

## Some of the key aims of *The Wednesday Word* include:

- to serve the Catholic dioceses of England and Wales and further the mission of the Catholic Church's new evangelisation by enabling schools to spread the Word of God (*Sunday's Gospel*) - Good News - to primary school parents, carers and their families
- to make real the Diocesan mission statement: "taking to heart the last words of the Lord Jesus, we will go into the world to proclaim the Good News to the whole of creation"
- to create a new form of lively weekly contact between the Church and parents who may be adrift from going to Church; which includes a weekly invitation to the celebration of the Eucharist whilst their child is connected to the life of the Catholic school
- to help school parents and families to draw closer to Christ and his Church by educating them about scripture and Catholic faith through *The Wednesday Word* ensuring that all supporting material is overseen by Catholic scripture scholars and endorsed with an *imprimatur*
- to strengthen the school's Catholic ethos and promote this new way of collaborative ministry which enhances the home, school and parish partnership and encourages Christian unity in mixed denominational school families through a shared reflection on the Gospel
- to create a new weekly opportunity for Christ centred family conversation, evening prayer and relationships to be strengthened through *The Wednesday Word* a "Sunday Gospel Family Time" which is based on the Benedictine prayer custom of *Lectio Divina*
- to encourage and enable parishioners to pray for their parish school and its families, whilst also making their own fruitful preparation for the coming Sunday Mass, through the **parish church version** of *The Wednesday Word*

## **Endorsements from Church leaders:**

**Archbishop Patrick Kelly Liverpool:** *The Wednesday Word* provides a wonderful opportunity for faith development and will serve to enrich the relationships within the home/school/parish partnership. Sending *The Wednesday Word* out through school will enable the Good News of Jesus Christ to enter peoples homes and touch their lives.

**Bishop Arthur Roche Leeds :** *The Wednesday Word* is a new lay missionary initiative for our time. This initiative has been extensively trialled and has met with surprising results which have demonstrated the sheer power of the Word of God among those who do not normally hear that word spoken in our churches. The success of this initiative is supported by the prayer of those in our parishes who do regularly hear the word spoken. So there is a strong missionary and ecclesial element to all of this.

**Bishop Michael Campbell Lancaster:** In an age of such widespread and instant communication, it is essential that the Church be right at its centre in her task of spreading the gospel of Christ. *The Wednesday Word* has been a remarkably successful media outreach. I warmly commend *The Wednesday Word* to the schools of the Lancaster Diocese; through it everyone concerned will find themselves greatly enriched.

**Monsignor Keith Bartrop Director of CASE:** In recent years the church has challenged all Catholics to be part of a new evangelisation of our world. All parishes are aware of the presence among them of many Catholics who have stopped practising their faith actively, but we are often uncertain how to make contact with them. *The Wednesday Word* is the perfect means for this. I would encourage the widest possible distribution of this excellent resource.

**Monsignor George Stokes Director of Education, Diocese of Brentwood:** I strongly recommend that we tell our friends and contacts of the invaluable opportunity offered by *The Wednesday Word* in encouraging families to discuss the scripture proclaimed at Sunday Mass so that this can enrich their family life.

**Fr John Wilson Episcopal Vicar for Evangelisation, Leeds:** Many non church-going school parents and their families will be regularly offered the opportunity to encounter the Good News together, and to refresh or develop their own relationship with Our Lord. *The Wednesday Word* really is a first-rate resource which I wholeheartedly commend to you.

**Elizabeth Davies Bishops Conference Marriage and Family Life Project Officer:** In just a few minutes each week, *The Wednesday Word* encourages families to stop, look and listen to their own lives and to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Im very happy to give my support to *The Wednesday Word* as a useful resource for the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales current initiatives in support of marriage and family life.