



Esgobaeth Wrecsam + Diocese of Wrexham

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8th January 2020

Diocesan Directors of Education & Diocesan Religious Education Advisors
England and Wales

Dear Colleagues,

2020 God Who Speaks

5th March

World Book Day

Firstly my thanks to all who work in our Catholic Schools for the enthusiastic response that has been made to the **2020 God Who Speaks** project. [Fleur Dorrell](#) tells me that the requests from schools for her and resources have been hugely encouraging though exhausting trying to keep up. I am most grateful to you all for embracing the campaign so warmly and promoting it in and to our schools across England and Wales.

One specific way our schools can be engaged with a sense of unity is to make a distinctive mark with Word Book Day (WBD) this year by focusing on the book that is the Bible, or just one of its seventy-three books, perhaps a Gospel and if so S.Matthew's. There could be the reading of favourite Bible stories or of some of the less familiar ones; there can be Bible themed collective worship, the potential is enormous. Another suggestion would be to invite into your schools local personages –MPs, AMs, Mayors, Community Police Officers, Fire Officers, even celebrities if they have them in the locality and others- asking that they read their 'favourite' Bible story or passage and give a few words of explanation as to why it is special to them. Such an activity is both good publicity/marketing/community engagement of schools and thus a form of evangelisation as well as a demonstration to the children that ordinary, everyday people read and read the Bible. Secondary schools might choose to have a 'Gospel readathon'. This, other ideas and resources can be adapted from the WBD website <https://www.worldbookday.com/> to make World Book Day, a Bible Day, a God Who Speaks Day in our schools.

I commend this idea to you and ask that you circulate it to your schools. If you have not yet visited godwhospeaks.uk you will find there many more resources and information about the 2020 project through which we are working to achieve transformation in our hearts and in our communities by celebrating, living and sharing God's word. Make World Book Day distinctive and special in 2020 by reading the Bible to-day and encourage reading it for the rest of the year too.

The Planning Group would be pleased to hear your ideas and receive your feedback on this and any other aspect of the Project on godwhospeaks@cbcew.org.uk

With every good wish and prayers.

Yours sincerely,



† Peter

The Rt. Reverend Peter M. Brignall

Bishop of Wrexham & Planning Group Chairman

P.S. If schools have already set themselves up for WBD using those resources provided, they might consider using these ideas in the week after the 'Sunday of the Word' (25th January) instituted by Pope Francis in his Apostolic Letter *Aperuit Illis* of 8th December 2019 rather than letting it pass altogether.