

ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 3 MAY 2020

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Year A



Ask Jesus to help you listen carefully for him speaking to your heart during Mass today.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;
by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

We say these words or sing a hymn as the priest approaches the altar.

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
lead us to a share in the joys of heaven,
so that the humble flock may reach
where the brave Shepherd has gone before...

We ask for God's help. Listen now to the priest as he offers this prayer.



FIRST READING ACTS 2:14. 36-41

Peter wants the crowd to know that Jesus really had been sent by God the Father and had been raised to life after being crucified. The crowd realise the enormity of this, and ask Peter what they should do in response. Peter

tells them they must be baptised and then they will receive forgiveness and the Holy Spirit and enjoy new life with Jesus. The crowd are convinced by all Peter said and about three thousand people became Christians.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN. Three thousand people are converted by St Peter's speech.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 22

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

The cantor or psalmist sings or says the psalm. Listen to the verses, and then respond by using these words.



SECOND READING 1 PETER 2:20-25

Sometimes life isn't fair! We try to do the right thing, but still get into trouble. It is tempting to sulk or get angry when people are cross with us for no good reason. Peter reminds us today that Jesus didn't try

to get anyone back when he was treated badly. He trusted in God and put his love for us into action. Jesus is like a loving shepherd who goes far out of his way to bring his sheep home safely.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN. Jesus is like a shepherd and he will take good care of us.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my own sheep and my own know me.
Alleluia!

We give a shout of praise to God, using these words taken from the Bible.



DO YOU KNOW?

A bishop carries a **crozier** which is a special stick with a curved handle, like a shepherd's crook. It helps him, and us, remember that he is acting as a shepherd to God's people in his diocese.



THINK

Today is the **World Day of Prayer for Vocations**. A "vocation" is a "calling" from God. Some people are called to be priests or nuns; some are called to live as single people while God asks others to be married. God wants us to use the gifts he has given us to serve others. How might God be calling you?



GOSPEL JOHN 10:1-10

The Good News about Jesus is told to us by St John.

A sheepfold is a place where a shepherd can gather his sheep. One by one the shepherd calls his sheep who answer and follow him to safety. The shepherd always goes ahead of his sheep so that they know where to go. Once the gate to

the sheepfold is closed, the sheep know that they are safe. When Jesus describes himself as the gate to the sheepfold, he is showing that he is the one who can be trusted to keep people safe, so that they can live their lives to the full, without fear.

STAND to LISTEN

to the priest or deacon as he prepares to read the Gospel. What does the priest or deacon do to the book when he has finished reading the Gospel?

Listen to the reader as he or she encourages us to pray for situations and people in need. This is a prayer you could say privately.

Watch as the gifts are made ready and the priest washes his hands and prepares for the Eucharistic Prayer.

We listen to the prayer of praise and thanks to God.

You are invited to sing a Communion song or say this verse, which has been especially chosen for today's celebration.



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, I would like to pray for any children who are afraid and who do not feel safe. Be with them and help them find people who can look after them and help them. Lord, hear my prayer.



OFFERTORY PROCESSION

As we take our gifts of bread, wine and money to the altar, think of something that is worrying you, or needs sorting out. Now think of a happy time in the past week.

Say a little prayer offering these thoughts up to God.



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Today's special prayer thanks God for fulfilling all God's promises to us.

What can you give special thanks for today?



THE LORD'S PRAYER

As the priest extends his hands, we say the prayer that Jesus taught us.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.



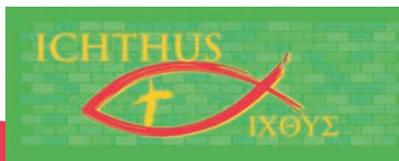
MY PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Thank you Jesus for coming to me in Holy Communion; help me to remember that you are my Good Shepherd and that you want always to keep me safe in your love. Amen.



We take Jesus with us to carry on the work that he did on earth, until we meet again next Sunday.

Go in peace.



PRAY

"The sheep hear his voice"

Sit quietly with God and pray using your imagination. Listen carefully and hear Jesus call your name. Hear the love and care in his voice.



DO

Plan to do something fun with your friends or family - enjoy life!



IXΘΥΣ

is the Greek word for "fish" and was used in the catacombs as a sign for early Christians. It is made up from the first letter of five Greek titles for the Lord:

- I (Jesus)
- X (Christos)
- Θ (Theou/God's)
- Υ (Uios/Son)
- Σ (Soter/Saviour)

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ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 10 MAY 2020

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Year A



Say a little prayer for each of your friends.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations
he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

We say these words or sing a hymn as the priest approaches the altar.

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us,
that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism
may, under your protective care, bear much fruit
and come to the joys of life eternal...

We ask for God's help. Listen now to the priest as he offers this prayer.



FIRST READING ACTS 6:1-7

The Christian community was getting bigger. The apostles needed help to organise the sharing out of belongings and food, as they wanted to focus on spreading God's message. The whole group was asked to choose seven wise and holy men.

The apostles prayed and laid their hands on those chosen to serve the Church by dealing with practical issues. Meanwhile the apostles continued to pray and go out preaching the good news and even more people came to believe in Jesus.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN.

A disagreement between Hebrew and Greek converts is settled.

The cantor or psalmist sings or says the psalm. Listen to the verses, and then respond by using these words.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 32

May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.



SECOND READING 1 PETER 2:4-9

Jesus is a living stone, strong and reliable. We are living stones too and if we place ourselves near Jesus he will keep us strong and help us grow together into a something beautiful. Jesus was rejected

by many, but he has become powerful. Jesus has called us to join him in the light. We will not be disappointed if we put our trust in Jesus. We can become the living building which will make Jesus real for the world.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN.

We are reminded we have been chosen to be "living stones".

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus said: "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.
No one can come to the Father except through me."
Alleluia!

We give a shout of praise to God, using these words taken from the Bible.



DO YOU KNOW?

Thursday 14 May is the feast of **St Matthias, Apostle**. He is the man who was chosen by the other apostles as the replacement for Judas. We hear about Matthias in the Acts of the Apostles, the story of the early Christian Church.



THINK

Each one of us has an important part to play in the Church. **We are all living stones, and every stone is needed.** The family of Christians is called the **Church**, with a capital **C**, and the building used for worship is called a **church** with a lowercase **c**.



GOSPEL JOHN 14:1-12

The Good News about Jesus is told to us by St John.

Jesus has eaten his Last Supper with his friends and is having his last conversation with them. Jesus tells the disciples not to be worried. He is going to his Father in heaven and will see them all again when they join him. Jesus knows it is not always easy to

understand his message and wants to help his friends. He explains that we can know what God our Father is like because we know what Jesus said and did. Those who believe in Jesus will be able to do amazing things and will enjoy life with him in heaven forever.

STAND to LISTEN

to the priest or deacon as he prepares to read the Gospel. What does the priest or deacon do to the book when he has finished reading the Gospel?



PRAY

“Do not let your hearts be troubled.”

Ask Jesus to be with you. Give any worries you have to him. Trust Jesus.



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, I would like to pray for anyone who does not feel that they belong in their parish. Help us all to be welcoming so that everyone knows how important they are. Lord, hear my prayer.

Listen to the reader as he or she encourages us to pray for situations and people in need. Here is a prayer you could say privately.



OFFERTORY PROCESSION

As we take our gifts of bread, wine and money to the altar, think of a time when you were selfish this week, then think of time when you put someone else before yourself.

Say a little prayer offering these thoughts up to God.

Watch as the gifts are made ready and the priest washes his hands and prepares for the Eucharistic Prayer.



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Today's special prayer thanks God for fulfilling all God's promises to us.

What can you give special thanks for today?

We listen to the prayer of praise and thanks to God.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

As the priest extends his hands, we say the prayer that Jesus taught us.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

You are invited to sing a Communion song or say this verse, which has been especially chosen for today's celebration.



MY PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Dear Lord, you gave me life and live in me. Guide my thoughts and words and actions so that I am a "living stone". Amen.



IXΘΥΣ

is the Greek word for "fish" and was used in the catacombs as a sign for early Christians. It is made up from the first letter of five Greek titles for the Lord:

- I (Jesus)
- X (Christos)
- Θ (Theou/God's)
- Υ (Uios/Son)
- Σ (Soter/Saviour)



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We take Jesus with us to carry on the work that he did on earth, until we meet again next Sunday.

Go in peace.

ICHTHUS



IXΘΥΣ

ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 17 MAY 2020

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Year A



Be happy and thankful for all God's blessings!



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard;
proclaim to the ends of the earth:
The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

We say these words
or sing a hymn as the
priest approaches
the altar.

COLLECT

Grant, almighty God,
that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days of joy,
which we keep in honour of the risen Lord,
and that what we relive in remembrance
we may always hold to in what we do...

We ask for God's help.
Listen now to the
priest as he offers
this prayer.



FIRST READING ACTS 8:5-8. 14-17

Stephen had been killed for speaking out about Jesus. This event marked the beginning of a period of danger for Christians and many escaped from Jerusalem. Philip went to Samaria to spread the message about Jesus. The people of Samaria

listened carefully, saw the miracles and welcomed the message Philip brought. Peter and John visited Samaria and laid their hands on these new converts. The new Christians received the gift of the Holy Spirit, making them equal members of God's family.

LOOK at the reader
and LISTEN.
God's message spreads
beyond Jerusalem.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 65

Cry out with joy to God all the earth.

The cantor or psalmist
sings or says the psalm.
Listen to the verses,
and then respond by
using these words.



SECOND READING 1 PETER 3:15-18

Some people might criticise us for trying to do what Jesus asks. We just have to stick to what we know is right. We can explain our faith to other people, while respecting their different views. Jesus

himself did what was right, but suffered even though he'd done nothing wrong. We will share Jesus' life if we stick to our faith, even if it is hard work to do so. Jesus loves us very much and will help us.

LOOK at the reader
and LISTEN.
We need to do what
God wants, even if
it means we have to
suffer.



We give a shout of
praise to God, using
these words taken
from the Bible.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus said: "If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him."
Alleluia!



DO YOU KNOW?

Thursday 21 May is when England, Wales and Scotland celebrate **The Ascension of the Lord**. Jesus, God the Son, left his disciples to go back to God the Father in heaven. Jesus was able then to send the God the Holy Spirit, to be with his friends. The Ascension means that **God will always be with us**.



THINK

No one has seen the **Holy Spirit**. The wind is one symbol of the Holy Spirit. We can't see the wind, but we can **see the effects of the wind** as it blows the leaves or the washing. **Can people see the effects of the Holy Spirit in our lives?**



GOSPEL JOHN 14:15-21

The Good News about Jesus is told to us by St John.

Jesus knew he was to die and return to his Father in heaven but he wanted to prepare his apostles. Jesus knew it would be hard for his followers so he promised to ask God to send an advocate or helper. This is the Holy Spirit who can help us put

our faith into action, so that we can show that we love God and are loved by God.

God the Son lived among us but returned to God the Father in heaven; leaving us God the Holy Spirit, to be with us for ever, guiding us always.

STAND to LISTEN to the priest or deacon as he prepares to read the Gospel. What does the priest or deacon do to the book when he has finished reading the Gospel?



PRAY

“Cry out with joy to God.”

Sing a happy song to God, and make it into your prayer. Ask someone else to sing with you - or find a place to sing on your own.



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, I am thinking about all the people who are suffering because of their faith. Please give them strength, courage and hope in your loving goodness. Lord, hear my prayer.

Listen to the reader as he or she encourages us to pray for situations and people in need. This is a prayer you could say privately.



OFFERTORY PROCESSION

As we take our gifts of bread, wine and money to the altar, think of a time when you didn't do something you knew you should have done, then think of time when you were loving and caring.

Watch as the gifts are made ready and the priest washes his hands and prepares for the Eucharistic Prayer.

Say a little prayer offering these thoughts up to God.



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Today's special prayer thanks God for fulfilling all God's promises to us.

What can you give special thanks for today?

We listen to the prayer of praise and thanks to God.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

As the priest extends his hands, we say the prayer that Jesus taught us.

You are invited to sing a Communion song or say this verse, which has been especially chosen for today's celebration.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.



MY PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Dear Jesus, thank you for always being with me. Thank you for showing me how much you love me by giving me the gift of yourself in Holy Communion. Amen.



IXΘΥΣ

is the Greek word for “fish” and was used in the catacombs as a sign for early Christians. It is made up from the first letter of five Greek titles for the Lord:

- I (Jesus)
- X (Christos)
- Θ (Theou/God's)
- Υ (Uios/Son)
- Σ (Soter/Saviour)



We take Jesus with us to carry on the work that he did on earth, until we meet again next Sunday.

Go in peace.



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ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 24 MAY 2020

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD
(IRELAND)

Year A



Jesus is with us, inviting us all to come together to pray.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?
This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven
will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

We say these words or sing a hymn as the priest approaches the altar.

COLLECT

Gladden us with holy joys, almighty God,
and make us rejoice with devout thanksgiving,
for the Ascension of Christ your Son
is our exaltation,
and, where the Head has gone before in glory,
the Body is called to follow in hope...

We ask for God's help. Listen now to the priest as he offers this prayer.



FIRST READING ACTS 1:1-11

For forty days after his resurrection Jesus had been appearing to his friends. Now they were in Jerusalem, where he'd asked them to gather. The apostles wonder if this is the time when Jesus will make his kingdom real

on earth. Jesus promises to send them the power of his Holy Spirit. Jesus will always be with them, and leaves them in charge of building the kingdom. Then Jesus is lifted up to heaven, leaving the apostles gazing up at the sky.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN.

Jesus was lifted up to heaven, right in front of the apostles.

The cantor or psalmist sings or says the psalm. Listen to the verses, and then respond by using these words.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 46

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.



SECOND READING EPHESIANS 1:17-23

Paul asks God the Father to give the Christians in Ephesus wisdom. Paul really wants them to understand the hope that knowing Jesus brings. Nothing is greater than God's power, which we see in Jesus. Not only

has Jesus risen from the dead; he has ascended to heaven where he sits with God the Father. Jesus is ruler of all creation. As his friends, we can look forward to being with Jesus, enjoying heaven with him.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN.

Paul prays for the Christians in Ephesus.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Go, make disciples of all the nations;
I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.
Alleluia!

We give a shout of praise to God, using these words taken from the Bible.



DO YOU KNOW?

Today is **World Communications Day** when we pray for people who work in the media, especially those who are **spreading God's love** through their work. The media can be wonderful, but it can also be used in bad ways. **How will we communicate well this week?**



THINK

Jesus asks his friends to **spread the Good News about God's love**. Each one of us has been asked to evangelise too. Some people spread God's love by telling other people about Jesus, others do so by putting their love into action. **How will you spread the Good News today?**



The Good News about Jesus is told to us by St Matthew.

After his resurrection, Jesus arranged to meet the eleven apostles on a mountain top. When they saw him they fell down and worshipped him, although some disciples found it difficult to believe at first. Jesus came to them and gave them a special message. Jesus asks

his friends to go and tell everyone the Good News. He tells them to baptise people in the name of the Holy Trinity: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. And Jesus reassures his friends that he will be with them always. This promise is for us too, Jesus is with us always.

STAND to LISTEN

to the priest or deacon as he prepares to read the Gospel. What does the priest or deacon do to the book when he has finished reading the Gospel?



PRAY

"I am with you always; yes, to the end of time."

Quietly think about Jesus' promise to you. Let peace fill your heart. Know that God is with you.



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, I would like to pray for all the people who are working to spread your message of love around the world. Bless them and give them joy in their work. Lord, hear my prayer.

Listen to the reader as he or she encourages us to pray for situations and people in need. Here is a prayer you could say privately.



OFFERTORY PROCESSION

As we take our gifts of bread, wine and money to the altar, think of something which ended recently, then think of something new which will soon be starting for you. Say a little prayer offering these thoughts up to God.

Watch as the gifts are made ready and the priest washes his hands and prepares for the Eucharistic Prayer.



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Today's special prayer thanks God for fulfilling all God's promises to us.

What can you give special thanks for today?

We listen to the prayer of praise and thanks to God.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

As the priest extends his hands, we say the prayer that Jesus taught us.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.

You are invited to sing a Communion song or say this verse, which has been especially chosen for today's celebration.



MY PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Dear Jesus, thank you for always being with me. Thank you for showing me how much you love me by giving me the gift of yourself in Holy Communion. Amen.



IXΘΥΣ

is the Greek word for "fish" and was used in the catacombs as a sign for early Christians. It is made up from the first letter of five Greek titles for the Lord:

- I (Jesus)
- X (Christos)
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We take Jesus with us to carry on the work that he did on earth, until we meet again next Sunday.

Go in peace.



ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 24 MAY 2020

7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
(ENGLAND AND WALES,
SCOTLAND)

Year A



Look around at all Jesus' friends in church who have come together to pray today!



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you;
of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face;
hide not your face from me, alleluia.

We say these words or sing a hymn as the priest approaches the altar.

COLLECT

Graciously hear our supplications, O Lord,
so that we, who believe that the Saviour of the human race
is with you in your glory,
may experience, as he promised,
until the end of the world,
his abiding presence among us...

We ask for God's help. Listen now to the priest as he offers this prayer.



FIRST READING ACTS 1:12-14

The apostles returned to Jerusalem and went back to the upper room where they had been when Jesus appeared to them after his resurrection. All the apostles were there, together with several women including Jesus'

mother Mary. They had seen Jesus pray to his Father for understanding, strength and guidance. Now together they prayed, to prepare themselves to do what Jesus asked: to be his witnesses in the world.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN. The apostles all prayed together.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 26

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.

The cantor or psalmist sings or says the psalm. Listen to the verses, and then respond by using these words.



SECOND READING 1 PETER 4:13-16

The first Christians were often treated badly and even now, in some countries, it is dangerous to be a Christian. Jesus suffered before he was raised from the dead and before he was shown to be the Messiah: hardship

came before his glory. Those who suffer for their faith have been chosen by God, and will be united with him. When we struggle, we have the Holy Spirit to turn to and trust that one day eternal life shall be ours.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN. This letter gives hope and encouragement to the first Christians.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord;
I will come back to you, and your hearts will be full of joy.
Alleluia!

We give a shout of praise to God, using these words taken from the Bible.



DO YOU KNOW?

Today is **World Communications Day** when we pray for people who work in the media, especially those who are **spreading God's love** through their work. The media can be wonderful, but it can also be used in bad ways. **How will we communicate well this week?**



THINK

Jesus has no physical body on earth now, except ours. It is our job to carry on Jesus' work. How will we show the people we meet how much God loves them? **How can we put our love into action today?**



The Good News about Jesus is told to us by St John.

Jesus knows he is going back to his Father in heaven and is praying for his friends. Jesus' disciples know all about God the Father because Jesus and the Father are one. Everything Jesus has done shows just how much God loves us. God loves us so much he sent his Son,

Jesus, to be one us. His death and resurrection give us the hope of life with him forever. We belong to God and can show how much we love him by following Jesus' example. We share Jesus' mission. It is our job now to share God's love with everyone we meet.

STAND to LISTEN

to the priest or deacon as he prepares to read the Gospel. What does the priest or deacon do to the book when he has finished reading the Gospel?



PRAY

"The Lord is my light and my help;

Whom shall I fear?"

Quietly think about these words from today's psalm. Give to God anything that is worrying you. Know that God is with you.



DO

Try to say a prayer every morning when you wake up and every night before you go to sleep.



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, I am thinking about all the people who are missing someone they love who has died. Please comfort them and give them hope for the future. Lord, hear my prayer.

Listen to the reader as he or she encourages us to pray for situations and people in need. Here is a prayer you could say privately.



OFFERTORY PROCESSION

As we take our gifts of bread, wine and money to the altar, think of something you did this week which was difficult, then think of the happiest time this week.

Say a little prayer offering these thoughts up to God.

Watch as the gifts are made ready and the priest washes his hands and prepares for the Eucharistic Prayer.



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Today's special prayer thanks God for fulfilling all God's promises to us.

What can you give special thanks for today?

We listen to the prayer of praise and thanks to God.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

As the priest extends his hands, we say the prayer that Jesus taught us.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Father, I pray that they may be one as we also are one, alleluia.

You are invited to sing a Communion song or say this verse, which has been especially chosen for today's celebration.



MY PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Dear Lord, thank you for the gift of Jesus in Holy Communion. May I take your love to everyone I meet and into everything I do. Amen.



IXΘΥΣ

is the Greek word for "fish" and was used in the catacombs as a sign for early Christians. It is made up from the first letter of five Greek titles for the Lord:

- I (Jesus)
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We take Jesus with us to carry on the work that he did on earth, until we meet again next Sunday.

Go in peace.



ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 31 MAY 2020

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Year A



Notice the colours the priest is wearing today and find out why.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world and that which contains all things understands what is said, alleluia.

COLLECT

O God, who by the mystery of today's great feast sanctify your whole Church in every people and nation, pour out, we pray, the gifts of the Holy Spirit across the face of the earth and, with the divine grace that was at work when the Gospel was first proclaimed, fill now once more the hearts of believers...



FIRST READING ACTS 2:1-11

Suddenly the disciples heard what sounded like a powerful wind and they saw something that seemed to be like tongues of fire on each of their heads. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in foreign languages. The

disciples ran out in the streets, excitedly telling everyone the good news about Jesus. There were Jews from all over the world in Jerusalem for the festival and they were all amazed to hear the disciples talking to them in their own language.

We say these words or sing a hymn as the priest approaches the altar.

We ask for God's help. Listen now to the priest as he offers this prayer.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN.

It was the feast of Pentecost and the apostles were together in one room.

The cantor or psalmist sings or says the psalm. Listen to the verses, and then respond by using these words.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN.

The Holy Spirit gives different gifts to different people.



We give a shout of praise to God, using these words taken from the Bible.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 103

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.



SECOND READING 1 CORINTHIANS 12:3-7, 12-13

There are all sorts of ways of serving God. When everyone works together to use the gifts they have been given, the Holy Spirit can do great things through them. It is just like a human body: the body

has many different parts, but they all work together to make one body. So it is with Christ; we are all parts of his body because we are all baptised in his Spirit. We can say, "Jesus is Lord".

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Alleluia!



DO YOU KNOW?

Pentecost means fiftieth day. It was originally the last day of the Jewish harvest festival. This was the festival that had brought all the foreigners into Jerusalem on the day that the Holy Spirit came to the apostles.



THINK

Jesus gave the gift of peace to his friends. We can give the gift of peace when we treat people with respect and kindness. If we fall out with someone, we could try to imagine how they feel. Jesus will always help us to do what is right.



GOSPEL JOHN 20:19-23

The Good News about Jesus is told to us by St John.

The doors were locked. The disciples were together in one room. It was after the resurrection but they were scared and were hiding from the people who had crucified Jesus.

Suddenly Jesus was standing among them. He said, "Peace be with you." Jesus showed them

his wounds, so they knew it really was him. The disciples were filled with joy! Jesus said again, "Peace be with you." Then he told them that, just as he'd been sent by his Father, he was sending them out to continue his work. Then Jesus gave his friends the gift of his Holy Spirit.

STAND to LISTEN

to the priest or deacon as he prepares to read the Gospel. What does the priest or deacon do to the book when he has finished reading the Gospel?



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, I would like to pray for all the people who are receiving the sacrament of confirmation at this time of year. Let them feel the peace and joy of your Spirit. Lord, hear my prayer.

Listen to the reader as he or she encourages us to pray for situations and people in need. Here is a prayer you could say privately.



OFFERTORY PROCESSION

As we take our gifts of bread, wine and money to the altar, think of a time when you were unhappy this week, and then think of the happiest time you had.

Say a little prayer offering these thoughts up to God.

Watch as the gifts are made ready and the priest washes his hands and prepares for the Eucharistic Prayer.



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Today's special prayer thanks God for fulfilling all God's promises to us.

What can you give special thanks for today?

We listen to the prayer of praise and thanks to God.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

As the priest extends his hands, we say the prayer that Jesus taught us.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia.

You are invited to sing a Communion song or say this verse, which has been especially chosen for today's celebration.



MY PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Dear Lord, thank you for being here with me. Thank you for giving me the gift of your Spirit to help me during this week. Amen.



PRAY

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.

And kindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.

And you will renew the face of the earth.



DO

Spread Jesus' peace by really trying to speak kindly to your family and friends this week.



IXΘΥΣ

is the Greek word for "fish" and was used in the catacombs as a sign for early Christians. It is made up from the first letter of five Greek titles for the Lord:

- I (Jesus)
- X (Christos)
- Θ (Theou/God's)
- Υ (Uios/Son)
- Σ (Soter/Saviour)



We take Jesus with us to carry on the work that he did on earth, until we meet again next Sunday.

Go in peace.



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ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 7 JUNE 2020

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

Year A



As you make the sign of the cross today, think carefully about the meaning of the words.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Blest be God the Father,
and the Only Begotten Son of God,
and also the Holy Spirit,
for he has shown us his merciful love.

COLLECT

God our Father, who by sending into the world
the Word of truth and the Spirit of sanctification
made known to the human race your wondrous mystery,
grant us, we pray, that in professing the true faith,
we may acknowledge the Trinity of eternal glory
and adore your Unity, powerful in majesty...

We say these words
or sing a hymn as the
priest approaches
the altar.

We ask for God's help.
Listen now to the
priest as he offers
this prayer.



DO YOU KNOW?

St Augustine wrote a book about the Trinity. In it he said "God is Love, Lover and Beloved". God is a community of love. When we share love we become even more like God. We can practise every day to become more loving by following Jesus' example and putting other people first.



FIRST READING EXODUS 34:4-6. 8-9

Forgetting that God has rescued them from slavery, the people have turned away from God. They don't understand why they are still wandering homeless in the desert and are angry with God. But none of this matters.

God wants to restore their relationship. God comes to Moses and Moses stands with God. Moses knows all too well that the people are far from perfect, but he is confident in God's love and goodness as he asks God to forgive them.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN.

God wants us to know that God is loving and forgiving.

The cantor or psalmist sings or says the psalm. Listen to the verses, and then respond by using these words.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM DANIEL 3

To you glory and praise for evermore.



SECOND READING 2 CORINTHIANS 13:11-13

Paul is writing to the Christians in Corinth to encourage them in their journey of faith. He wants them to help each other as they try to grow more like God and learn to love in peace in love. We all need other

people to help us as we learn to become better people. Our Church community can help us grow in love and, most importantly, God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit will be with us all, helping us every day.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN.

All Christians are growing to be more like God, more loving, every day.



We give a shout of praise to God, using these words taken from the Bible.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
the God who is, who was, and who is to come.
Alleluia!



THINK

St Paul asks the Corinthians to be united and live in peace. Many Christians today are involved in ecumenism, working towards a better understanding between the different Christian Churches or denominations. Perhaps you can find out about Churches Together in your area and maybe get involved.



The Good News about Jesus is told to us by St John

Jesus' love shines brightly and draws all sorts of people to him. Nicodemus is a Jewish leader who comes to meet Jesus secretly, at night time. Jesus' message to Nicodemus brings light into all our lives. God loves each one of us. God does

not want to judge or punish us. Out of pure love God the Father sent God the Son, Jesus, to show us all what real love is and God the Holy Spirit will help us all to share God's love with the people we meet. God's love brings us life and happiness now and forever.

STAND to LISTEN

to the priest or deacon as he prepares to read the Gospel. What does the priest or deacon do to the book when he has finished reading the Gospel?



PRAY

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, I would like to pray for anyone who has fallen out with their family. Help them to make friends again and find love and peace. Lord, hear my prayer.

Listen to the reader as he or she encourages us to pray for situations and people in need. This is a prayer you could say privately.



OFFERTORY PROCESSION

As we take our gifts of bread, wine and money to the altar, think of something wonderful which you saw this week, then think of someone that you love.

Watch as the gifts are made ready and the priest washes his hands and prepares for the Eucharistic Prayer.

Say a little prayer offering these thoughts up to God.



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Today's special prayer thanks God for fulfilling all God's promises to us.

We listen to the prayer of praise and thanks to God.

What can you give special thanks for today?



THE LORD'S PRAYER

As the priest extends his hands, we say the prayer that Jesus taught us.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Since you are children of God, God has sent into your hearts the Spirit of his Son, the Spirit who cries out: Abba, Father.

You are invited to sing a Communion song or say this verse, which has been especially chosen for today's celebration.



MY PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for showing me what real love is like. Help me to put other people first, just as you did. Amen.



We take Jesus with us to carry on the work that he did on earth, until we meet again next Sunday.

Go in peace.



IXΘΥΣ is the Greek word for "fish" and was used in the catacombs as a sign for early Christians. It is made up from the first letter of five Greek titles for the Lord: I (Jesus) X (Christos) Θ (Theou/God's) Y (Uios/Son) Σ (Soter/Saviour)



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ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 14 JUNE 2020

THE MOST HOLY BODY
AND BLOOD OF CHRIST
(CORPUS CHRISTI)

Year A



Take a moment to be still and thank Jesus for being here with you.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

He fed them with the finest wheat
and satisfied them with honey from the rock.

COLLECT

O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament
have left us a memorial of your Passion,
grant us, we pray,
so to revere the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood
that we may always experience in ourselves
the fruits of your redemption...

We say these words
or sing a hymn as the
priest approaches
the altar.

We ask for God's help.
Listen now to the
priest as he offers
this prayer.



DO YOU KNOW?

Friday 19 June is the
feast of **The Most Sacred
Heart of Jesus**. You may
have seen a statue of
the Sacred Heart, where
Jesus' wounded heart
can be seen outside his
body. This feast is a time
to think about just how
much **Jesus loves us** all
and to thank him.



FIRST READING DEUTERONOMY 8:2-3. 14-16

Even in their struggles and
difficulties God has been
with the Hebrews. Moses
reminds the people today
that God loves them very
much. They have suffered
in the desert but God has
helped them to grow into
better people through

the hardship. God has
provided the water and
the manna, the bread
from heaven, which has
kept them alive. God
has looked after his
chosen people and they
must never forget God's
goodness.

LOOK at the reader
and LISTEN.

Moses reminds the
people that God loves
and cares for them.

The cantor or psalmist
sings or says the psalm.
Listen to the verses,
and then respond by
using these words.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 147

O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!



SECOND READING 1 CORINTHIANS 10:16-17

The Christians in Corinth
have been falling out. Paul
is reminding them in his
letter that they should try
to get on together. Holy
Communion is the blessing
which brings them together.
The bread and wine of Holy
Communion unites us with

Jesus. Just as a body has
many parts but is one body,
the Christian community is
made up of many different
people but is united by
Christ. We share the body of
Christ in Holy Communion
and then become Christ's
body on earth.

LOOK at the reader
and LISTEN.

Holy Communion
unites us all.



We give a shout of
praise to God, using
these words taken
from the Bible.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the living bread which has come down from heaven,
says the Lord.

Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.

Alleluia!



THINK

Jesus tells us he is the
living bread which will
give us life. In Mass
today Jesus is made real
for us in the consecrated
**bread and wine of Holy
Communion**. How else will
Jesus' love be made real
for you this week?



GOSPEL JOHN 6:51-58

The Good News about Jesus is told to us by St John.

What an amazing claim! Jesus says that he is the living bread which has come down from heaven, which will give eternal life to those who eat it. Jesus' listeners cannot understand. Jesus tries to explain by saying that just as he is given life by God the Father, we will be

given life by him. When we eat the bread and wine of Holy Communion we receive God in a unique way. Holy Communion unites us with Jesus whose death and resurrection brings us life. God comes to us in the bread and wine of Holy Communion in a special way.

STAND to LISTEN

to the priest or deacon as he prepares to read the Gospel. What does the priest or deacon do to the book when he has finished reading the Gospel?



PRAY

Be still. Be silent.
Listen to God deep in your heart.



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, I would like to pray for anyone who is making their first Holy Communion at this time of year. Help them to really appreciate the gift of Jesus in their lives. Lord, hear my prayer.

Listen to the reader as he or she encourages us to pray for situations and people in need. This is a prayer you could say privately.



OFFERTORY PROCESSION

As we take our gifts of bread, wine and money to the altar, think of a time when you were struggling to get on with someone this week, then think of a time when you were getting on well with friends.

Say a little prayer offering these thoughts up to God.

Watch as the gifts are made ready and the priest washes his hands and prepares for the Eucharistic Prayer.



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Today's special prayer thanks God for fulfilling all God's promises to us.

What can you give special thanks for today?

We listen to the prayer of praise and thanks to God.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

As the priest extends his hands, we say the prayer that Jesus taught us.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.

You are invited to sing a Communion song or say this verse, which has been especially chosen for today's celebration.



MY PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for coming to me in Holy Communion. Thank you for the life I enjoy with you and all my friends and family. Amen.



IXΘΥΣ

is the Greek word for "fish" and was used in the catacombs as a sign for early Christians. It is made up from the first letter of five Greek titles for the Lord:

- I (Jesus)
- X (Christos)
- Θ (Theou/God's)
- Υ (Uios/Son)
- Σ (Soter/Saviour)



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We take Jesus with us to carry on the work that he did on earth, until we meet again next Sunday.

Go in peace.

ICHTHUS



IXΘΥΣ

ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 21 JUNE 2020

12TH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

Year A



Take a moment to be still and thank Jesus for being here with you.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Lord is the strength of his people,
a saving refuge for the one he has anointed.
Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage,
and govern them for ever.

We say these words
or sing a hymn as the
priest approaches the
altar.

COLLECT

Grant, O Lord,
that we may always revere and love your holy name,
for you never deprive of your guidance
those you set firm on the foundation of your love...

We ask for God's help.
Listen now to the
priest as he offers this
prayer.



FIRST READING JEREMIAH 20:10-13

Jeremiah has a really hard time. Even his friends have turned against him and are making his life miserable. But Jeremiah has faith in God. He knows God is with him and that nothing else matters. God is fair and God will not let the wicked people win in the end. Jeremiah praises and thanks God. Nothing can take away his trust in God. God is on his side and will not let him down.

LOOK at the reader
and LISTEN.
God will save those
who are in need.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 68

In your great love, answer me, O God.

The cantor or psalmist
sings or says the psalm.
Listen to the verses,
and then respond by
using these words.



SECOND READING ROMANS 5:12-15

God made a perfect world, but human beings made a mess of it. Human beings turned away from God and as a result brought suffering and evil into the world. Paul writes that it is through Jesus that all this mess has been put right. God became human in the person of Jesus, and his death and resurrection has overcome all evil and suffering. Jesus' love outweighs any wrongdoing. Jesus has given everyone the hope of life with God.

LOOK at the reader
and LISTEN.
Jesus' love has put
right our relationship
with God the Father.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Word was made flesh and lived among us;
to all who did accept him
he gave power to become children of God.
Alleluia!

We give a shout of
praise to God, using
these words taken
from the Bible.



DO YOU KNOW?

Wednesday 24 June
is the feast of **The
Nativity of St John
the Baptist**. John was
Jesus' cousin. He leapt
in his mother Elizabeth's
womb when Mary visited
her while pregnant with
Jesus. When he grew up,
John helped everyone
to get ready to meet
Jesus. On his feast day
we think about how **we
will welcome Jesus into
our lives**.



THINK

Jesus tells us not to be
afraid, but many people
do feel afraid and anxious.
It is always good to **tell
someone you trust** if
anything is worrying you.
Whatever happens, we
can be confident that
**God loves us very much
and is always with us,**
standing by our side.



GOSPEL MATTHEW 10:26-33

The Good News about Jesus is told to us by St Matthew.

God loves each one of us so very much. We have no need to ever be afraid. Nothing can ever take us away from God's love. Sparrows could be bought very cheaply in Jesus' time and were thought to be unimportant. But Jesus tells his friends that God

the Father keeps an eye on each one – and we are so much more important than sparrows! God knows us so well and loves us so much that God even knows how many hairs we have. In the end it is God's love that will win out over anything that is wrong.

STAND to LISTEN

to the priest or deacon as he prepares to read the Gospel. What does the priest or deacon do to the book when he has finished reading the Gospel?



PRAY

"Do not be afraid."

Sit somewhere quietly with Jesus. Talk to Jesus about anything that is on your mind. Hear Jesus saying these words from the Gospel directly to you.



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, please help anyone who is facing a difficult time in their lives. Help them to have courage and hope and to find the support they need. Lord, hear my prayer.

Listen to the reader as he or she encourages us to pray for situations and people in need. This is a prayer you could say privately.



OFFERTORY PROCESSION

As we take our gifts of bread, wine and money to the altar, think of a time when you felt anxious or worried this week and then think of a time when you were happy and full of hope. Say a little prayer offering these thoughts up to God.

Watch as the gifts are made ready and the priest washes his hands and prepares for the Eucharistic Prayer.



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Today's special prayer thanks God for fulfilling all God's promises to us.

What can you give special thanks for today?

We listen to the prayer of praise and thanks to God.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

As the priest extends his hands, we say the prayer that Jesus taught us.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I am the Good Shepherd, and I lay down my life for my sheep, says the Lord.

You are invited to sing a Communion song or say this verse, which has been especially chosen for today's celebration.



MY PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Thank you, Jesus, for giving me yourself in Holy Communion. Stand with me this week as I try to do what is right. Amen.



ΙΧΘΥΣ

is the Greek word for "fish" and was used in the catacombs as a sign for early Christians. It is made up from the first letter of five Greek titles for the Lord:

- I (Jesus)
- X (Christos)
- Θ (Theou/God's)
- Υ (Uios/Son)
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We take Jesus with us to carry on the work that he did on earth, until we meet again next Sunday.

Go in peace.

ICHTHUS



ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 28 JUNE 2020

13TH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME (IRELAND)

Year A



Say "hello" and "thank you" to Jesus who welcomes you here today.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

All peoples, clap your hands.
Cry to God with shouts of joy!

We say these words or sing a hymn as the priest approaches the altar.

COLLECT

O God, who through the grace of adoption
chose us to be children of light,
grant, we pray,
that we may not be wrapped in the darkness of error
but always be seen to stand in the bright light of truth...

We ask for God's help. Listen now to the priest as he offers this prayer.



FIRST READING 2 KINGS 4:8-11, 14-16

What a generous woman! Without even knowing who he is, a kind hearted woman gives Elisha food and a place to rest. Realising that Elisha is a man of God, the Shunammite woman

decides to do more for him. They build a room with a bed, table, chair and lamp which Elisha is happy to rest in when he is passing by. In return Elisha gives her the best "thank you" gift of all, the promise of a son.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN. Hospitality is repaid with a wonderful gift.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 88

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

The cantor or psalmist sings or says the psalm. Listen to the verses, and then respond by using these words.



SECOND READING ROMANS 6:3-4, 8-11

The first Christians were baptised as adults and were totally immersed in the water. Going right down under the water and then coming back up was a clear symbol of dying to an old way of life and rising to new life.

In baptism they joined Jesus in death so that they can share Jesus' life. Through our baptism we too have been born to new life in Jesus. Jesus will help us to follow his example and do what is right.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN. The water of baptism brings us new life with Jesus.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our heart, O Lord,
to accept the words of your Son.
Alleluia!

We give a shout of praise to God, using these words taken from the Bible.



DO YOU KNOW?

Monday 29 June is the feast of Ss Peter and Paul. Neither of these leaders was perfect and they were very different. By working together, however, they were able to guide the Church and to spread the message of Jesus' love far and wide.



THINK

Peter and Paul both suffered for their faith. There are Christians today who are suffering persecution or discrimination because of their belief in Jesus. Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) supports them through prayer and practical help. How will you help today?



GOSPEL MATTHEW 10:37-42

The Good News about Jesus is told to us by St Matthew.

Following Jesus is not always easy. Today Jesus tells his friends to pick up their cross and follow in his footsteps. For some of Jesus' friends this meant that they would literally die because of their faith. For most of us, carrying our cross means we will suffer a little when we

try to love like Jesus and put other people first. We know, however, that we will enjoy life with God forever when we live as Jesus asks. Just as the woman in our first reading was rewarded, God the Father will reward those who welcome Jesus into their lives.

STAND to LISTEN

to the priest or deacon as he prepares to read the Gospel. What does the priest or deacon do to the book when he has finished reading the Gospel?

Listen to the reader as he or she encourages us to pray for situations and people in need. This is a prayer you could say privately.



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, I would like to pray for anyone who feels unwelcome. Help them to find love and a place to belong. Lord, hear my prayer.



OFFERTORY PROCESSION

As we take our gifts of bread, wine and money to the altar, think of a sad time this week and then think of time when you were happy.

Say a little prayer offering these thoughts up to God.

Watch as the gifts are made ready and the priest washes his hands and prepares for the Eucharistic Prayer.



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Today's special prayer thanks God for fulfilling all God's promises to us.

What can you give special thanks for today?

We listen to the prayer of praise and thanks to God.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

As the priest extends his hands, we say the prayer that Jesus taught us.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all within me, his holy name.

You are invited to sing a Communion song or say this verse, which has been especially chosen for today's celebration.

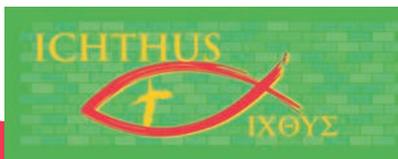


MY PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Thank you, Jesus, for loving me and welcoming me into your family. Help me to share your love by welcoming others into my friendship. Amen.

We take Jesus with us to carry on the work that he did on earth, until we meet again next Sunday.

Go in peace.



PRAY

"I will sing forever of your love, O Lord."

Pray by singing the hymns joyfully and with gusto! If there are no hymns in church today, sing your own song of joy to God.



DO

Invite someone new into your friendship group this week - maybe someone who is usually left out.



IXΘΥΣ

is the Greek word for "fish" and was used in the catacombs as a sign for early Christians. It is made up from the first letter of five Greek titles for the Lord:

- I (Jesus)
- X (Christos)
- Θ (Theou/God's)
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ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 28 JUNE 2020

SS PETER AND PAUL,
APOSTLES

Year A



Tell Jesus what's going on in your life.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

These are the ones who, living in the flesh,
planted the Church with their blood;
they drank the chalice of the Lord
and became the friends of God.



We say these words
or sing a hymn as the
priest approaches
the altar.

COLLECT

O God, who on the Solemnity of the Apostles Peter and Paul
give us the noble and holy joy of this day,
grant, we pray, that your Church
may in all things follow the teaching
of those through whom she received
the beginnings of right religion...



We ask for God's help.
Listen now to the
priest as he offers
this prayer.



FIRST READING ACTS 12:1-11

Peter was in prison
because he had been
preaching about Jesus.
One night, Peter had a
dream. He saw an angel
come and tap him on the
shoulder. The angel said
"Get up! Hurry!" Peter
sat up and saw that the

chains which held him to
the floor had been broken.
He got up and followed
the angel through the
prison. All the doors which
should have been locked
fell open before them. The
angel led Peter out of the
prison to freedom.



LOOK at the reader
and LISTEN.

God saves Peter from
the king who wanted
to please the people
by persecuting the
Christians.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 33

From all my terrors the Lord set me free.



The cantor or psalmist
sings or says the psalm.
Listen to the verses,
and then respond by
using these words.



SECOND READING 2 TIMOTHY 4:6-8, 17-18

Paul knows his life is
nearly over. He sees it
as a race which is at the
finish and a good fight
which he has fought to
the end. Paul knows that
he has nothing to worry
about, because he has
done his very best. He

has spread the Good
News about Jesus. God
has been with him and
helped him when he has
needed strength and
courage. Now Paul is
looking forward to his
reward and being with
God in heaven.



LOOK at the reader
and LISTEN.

Paul writes to his
friend Timothy
about the work he
has done for Jesus.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church.
And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it.
Alleluia!



We give a shout of
praise to God, using
these words taken
from the Bible.



DO YOU KNOW?

Today is the feast of Ss
Peter and Paul. Neither
of these leaders was
perfect and they were
very different. By working
together, however, they
were able to guide the
Church and to spread the
message of Jesus' love far
and wide.



THINK

Peter and Paul both
suffered for their faith.
There are Christians
today who are suffering
persecution or
discrimination because
of their belief in Jesus.
Aid to the Church in
Need (ACN) supports
them through prayer and
practical help. How will
you help today?



GOSPEL MATTHEW 16:13-19

The Good News about Jesus is told to us by St Matthew.

Everyone was talking about Jesus and wondering who he was. Perhaps he was a prophet or John the Baptist? Jesus just wants to know what the disciples think, so he asks them, "Who do you say I am?". Peter is the one who recognises who Jesus really is. Peter has

come to understand that Jesus is the Son of God. God the Father has given Peter the gift of faith. Jesus knows that Peter will be a strong, trustworthy leader of the disciples when he has to leave them. Jesus gives Peter authority to teach and lead in his name.

STAND to LISTEN

to the priest or deacon as he prepares to read the Gospel. What does the priest or deacon do to the book when he has finished reading the Gospel?



PRAY

"Who do you say I am."

Sit somewhere quietly with Jesus. Listen to Jesus saying these words from the Gospel directly to you. How will you respond?



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, I would like to pray for all our political leaders. Help them to make wise decisions which will make the world a better place. Lord, hear my prayer.

Listen to the reader as he or she encourages us to pray for situations and people in need. This is a prayer you could say privately.



OFFERTORY PROCESSION

As we take our gifts of bread, wine and money to the altar, think of a time when you felt uncertain and worried and then think of a time when you were confident and happy. Say a little prayer offering these thoughts up to God.

Watch as the gifts are made ready and the priest washes his hands and prepares for the Eucharistic Prayer.



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Today's special prayer thanks God for fulfilling all God's promises to us.

What can you give special thanks for today?

We listen to the prayer of praise and thanks to God.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

As the priest extends his hands, we say the prayer that Jesus taught us.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Peter said to Jesus: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus replied: You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church.

You are invited to sing a Communion song or say this verse, which has been especially chosen for today's celebration.



MY PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Thank you, Jesus, for loving me and for always being my friend. Help me to be your friend and to trust you. Amen.



ΙΧΘΥΣ

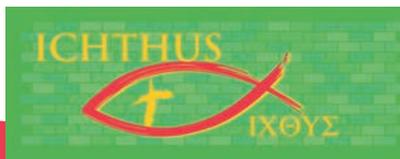
is the Greek word for "fish" and was used in the catacombs as a sign for early Christians. It is made up from the first letter of five Greek titles for the Lord:

- I (Jesus)
- X (Christos)
- Θ (Theou/God's)
- Υ (Uios/Son)
- Σ (Soter/Saviour)



We take Jesus with us to carry on the work that he did on earth, until we meet again next Sunday.

Go in peace.



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