



10 January 2020

### **Word of God Sunday 26 January 2020**

Dear Diocesan Office Administrator, Principal and DRS

The purpose of this letter is to raise awareness of the recent announcement from Pope Francis inviting our Catholic community to engage with the Sacred Scripture more attentively with devotion. The Pope's key message is that salvation, faith, unity and mercy all depend on knowing Christ and Sacred Scripture.

Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter, Motu proprio "Aperuit illis", published 30 September 2019, established the "Third Sunday in Ordinary Time to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God". We are invited to never take God's Word for granted, "but instead to let ourselves be nourished by it, in order to acknowledge and live fully our relationship with Him and with our brothers and sisters".

The Pope concludes his Apostolic Letter by defining the challenge we face in our lives as the practice of mercy in response to listening to Sacred Scripture. He elaborates, "God's Word has the power to open our eyes and to enable us to renounce a stifling and barren individualism and instead to embark on a new path of sharing and solidarity".

Shortly the National Liturgy Office - Te Tari Ā Motu Mō Ngā Ritenga, will have supporting resources on the website <https://www.nlo.org.nz/>. Attached are two files which your office could email to parishes to encourage priests and liturgy leaders to mark in a special way the Word of God Sunday.

*Attached:* Two versions for a parish newsletter;  
Ideas to consider for parishioners and teachers.

*Mā te Atua koe koutou e manaaki, e tiaki hoki*

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