



Invest time each week to expand your vocabulary and deepen your faith.

21 July 2024

WORD OF THE WEEK

Dei Verbum \ˈdā-ē ˈvər-bəm \

Meaning “word of God,” **Dei Verbum** references a Vatican II document also called *Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation*. **Dei Verbum** explores the ways God communicates with humanity and describes the church’s foundation on scripture, tradition, and the teaching authority of the church. It also upholds the divinely inspired nature of scripture and its compatibility with both scientific and historical truth.

Pronunciation: <https://tinyurl.com/Take5-dei-verbum>

CONTEXT

The affirmation of the Bible in the life of the church, resoundingly given by **Dei Verbum**, would be consistently reaffirmed by every pope since the Council.
—Donald Senior, C.P., Paulist Biblical Commentary

Listening in faith to the revealed **Word of God**—Christ himself—is the definitive principle of Catholic theology; it leads to understanding and speech and to the formation of Christian community.
—*International Theological Commission*

WHY IT MATTERS

Like Eucharist, the **word of God** is intended to be food for the journey. A sound appreciation of our sacred story and its inspired guidance is vital to the life of every believer: God becomes known to us through the conversation he desires to have with us.

From **Dei Verbum**: Hearing the **word of God** with reverence and proclaiming it with faith, . . . this council wishes to set forth authentic doctrine on divine revelation and how it is handed on, so that by hearing the messages of salvation the whole world may believe, by believing it may hope, and by hoping it may love” (1).

RELATED WORDS

Scripture | Tradition | Revelation | Lumen Gentium

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Should I read the Bible?

Don’t think of it as an obligation. Do it because it’s the most wonderful choice you can make for your life! If you attend Mass faithfully, you’re already familiar with the overall story. The lectionary—the book of readings used at Mass—covers a cross-section of passages from Old and New Testaments, paired as promises fulfilled.

The idea of opening to Genesis, chapter one, makes many folks shrink from the attempt. You don’t have to read scripture cover to cover. You may appreciate the support of parish-sponsored Bible study or faith-sharing groups. Page-a-day reflection books provide an easy introduction to bite-sized verses for beginners. Think of it like a swim class: Sign up at the level that suits your current skill.

The Bible is the Everest of books. You won’t conquer it at once. It will take training to reach the more exotic parts. But with practice, you’ll become more fit for the journey you’re undertaking. Start today!

—Alice Camille, from *Questions Catholics Ask* <http://tinyurl.com/QCA-bible-reading>

REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

FEAST OF SAINT MARY MAGDALENE (JULY 22)

Jesus is for everybody

Mary Magdalene was the first person in history to encounter the risen Jesus. That’s pretty amazing when you consider that she was perhaps the lowliest of the disciples, mistrusted by the others. Why not the apostles Peter or John? They were also at the tomb that morning, had seen it empty, and had gone to tell the others. Jesus chose Mary precisely so that the possibility of such an encounter could be realized by everyone.

READINGS: Song of Songs 3:1-4; John 20:1-2, 11-18 (603 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/072224.cfm>). *“Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord.’”*

FAITH IN ACTION

Lowliness does not disqualify a person from discovering Christ. Ponder the empty tomb and you, too, can see the Lord.