



# MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January



Martin Luther King was born on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia, in the United States. He became a Baptist minister and civil rights activist.

In the United States at the time, there were large inequalities between people depending on the colour of their skin.

An example of these inequalities is that only white people could sit at the front of buses, and if all the places for white people were occupied, it was the law that black people would have to stand and give up their seat for white people.



# Martin Luther King Jr

Born 15<sup>th</sup> January 1929



On 1st December 1955, Rosa Parks refused to give up her place on a bus and she was arrested. Rosa Parks also worked tirelessly for the civil rights movement within the USA.



Picture credit: SCANPIX Sweden

Martin Luther King was one of the Christian leaders who led the civil rights movement at this time, opposing the laws and the attitudes of discrimination. He advanced the civil rights movement through nonviolence and civil disobedience. Martin Luther King went on to win the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 for his work on combating racial inequality.

# Martin Luther King Jr

“I have a dream...”



In 1963 Martin Luther King invited his volunteers to pledge the following ten commitments:

1. **Mediate** daily on the teachings and life of Jesus
2. **Remember** always that the non-violence movement seeks justice and reconciliation, not victory.
3. **Walk** and **Talk** in the manner of love, for God is love.
4. **Pray** daily to be used by God in order that all people might be free
5. **Sacrifice** personal wishes in order that all people might be free.
6. **Observe** with both friend and foe the ordinary rules of courtesy.
7. **Seek** to perform regular service for others and for the world.
8. **Refrain** from the violence of fist, tongue or heart.
9. **Strive** to be in good spiritual and bodily health
10. **Follow** the directions of the movement and of the steward on a demonstration.



# Martin Luther King Jr

“I have a dream...”



Martin Luther King would eventually lose his life in the effort to bring about racial equality and was assassinated on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1968.

He said: ***“Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend.”***

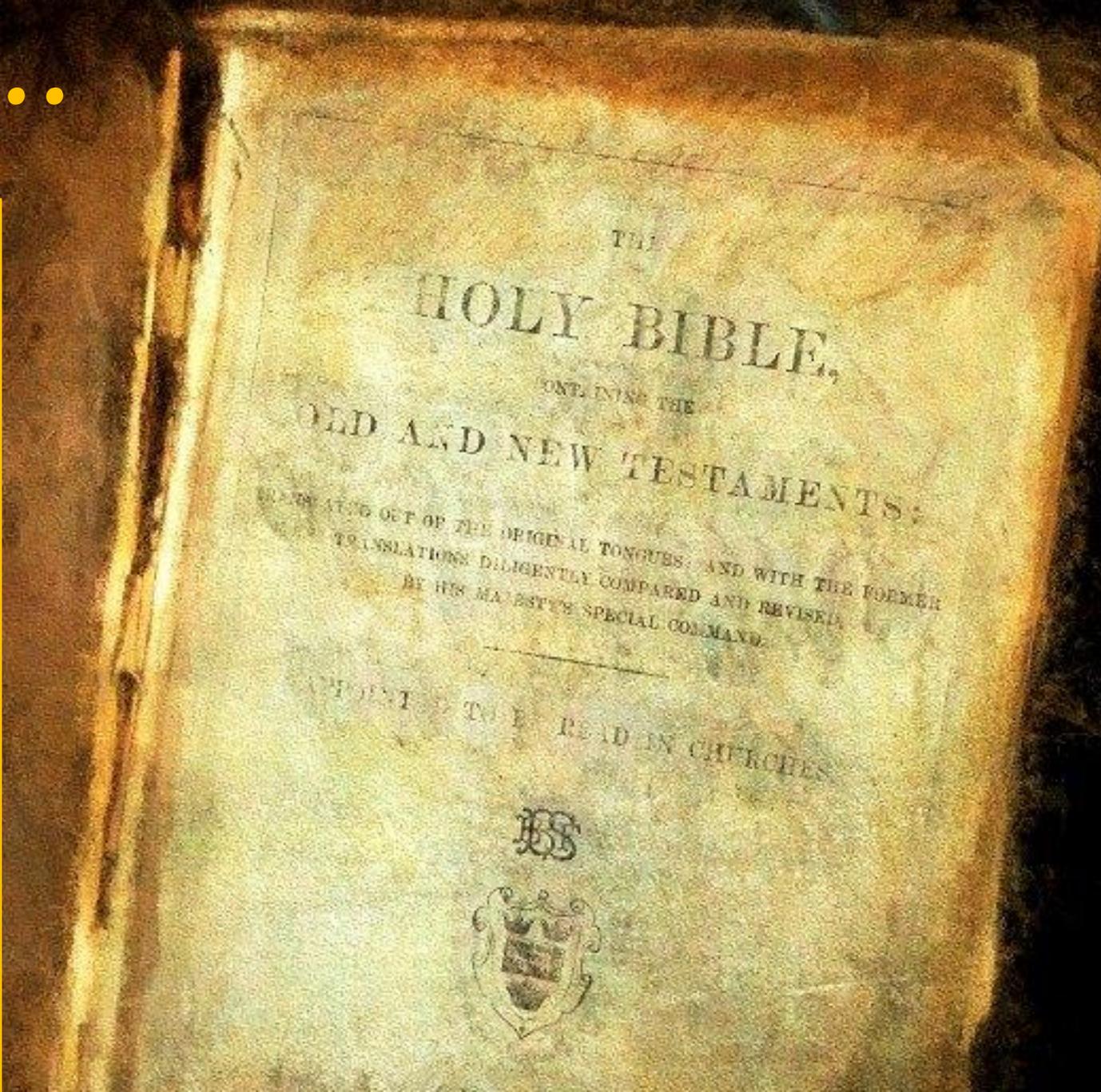
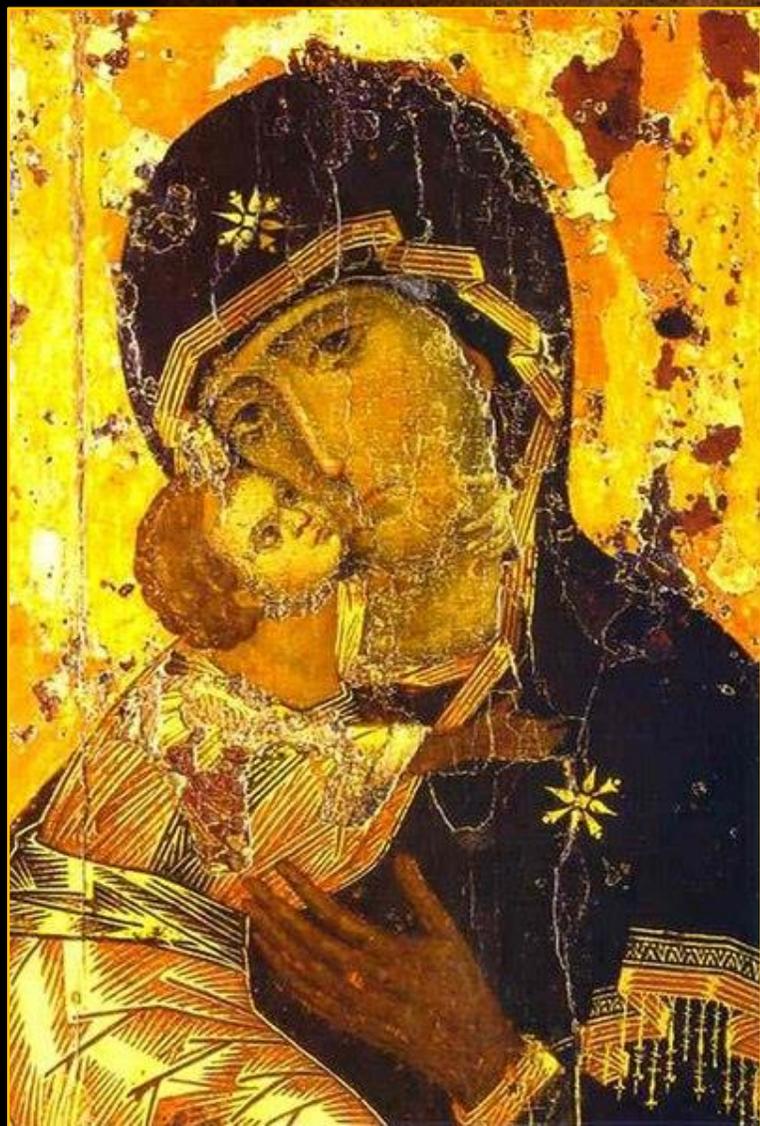


# Martin Luther King Jr

Died 4<sup>th</sup> April 1968



Let us pray...



Heavenly Father,  
may our human family  
not become separated from you  
by building barriers of race or colour,  
of religion or class.  
Inspire us to recognise  
that we are all made  
in your image and likeness,  
so that we may grow in appreciation  
of all people,  
and encourage each other  
to grow in pride in who we are  
and who we are called to be.  
May we recognise your Son in our midst,  
and live truly as sisters and brothers. Amen

*Credited to the De La Salle Brothers in Great Britain: [www.prayingeachday.org](http://www.prayingeachday.org)*

THE DIOCESE OF WESTMINSTER

