

ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 5 JULY 2020

14TH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

Year A



Talk to Jesus, giving him anything that is worrying you.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Your merciful love, O God,
we have received in the midst of your temple.
Your praise, O God, like your name,
reaches the ends of the earth;
your right hand is filled with saving justice.

COLLECT

O God, who in the abasement of your Son
have raised up a fallen world,
fill your faithful with holy joy,
for on those you have rescued from slavery to sin
you bestow eternal gladness... Amen.



FIRST READING

ZECHARIAH 9:9-10

God gives the people
a glorious vision. The
Messiah who will save
the people will come
in triumph. This king will
rule an empire which
stretches from sea to sea
and he will bring peace.
The king will not arrive

on a war horse, but on
the foal of a donkey.
This vision of the Messiah
brings joy and hope to the
uncertain people of Israel.
Today we recognise the
story of Jesus' entry into
Jerusalem. Our king is the
king of peace.

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.

The Messiah promised
by God will bring
peace.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 144

I will bless your name for ever, O God my King.



SECOND READING

ROMANS 8:9, 11-13

We belong to God
because we have God's
Spirit living within us. It
is God our Father who
gives us life. Jesus, God
the Son, has made it
possible for us to enjoy
life forever. Our life with
God is not just about the

future when we go to
heaven. Life with God
brings us joy and a sense
of purpose which gives
every day meaning.
Believing in Jesus and
following his example
will make us truly happy
and full of life.

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 will
help us to live good
lives.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children.
Alleluia!

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



DO YOU KNOW?

Saturday 11 July is the
feast of St Benedict. He
was made patron saint of
Europe after the Second
World War. St Benedict
was a monk who wrote a
"rule" to help the people
in his monastery live
well together. Benedict
believed it was important
to listen properly to God
and to each other.



THINK

Jesus talks about
people taking up
his yoke. A yoke
is a wooden beam
that goes across the
shoulders of animals,
and sometimes humans,
to help them lift heavy
goods. Perhaps Jesus
is thinking about a
yoke for two animals.
A young animal being
trained would be yoked
to an older, more
experienced animal
to learn what to do.



GOSPEL MATTHEW 11:25-30

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

Faith is a gift. Those of us who believe in Jesus are really blessed because God has shown us how much we are loved. When we have faith we know God deep in our hearts – and it doesn't matter how old we are or how clever we are. Anyone can know and understand

God's love, even the youngest child. Jesus tells us that when we trust God's love we will have peace. No matter what worries we have, God will be with us and will help us. Jesus invites everyone to come to him. Following Jesus will bring us rest and real peace.

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

Think of all the things that you are thankful for in your life.

Thank God for all the blessings you have been given.



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, I would like to pray for anyone who is unhappy or weighed down by their work. Help them to find peace and joy in what they do. 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 this week when everything felt like hard work and then think of a time when you were full of fun and happiness.

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

Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.

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 showing me how much you love me. Help me to share your love with everyone I meet. 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.

ICHTHUS



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publications

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ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 12 JULY 2020

15TH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

Year A



Can you help hand out any books or leaflets?



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face;
I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

COLLECT

O God, who show the light of your truth
to those who go astray,
so that they may return to the right path,
give all who for the faith they profess
are accounted Christians
the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ
and to strive after all that does it honour...



FIRST READING ISAIAH 55:10-11

Isaiah gives a message
of hope to the people.
They see the rain and
snow falling to earth,
bringing life. The people
have bread to eat made
from the seed that grows
because of the rain. Rain
and snow are very clearly

vital for life. Isaiah uses
this image to explain that
God's word brings life.
Like the rain and snow
God's message brings
good things. When we
hear God's word and act
on it we bring love into the
world.

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.
God's message is
fruitful, just like rain.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 64

Some seed fell into rich soil
and produced its crop.



SECOND READING ROMANS 8:18-23

Paul knows all too well
that life is not easy. He
has had to suffer and he
knows that his readers
have difficulties to face.
Yet here Paul tells us that
all our troubles will pale
into insignificance when

we meet God. God's
wonderful creation has
been spoiled by the evil
and suffering in the world,
but in the end God's
goodness will win. With all
creation we will enjoy the
fullness of life in God's love.

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.
All of creation is
waiting for God to give
the fullness of life.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Speak, Lord, your servant is listening;
you have the message of eternal life.
Alleluia!

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



DO YOU KNOW?

Today is **Sea Sunday**.
We are thinking about,
and praying for,
everyone who makes
their living working on
the sea. Without this
work we would not be
able to enjoy lots of
the things we rely on
everyday which have
been traded over the
sea. Perhaps you can
find out what sort of
things they might be.



THINK

Jesus knows that some
of his message is hard to
understand. He wants
to help his friends grasp
what he means and so
Jesus teaches people
using parables, stories
with a meaning.



GOSPEL MATTHEW 13:1-23

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

So many people gathered round Jesus that he had to get into a boat. They sat on the beach and listened to his story: "As a sower threw his seeds some fell on the path and were eaten by the birds. Some fell on rocks where they sprang into life, but died as soon

as the sun came up. Other seeds fell among thorns which grew up and choked them. But some seed fell onto good soil and produced a fine crop. The seed is God's message. The good soil is anyone who really understands it and whose life bears good fruit."

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

Go for a walk where you can see things growing. Enjoy the grass and the sky and the trees and the flowers. Thank God for being alive!



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, please bless anyone who is working or travelling on the sea today. Look after them and bring them safely home. 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 difficult time this week and then think of something good that happened that made you 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

The sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for her young:
by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.

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 helping me understand how much you love me. Help me to really hear and to put your message of love into action this week. 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.

ICHTHUS



IXΘΥΣ



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 19 JULY 2020

16TH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

Year A



Thank God for all the good people in your life.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

See, I have God for my help.
The Lord sustains my soul.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart,
and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

COLLECT

Show favour, O Lord, to your servants
and mercifully increase the gifts of your grace,
that, made fervent in hope, faith and charity,
they may be ever watchful in keeping your commands...



FIRST READING WISDOM 12:13. 16-19

God is fair and just
and is unlike any other
authority. God is kind
and will always give
someone the benefit of
the doubt. If necessary
God could show power
and strength, and it
would cost no effort to

do so. God shows us by
example how we should
be kind too. We will be
like God if we forgive
those who wrong us. God
always gives second
chances, and so should
we. God loves everyone
very, very much.

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.

God will forgive
anyone who repents
and is sorry.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 85

O Lord, you are good and forgiving.



SECOND READING ROMANS 8:26-27

The Holy Spirit is always
with us. When we are at
our weakest and we need
the most help, the Holy
Spirit will be there. When
we are so lost that we
don't know even know
how to pray, the Holy Spirit

will express our needs for
us. Words are not always
the best way to express
what we need and the
Holy Spirit communicates
for us. God understands
what is in our hearts and
knows just what we need.

LOOK at the reader
and LISTEN.

The Holy Spirit will
help us, especially
when we are at our
weakest.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father,
Lord of heaven and earth,
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom
to mere children.
Alleluia!

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



DO YOU KNOW?

Wednesday 22 July
is the feast day of
St Mary Magdalene.
She was a friend of
Jesus throughout his
ministry and was the
first person Jesus
appeared to after
his resurrection.
St Thomas Aquinas
called her "apostle
of the apostles".
Pope Francis recently
recognised her
importance, giving
her a feast day like the
other apostles.



THINK

We are all responsible
for helping the kingdom
of God grow. In the Our
Father we say that we
want God our King to
rule here on earth just
as God rules in heaven.
When you pray these
words today, think about
how you can do what
God wants.



GOSPEL MATTHEW 13:24-43

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

Jesus knows the idea of the kingdom of heaven is not easy to understand and so he tells some parables to explain: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sows good seed. His enemy comes at night and sows weeds. Both the good plants and the weeds grow up side by side until

they can be separated at harvest time." Jesus says the kingdom is also "like a mustard seed which grows from the smallest of seeds to become the biggest shrub." And again, "the kingdom of heaven is like the yeast that is put into dough to make bread rise."

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, please bless anyone who is working to build a fairer, more just world. Give them courage and the determination to keep going. 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 this week when you felt lost and a bit hopeless and then remember a time when you were confident and happy about what you were doing.

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 stand at the door and knock, says the Lord. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door to me, I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me.

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 coming to me in Holy Communion. Help me to find you this week in the people I meet. Amen.



PRAY

"O Lord, you are good and forgiving."

Remembering that God knows and loves us, think about things you know you have done wrong. Thank God for always giving us another chance.



DO

Enjoy the summer break by doing something unusual - could you make the sandwiches for a picnic in the park?



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:

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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 26 JULY 2020

17TH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

Year A

Say "hello" to God our Father who has invited you here today.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

God is in his holy place,
God who unites those who dwell in his house;
he himself gives might and strength to his people.

COLLECT

O God, protector of those who hope in you,
without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy,
bestow in abundance your mercy upon us
and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide,
we may use the good things that pass
in such a way as to hold fast even now
to those that ever endure...



FIRST READING 1 KINGS 3:5, 7-12

After the death of his father David, Solomon has become king. God appears in a dream to Solomon and asks him what he wants. Solomon knows that as a young man he has a lot to learn. He has not got

the leadership skills to govern God's chosen people. So Solomon asks God to give him a wise heart. God is pleased that Solomon has not asked for riches or power and gives Solomon the wisdom he has asked for.

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.
Solomon asks God for a wise and understanding heart.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 118

Lord, how I love your law!



SECOND READING ROMANS 8:28-30

God is always with those who love him. Even when things go wrong, God is there. And God will turn what is bad into something good. We can all grow to be better people through the bad things that happen

to us. As we grow to become better people we grow to be more and more like Jesus. Jesus is our big brother, helping us on our way. Each of us is special because we are made in the image of God.

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.
God will bring good out of bad and help us all to become more like Jesus.



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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father,
Lord of heaven and earth,
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom
to mere children.
Alleluia!



DO YOU KNOW?

Wednesday 29 July is the feast day of **St Martha**. Along with her sister Mary and brother Lazarus, Martha was a good friend of Jesus. We often hear about Martha being busy when Jesus came to visit, but there is much more to her. Martha is one of the first people to recognise that **Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God**.



THINK

Solomon grew into a **very wise king**. When two women were fighting over a baby Solomon suggested dividing the baby in two with his sword. One of the women begged him to give the baby to the other woman. So Solomon gave her the baby. He knew that the real mother would **give the baby up to save its life**.



GOSPEL MATTHEW 13:44-52

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

Jesus continues to describe the kingdom of heaven. He says it is like treasure hidden in a field. Someone who finds the treasure sells everything he has so that he can buy the field with the treasure. The kingdom is also like a pearl merchant. When he

finds one of great value, he sells everything so that he can buy it. Like these men we have a choice whether or not we want the kingdom. Like them, we might have to give some things up so that we can put God first in our lives. But, like them, we will gain so much!

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

Dear Jesus, I am only young and, like Solomon, I have a lot to learn. Help me to put love at the centre of my life and to trust you to guide me in the right way. Amen.



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, please bless all the women working in the Church. Let their contribution in building your kingdom be recognised and celebrated. 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 sad time this week and then think of a happy time when life felt good.

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 never forget all his benefits.

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 helping me to know and understand you more each day. Help me to remember you are always with me. 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:

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Go in peace.

