
CHAPTER 4:18-22

## The Kingdom of Heaven is Announced

CHAPTER 5:3-12  
Sermon on the Mount  
The Beatitudes

The Lord's Prayer  
CHAPTER 6:9-15

CHAPTER 7:7-12  
The Golden Rule

Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me.

Miracle of the Gadarene Pigs  
CHAPTER 8:28-34

## Signs of the Kingdom

CHAPTER 9:27-31  
Jesus Heals the Blind Men

Jesus Sends His Disciples  
CHAPTER 10:5-15

Come To Me All Who Are Weary  
CHAPTER 11:28-30

## The Mystery of the Kingdom of Heaven

I speak to you in parables.

Parable of the Mustard Seed  
CHAPTER 13:31-33

Death & Resurrection  
CHAPTER 12:40-42

## The Passion and Resurrection

CHAPTER 28:1-10  
Women Find the Empty Tomb

Jesus is Crucified and Buried  
CHAPTER 27:32-44

CHAPTER 26:26-29  
Jesus and the Eucharist

Parable of the Bridesmaids  
CHAPTER 25:1-13

CHAPTER 24:29-31  
The Coming of the Son of Man

Jesus Denounces the Hypocrites  
CHAPTER 23:13-36

Parable of the Wedding Feast  
CHAPTER 22:1-14

CHAPTER 21:1-11  
The Entry into Jerusalem

Mother of the Sons of Zebedee  
CHAPTER 20:20-28

CHAPTER 19:13-15  
Jesus Blesses the Little Children

## The Church, the first fruits of the Kingdom of Heaven

CHAPTER 18:10-14  
The Lost Sheep

CHAPTER 17:1-8  
Jesus is Transfigured

Jesus Asks the Disciples  
Who do you say I am?  
CHAPTER 16:15-20

CHAPTER 15:22-28  
The Daughter is Healed

Feeding the Five Thousand  
CHAPTER 14:13-21

Where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them.

## The Coming of the Kingdom of Heaven

Love God and love your neighbour as yourself.

# JOURNEY WITH MATTHEW

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS



# PILGRIM PRAYER FOR THE YEAR

Pilgrim God, you walk alongside us and speak to us throughout the Scriptures:  
in the message of the prophets, the songs of David and the vision of Paul.

Your Son, Jesus Christ, listens to our hopes and fears and shows us how to live:  
in our love of neighbour, our desire for justice, and in our dying and rising each day.

Send us the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds so that we may be your witnesses throughout the world:  
in our protection of the vulnerable, our words and actions and in our communion with the earth.

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:  
The Year of the  
Word

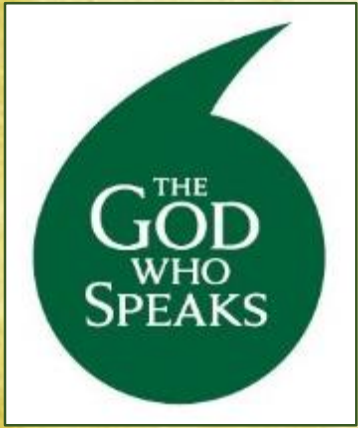
30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup>  
December 2020



THE  
GOD  
WHO  
SPEAKS



# Celebrating Living Sharing





# Saint Matthew's Gospel Day-by-day



Thank you for responding to the invitation and challenge to read the whole of the Gospel according to Saint Matthew at least once through the course of 2020. On a number of occasions early in his pontificate Pope Francis asked the crowds in S. Peter's Square, 'Have you read part of the gospel to-day?' or 'Do you carry a gospel with you to be able to read some verses each day?' The Holy Father commends reading part of the Gospel every day so that we can listen to Jesus at all times.

Throughout 2020 the Bishops of England and Wales invite you to join them in reading S. Matthew's Gospel, just a few verses each day. If you are able to share that reading aloud with your family all the better, perhaps taking turns with the pericopes for the day.

In his Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel) the Holy Father says the Lord does not disappoint those who take the risk of letting Him encounter them each day; '*no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord*'.(EG.3)

*'Mary, Virgin and Mother, ... obtain for us a new ardour born of the resurrection, that we may bring to all the Gospel of life which triumphs over death.'* (EG.288)

May the words of the gospel bring you and your families renewed faith, hope and joy.

*Bishop Peter M. Brignall, Bishop of Wrexham and Chair of the 2020 Planning Team.*



#### Day 1

The Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah 1:1-1:17

The Birth of Jesus the Messiah 1:18-25

#### Day 2

The Visit of the Wise Men 2:1-2:12

The Escape to Egypt 2:13-15

The Massacre of the Infants 2:16-23

#### Day 3

Return from Egypt 2:19-23

The Proclamation of John the Baptist 3:1-12

The Baptism of Jesus 3:13-17

#### Day 4

The Temptation of Jesus 4:1-11

Jesus Begins his Ministry in Galilee 4:12-17

Jesus Calls his first Disciples 4:18-22

Jesus Ministers to Crowds of People 4:23-25

#### Day 5

The Beatitudes 5:1-12

Salt and Light 5:13-16

The Law and the Prophets 5:16-20

#### Day 6

Concerning Anger 5:21-26

Concerning Adultery 5:17-30

Concerning Divorce 5:31-32

Concerning Oaths 5:33-37

Concerning Retaliation 5:38-42

#### Day 7

Love for Enemies 5:43-48

Concerning Almsgiving 6:1-4

Concerning Prayer 6:5-15

Concerning Fasting 6:16-18

#### Day 8

Concerning Treasures 6:19-21

The Sound Eye 6:22-23

Serving Two Masters 6:24

Do Not Worry 6:25-34

Judging Others 7:1-5

#### Day 9

Profaning the Holy 7:6

Ask Search Knock 7:7-11

The Golden Rule 7:12

The Narrow Gate 7:13-14

A Tree and its Fruit 7:15-20

Concerning Self-Deception 7:21-23

Hearers and Doers 7:24-28



#### Day 10

Jesus Cleanses a Leper 8:1-4

Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant 8:5-13

Jesus Heals many at Peter's House 8:14-17

#### Day 11

Would-be Followers of Jesus 8:18-22

Jesus Stills the Storm 8:23-27

Jesus Heals the Gadarene Demoniacs 8:28-9:1

#### Day 12

Jesus Heals a Paralytic 9:2-8

The Calling of Matthew 9:9-13

The Question about Fasting 9:14-17

#### Day 13

A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed 9:18-26

Jesus Heals two Blind Men 9:27-31

Jesus Heals One Who was Mute 9:32-34

#### Day 14

The Harvest is Great, the Labourers few 9:35-38

The Twelve Apostles 10:1-4

The Mission of the Twelve 10:5-15

Coming Persecutions 10:16-25

#### Day 15

Whom to Fear 10:26-33

Not Peace, but a Sword 10:34-39

Rewards 10:40-11:1

Messengers from John the Baptist 11:2-6

Jesus Praises John the Baptist 11:7-19

#### Day 16

Woes to Unrepentant Cities 11:20-24

Jesus Thanks his Father 11:25-30

Plucking Grain on the Sabbath 12:1-8

#### Day 17

The Man with a Withered Hand 12:9-14

God's Chosen-Servant 12:15-21

Jesus and Beelzebul 12:22-32

A Tree and its Fruit 12:33-37

#### Day 18

The Sign of Jonah 12:38-42

The Return of the Unclean Spirit 12:43-45

The True Family of Jesus 12:46-50

#### Day 19

The Parable to the Sower 13:1-9

The Purpose of the Parables 13:10-17

The Parable of the Sower Explained 13:18-23



#### Day 20

The Parable of Weeds among the Wheat 13:24-30  
The Parable of the Mustard seed 13:31-32  
The Parable of the Yeast 13:33  
The Use of Parables 13:34-35  
Jesus Explains the Parable of the Weeds 13:36-43

#### Day 21

Three Parables 13:44-50  
Treasures New and Old 13:51-53  
The Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth 13:54-58  
The Death of John the Baptist 14:1-12

#### Day 22

Feeding the Five Thousand 14:13-21  
Jesus Walks on the Water 14:22-33  
Jesus Heals the sick in Gennesaret 14:34-14:35

#### Day 23

The Tradition of the Elders 15:1-9  
Things that Defile 15:10-20  
The Canaanite Woman's Faith 15:21-28  
Jesus Cures many People 15:29-31

#### Day 24

Feeding Four Thousand 15:32-39  
The Demand for a Sign 16:1-4  
The Yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees 16:5-12

#### Day 25

Peter's Declaration about Jesus 16:13-20  
Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection 16:21-23  
The Cross and Self-Denial 16:24-28  
The Transfiguration 17:1-13

#### Day 26

Jesus Cures a Boy with a Demon 17:14-21  
Jesus again Foretells His Death and Resurrection 17:22-23  
Jesus and the Temple Tax 17:24-27  
True Greatness 18:1-5  
Temptations to Sin 18:6-9

#### Day 27

The Parable of the Lost Sheep 18:10-14  
Reproving Another Who Sins 18:15-20  
Forgiveness 18:21-22  
The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant 18:23-35

#### Day 28

Teaching about Divorce 19:1-12  
Jesus Blesses Little Children 9:13-15  
The Rich Young Man 19:16-30



Day 29

The Labourers in the Vineyard 20:1-16

A 3rd Time Jesus Foretells His Death & Resurrection 20:17-19

Day 30

The Request of the Mother of James and John 20:20-28

Jesus Heals Two blind Men 20:29-33

Day 31

Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem 21:1-11

Jesus Cleanses the Temple 21:12-17

Jesus Curses the Fig Tree 21:18-22

Day 32

The Authority of Jesus Questioned 21:23-27

The Parable of the Two Sons 21:28-32

The Parable of the Wicked Tenants 21:33-46

Day 33

The Parable of the Wedding Banquet 22:1-14

The Question about Paying Taxes 22:15-22

The Question about the Resurrection 22:23-33

Day 34

The Greatest Commandment 22:34-40

The Question about David's Son 22:41-46

Jesus Denounces Scribes and Pharisees 23:1-36

Day 35

Lament over Jerusalem 23:37-39

The Destruction of the Temple Foretold 24:1-2

Signs of the End of the Age 24:3-8

Persecutions Foretold 24:9-14

The Desolating Sacrilege 24:15-31

Day 36

The Coming of the Son of Man 24:29-31

The Lesson of the Fig Tree 24:32-35

The Necessity of watchfulness 24:36-44

The Faithful or the Unfaithful Slave 24:45-51

Day 37

The Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids 25:1-13

The Parable of the Talents 25:14-30

Day 38

The Judgement of the Nations 25:31-45

The Plot to Kill Jesus 26:1-5

The Anointing at Bethany 26:6-13

Day 39

Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus 26:14-16

The Passover with the Disciples 26:17-30

Peter's Denial Foretold 26:31-35



Day 40

Jesus Prays in Gethsemane 26:36-46

The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus 26:47-56

Day 41

Jesus before the High Priest 26:57-68

Peter's Denial of Jesus 26:69-75

Jesus Brought before Pilate 27:1-2

The Suicide of Judas 27:3-10

Pilate Questions Jesus 27:11-14

Day 42

Barabbas or Jesus? 27:15-23

Pilate hands Jesus over to be Crucified 27:24-26

The Soldiers Mock Jesus 27:27-31

Day 43

The Crucifixion of Jesus 27:32-44

The Death of Jesus 27:45-56

The Burial of Jesus 27:57-61

Day 44

The Guard at the Tomb 27:62-66

The Resurrection of Jesus 28:1-10

The Report of the Guard 28:11-15

The Commissioning of the Disciples 28:16-20

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

*Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*

Of Saint Dominic it is written: 'In his conversations and letters he often urged the brothers of the Order to study constantly the Old and New Testaments. He always carried with him the gospel according to Matthew and the epistles of Paul, and so well did he study them that he almost knew them from memory.'

*Various writings on the history of the Order of Preachers.*