

# 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.

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?

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.



## 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.

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.



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!



## 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.



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.



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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.

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.

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

## 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.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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



## 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.



# 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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Go in peace.



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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.

LOOK at the reader  
and LISTEN.  
The Holy Spirit will  
help us, especially  
when we are at our  
weakest.



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

## 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.

## 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 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?



### 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.



### 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.



## 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

- 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

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.



## 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**.

## 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.



## 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 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.



## 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:

- I (Jesus)
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