

ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 3 JANUARY 2021

2ND SUNDAY
AFTER THE NATIVITY

Year B



Chat to Jesus about your New Year's resolutions - have you made any new beginnings?



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

When a profound silence covered all things and night was in the middle of its course, your all-powerful Word, O Lord, bounded from heaven's royal throne.



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

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God, splendour of faithful souls, graciously be pleased to fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all peoples by the radiance of your light...



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



FIRST READING ECCLESIASTICUS 24:1-2. 8-12

The wisdom of God has made her home with the people of Israel. God, Creator of all, has always existed and always will exist. It is this same God who has chosen the people of Israel. God's chosen people are blessed in a special way. They enjoy a loving relationship with God and know that God is always with them. The people of Israel will live up to whatever God asks because God's wisdom is with them. Those God has chosen are privileged.



LOOK at the reader and LISTEN. God's wisdom has come to live with the chosen people of Israel.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 147

The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.

Or Alleluia!



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



SECOND READING EPHESIANS 1:3-6. 15-18

God has great things in store for each of us. What is true for the first Christians in Ephesus is true for us too. God chose each of us, even before the world was made, to be blessed with Jesus' goodness. We are all God's children and all are called to be holy. It is God's spirit of wisdom which will help us to understand what God's love means for us now and what it will mean for us in the future.



LOOK at the reader and LISTEN. Each one of us was chosen by God before the world began!



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory be to you, O Christ, proclaimed to the pagans; Glory be to you, O Christ, believed in by the world. Alleluia!



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



DO YOU KNOW?

On **Wednesday 6 January** we celebrate the feast of **The Epiphany of the Lord**. We remember that **Jesus is God's gift for the whole world**. Wise men journeyed from the East to find Jesus, who welcomes people of **every race and nation** to be part of his family.



THINK

God chose us before we ever chose God! We are all God's children, and are really wanted and **loved by God**. Think about something you really wanted, perhaps a present you asked for, and how long you waited for it. Now think about our second reading, which says we were chosen by God before the universe began. **We must be very special!**



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

Jesus is God's word. This word has existed, just as God has, since before time began. Everything began because of God and everything still exists and has meaning because of God. Jesus is the light of the world, God the Son who has come into the world in a new and special

way. God has become a human being, like us. Jesus has chosen to come and live with us. Darkness, anything that is bad or frightening, can never overcome Jesus' goodness. We now know how much God loves us, because Jesus, God the Son, is living with us and will never leave us.

STAND to LISTEN to the priest or deacon as he prepares to read the Gospel. Before he reads the Gospel, what does the priest do to his forehead, his lips and his heart?



PRAY

Jesus, you are the light of the world. Show me the right path for my life and help me to walk in the light of your love. I know that you will shine light on the darkness of my fears. Thank you.



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, be with all those families who are blessed with adopted children. Help us all to feel God's love and know that we belong. 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 you felt ignored and then remember a time when you felt loved by your family or 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

To all who would accept him, he gave the power to become children of God.

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 choosing to come and live with us. Help me to choose to follow your way of love 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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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 10 JANUARY 2021

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Year B



Can you see the font in church? Think about the symbol of water and the new life of baptism.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered:
This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
who, when Christ had been baptised in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may always be well pleasing to you...

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?

Today is the feast of **The Baptism of the Lord**. Jesus' baptism is the first time we see the **Trinity** in the Bible, together publically in the same story. **God the Father** tells us that **Jesus is God the Son** and the **Holy Spirit** is seen in the form of a dove. Now Jesus begins his three years of preaching and teaching.



FIRST READING ISAIAH 55:1-11

Imagine living in a hot country, where water is scarce, and feeling thirsty. Now imagine having a lovely, cool drink of water. How welcome that drink will be! Isaiah uses this image to tell us about God's love. Although we

need food and water, God's love is even more important for us. There is part of us that will always be empty, until we open ourselves to receive God's love. Let us listen to God's word and hear God telling us that we are loved.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN.

God's love is given freely and generously.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM ISAIAH 12: 2-6

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

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



SECOND READING 1 JOHN 5:1-9

God loves us and we are all God's children. Love is not just something that feels good; love is about putting other people first. If we say we love God, we will want to do as God asks and follow the commandments.

By following Jesus' example, we will find out how to love. Jesus shows us how to put other people first. It will not be hard, because the Holy Spirit we received at our baptism will help us put our love into action.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN.

God's children keep God's commandments, because they love God.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

John saw Jesus coming towards him, and said:
This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Alleluia!

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



THINK

At some time, perhaps today, you will have dipped your fingers into the **holy water** and made the **sign of the cross**. This blessing is a **reminder of our baptism**. We are reminding ourselves that we are a **child of God**. We are all part of God's family and we are **loved by God** very, very much.



GOSPEL MARK 1:7-11

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

The people who come to John for baptism want to change their lives and make a new start. Like all these ordinary people, and like us, Jesus himself comes to be baptised. Jesus is making a new start and beginning his public ministry. John tells us that Jesus will baptise not only

with water, but with the Holy Spirit. Mark records how special Jesus' baptism is. As Jesus comes up from the water, the heavens open and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove comes down on Jesus. God the Father is heard saying that "this is my Son, the beloved."

STAND to LISTEN

to the priest or deacon as he prepares to read the Gospel. Before he reads the Gospel, what does the priest do to his forehead, his lips and his heart?



PRAY

Lord, you offer freedom to all people. Bless those who are in prison, their families and prison staff. Heal anyone who has been hurt because of crime. Help us all to forgive others. Amen.



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, I would like to pray for anyone who does not feel loved by their family. Help them to feel your love and to find people who will care for them. 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 alone and then think of a time when you felt loved by someone in your family.

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 the One of whom John said:
I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

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 us what real love is. Help me live as God the Father asks and to put my love into action. 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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Go in peace.



ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 17 JANUARY 2021

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Year B



As you make the sign of the cross, think about how much you love God with all your mind and heart.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God,
and shall sing to you,
shall sing to your name, O Most High!



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

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
who govern all things,
both in heaven and on earth,
mercifully hear the pleading of your people
and bestow your peace on our times...



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



FIRST READING 1 SAMUEL 3:3-10. 19

Samuel is living in the Temple, being trained by the priest, Eli. When Samuel hears someone calling him, of course he thinks it is Eli and he runs to him. But it isn't Eli who is calling. Again Samuel hears someone

calling and again Eli sends him back to bed. When Samuel responds a third time to the call, Eli understands. It is God who is calling Samuel. Eli helps Samuel to be ready. When God calls again, Samuel listens.



LOOK at the reader and LISTEN. God calls three times to the boy Samuel, who listens.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 39

Here I am, Lord!
I come to do your will.



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



SECOND READING 1 CORINTHIANS 6:13-15. 17-20

Some people misunderstand God and think that being holy is just about our souls. But God has given us bodies as well as souls and we can meet God in our bodily experiences. We eat the bread and wine

of Communion, we feel blessed with water and oil and in reconciliation we hear God telling us we are forgiven. The Holy Spirit lives in each of us, in our bodies. We can give glory to God when we treat our bodies with respect.



LOOK at the reader and LISTEN. Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit.

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?

18-25 January is the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity. For eight days Christians all over the world get together to have fun and to pray. During this time we remember that we are all one family and that Jesus wants his family to get on with each other. Perhaps there are some local activities you can get involved with?



THINK

Samuel needed Eli to teach him. The disciples needed John the Baptist to point Jesus out to them. We might want to answer God's call and say, "Here I am", but we may not be ready yet. Who are the people helping you to hear God's call? Are you letting them teach you and taking the time to listen?





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

Right at the beginning of the Gospel, John is telling us that Jesus is our saviour. Jesus is the lamb who will take away our sins. He will sacrifice himself so that we can all enjoy a full relationship with God. John the Baptist understands Jesus' significance and points

him out to his disciples. The disciples follow Jesus, eager to find out more. When Jesus invites them to his house, they do not hesitate and spend hours with him. Having understood for themselves, these very first disciples share their good news and Simon Peter is brought to faith.

STAND to LISTEN to the priest or deacon as he prepares to read the Gospel. Before he reads the Gospel, what does the priest do to his forehead, his lips and his heart?



PRAY

Think about all the people who, like John the Baptist, are pointing out Jesus and his message of love to you. Think about your family, your teachers, your friends, priests and catechists. Thank God for them all.



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, I would like to pray for Christians everywhere. May we see the good in each other and celebrate the variety of our experiences of God. 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 were struggling on your own and then think of a time when someone helped you to get something done.

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

We have come to know and to believe in the love that God has for us.

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 sacrificing yourself for us. Thank you for inviting us to your house, so that we can learn more about who you are. Help us to listen. 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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Go in peace.



ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 24 JANUARY 2021

3RD SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

Year B



Look at the lectern and think about how it shows that God's word is special.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O sing a new song to the Lord;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
In his presence are majesty and splendour,
strength and honour in his holy place.

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

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
direct our actions according to your good pleasure,
that in the name of your beloved Son
we may abound in good works...

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



FIRST READING JONAH 3:1-5, 10

Sometimes it takes a threat to make us act. We might be offered treats if we tidy up, but in the end it is the idea of missing out on screen time that makes us do it. Today, God sends Jonah to the people of Nineveh with

a threat. If they don't change their ways their town will be destroyed. The townspeople are sorry and do what they know is right. God sees that they are trying to change and does not destroy Nineveh.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN. The mighty town of Nineveh is threatened with destruction.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 24

Lord, make me know your ways.

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



SECOND READING 1 CORINTHIANS 7:29-31

When we are young death seems a long way away. However, the first Christians thought that after the resurrection Jesus would come back again very soon, and the world would end. Even though this didn't happen, we do

know that our life on earth is actually not very long. Being aware that life will end need not be sad; it can help us to make the most of every day. And as Christians we have the joy of knowing that we will live forever with Jesus!

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN. Make each day count, as life on earth is short.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
The kingdom of God is close at hand;
believe the Good News.
Alleluia!

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



DO YOU KNOW?

Tomorrow we celebrate the feast of the **The Conversion of St Paul the Apostle**. From being an enemy of Jesus, intent on stopping the spread of Christianity, Paul became one of the **most important people in the Church**. God literally stopped Paul in his tracks as he travelled to Damascus and **Paul's life was completely changed**.



THINK

Today is the **Sunday of the Word of God** when Catholics will be thinking about making the Bible an even bigger part of our everyday lives. The **Holy Spirit inspired** the human writers of the Bible and will **help us to understand** what God wants to tell us. **Listen carefully** to the readings today, opening your heart to what **God is saying to you**.



GOSPEL MARK 1:14-20

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

Mark tells us the whole reason for writing about Jesus right at the beginning of his Gospel. Jesus brings the Good News of life with God. Jesus tells us that God's kingdom is here. We must repent; turn away from what we know is wrong, and turn to God. Following Jesus will give

us the fullness of life here and promises us life forever in heaven. The first disciples hear Jesus' message and immediately leave their lives as fishermen and follow Jesus. While we may not be asked to leave our families, acting on what Jesus says is just as important for us.

STAND to LISTEN

to the priest or deacon as he prepares to read the Gospel. Before he reads the Gospel, what does the priest do to his forehead, his lips and his heart?



PRAY

Think about the Gospel reading. If you can, read the story again. Did any words or phrases stand out to you? What is God saying to you? How will you respond today?



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, I would like to pray especially for all the people who are studying and interpreting the Bible for us. Help us all to hear and respond to your message. 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 were fed up and then think about how you made the most of your time later. 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 light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

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 speaking to us today. Help me to listen to your voice in the words of the Bible and in the stillness of my heart. 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)
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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 JANUARY 2021

4TH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

Year B



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



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Save us, O Lord our God!
And gather us from the nations,
to give thanks to your holy name,
and make it our glory to praise you.

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

COLLECT

Grant us, Lord our God,
that we may honour you with all our mind,
and love everyone in truth of heart...

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



FIRST READING DEUTERONOMY 18:15-20

Prophets receive their mission from God. Prophets are ordinary people who are called by God. They are not part of the accepted leadership, but they have a vital role; to speak on behalf of God and challenge those

in authority. A prophet's message may not be comfortable to hear, but they have a duty to speak it out boldly. The people have a duty to listen to God's message and then to act on the words of the prophet.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN. Moses explains the role of a prophet to the people

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 94

O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.

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



SECOND READING 1 CORINTHIANS 7:32-35

It is hard to give proper time and attention to too many things and Paul wants the people of Corinth to remember to put God first in their lives. Paul is expecting the end of the world very soon, and he doesn't want

people to make life hard for themselves. These first Christians will soon understand that it will be a long time before anyone needs to worry about the end of the world, but putting God first is always good advice.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN. Make sure God is always your first priority.

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?

On Tuesday 2 February we celebrate the feast of the **The Presentation of the Lord**. We remember how Simeon and Anna recognised Jesus as the **Messiah** and **light of the world** when Mary and Joseph took him as a new baby to the Temple. **How will we shine with Jesus' light this week?**



THINK

Today is **Racial Justice Day**. Jesus treated everyone with love and respect, no matter who they were or where they were from, and so must we. This means we must **stop any mistreatment** of anyone because of their **race or nationality**. Everyone is equal in God's eyes.



GOSPEL MARK 1:21-28

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

All the people in the synagogue are really impressed with Jesus, because he clearly knows what he is talking about. Jesus teaches with authority. While Jesus is teaching, a sick man comes into the synagogue and challenges Jesus. Mark explains this man's illness, in the language of the time,

as evil spirits. Although we may understand his illness differently now, the message is the same: Jesus is able to heal sickness and brings peace to this troubled man. The congregation are astonished and even more impressed by Jesus. Soon, everyone in the surrounding areas has heard about Jesus of Nazareth.

STAND to LISTEN

to the priest or deacon as he prepares to read the Gospel. Before he reads the Gospel, what does the priest do to his forehead, his lips and his heart?

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 anyone who is suffering illness of any kind, especially if it is proving difficult to diagnose. Let them know healing and God's peace. Lord, hear my prayer.



OFFERTORY PROCESSION

As we take our gifts of bread, wine and money to the altar, think of a time this week when you didn't feel well and then think of a time this week when you were full of beans. 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

Let your face shine on your servant.
Save me in your merciful love.
O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.



MY PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Loving Lord, you speak with authority. Thank you for your healing word. Help me to share your peace 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.



PRAY

Paul says, "I would like to see you free from all worry". Get help from a grown up if you have any worries. Then use your imagination in prayer and hand over your worries to God. Have a chat with Jesus, and know his peace.



DO

Be a prophet this week: speak up if you see anyone being treated unfairly or hear anyone being teased because they are different.



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