

LETTERS FROM HOME SUNDAY

"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." —Pope Francis

The Gospel message always begins with a greeting of peace.

Pope Francis,
Evangelii Gaudium, n. 229

When you read God's Word, you must constantly be saying to yourself, "It is talking to me, and about me."

Soren Kierkegaard

It would be beneficial if every Christian community, on one Sunday of the liturgical year, could renew its efforts to make the Sacred Scriptures better known and more widely diffused. It would be 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.

Creative initiatives can help make this an opportunity for the faithful to become living vessels for the transmission of God's word. Initiatives of this sort would certainly include the practice of lectio divina, so that the prayerful reading of the sacred text will help support and strengthen the spiritual life. Such a reading, centred on themes relating to mercy, will enable a personal experience of the great fruitfulness of the biblical text – read in the light of the Church's spiritual tradition – and thus give rise to concrete gestures and works of charity.

Pope Francis, *Misericordia et misera*, n. 13.

The Holy Scriptures are our letters from home.

St Augustine of Hippo

The Gospel tells us constantly to run the risk of a face-to-face encounter with others, with their physical presence which challenges us, with their pain and their please, with their joy which infects us in our close and continuous interaction. (n. 88)

Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*

What would happen if we turned back when we forget it, if we opened it more times a day, if we read the message of God contained in the Bible the way we read messages on our cellphones?

Pope Francis, (<https://cruxnow.com/vatican/2017/03/05/pope-urges-faithful-consult-bible-often-cellphones/>)

The Church has always venerated the divine Scriptures just as she venerates the body of the Lord, since, especially in the sacred liturgy, she unceasingly receives and offers to the faithful the bread of life from the table both of God's word and of Christ's body. *Dei Verbum*, n. 21.

I love my old Bible, which has accompanied me half my life. It has been with me in my times of joy and times of tears. It is my most precious treasure," "I live out of it, and I wouldn't give anything in the world for it.

Pope Francis, <http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2015/10/26/pope-francis-youth-bible-is-most-precious-treasure-now-read-it/>

May every day of our lives thus be shaped by a renewed encounter with Christ, the Word of the Father made flesh: he stands at the beginning and the end, and "in him all things hold together" (Col 1:17). Let us be silent in order to hear the Lord's word and to meditate upon it, so that by the working of the Holy Spirit it may remain in our hearts and speak to us all the days of our lives. *Verbum Domini* §124

St Athanasius said:
A psalm 'is a mirror in which you contemplate yourself and movements of your soul'. This beautiful insight encourages us to pray the psalms and to allow them to teach us about ourselves and to give expression to our deepest feelings, concerns and desires.

Mary Reaburn nds

The Sacred Scriptures are the very source of evangelisation.

Pope Francis,
Evangelii Gaudium, n. 174.

For some years now I have read through the Bible twice every year. If you picture the Bible to be a mighty tree and every word a little branch, I have shaken every one of these branches because I wanted to know what it was and what it meant.

Martin Luther