

# ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2020

25TH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME

Year A



Imagine God is looking through your eyes - how will you see the people in church?



## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.  
Should they cry to me in any distress,  
I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

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

## COLLECT

O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbour, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life...

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



## FIRST READING ISAIAH 55:6-9

We can't ever really understand God. God is so amazing that we can't even imagine how loving and kind God can be. All we can do is to look for God and open our hearts to God's love. We might think that other people are not good enough to be in God's family and we might even look down on people who we think don't deserve God's love. But God's love is bigger than we can imagine and God loves everyone.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN. God's ways are not our ways.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 144

The Lord is close to all who call him.

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



## SECOND READING PHILIPPIANS 1:20-24. 27

When we have faith we don't need to be afraid of dying, because we know we will be happy in heaven. We aren't in any rush though, as we have full lives now because of Jesus. Paul says he wants to stay on earth so that he can do as much good as he can for Jesus, but he is also looking forward to being with Jesus forever. We live for Jesus, and serving others in this life will bring glory to God.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN. Our life and our death are all about 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 21 September is the feast of **St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist**. Like him, we are also called to spread the **Good News of Jesus' love** by what **we say** and what **we do**.



## THINK

It doesn't seem fair when people get more than we think they deserve. The workers in the Gospel story were angry about their wages. But **God's ways are not our ways** and God's love is boundless. Perhaps there is someone you don't like and you can't imagine God can love them as much as God loves you? **Ask God to help you look at them in a new way.**



## GOSPEL MATTHEW 20:1-16

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

Keeping his listeners' attention by telling a story, Jesus explains how generous God our Father is: a landowner goes out one day and hires people to work in his vineyard for a fixed payment. Later in the day he hires more workers and later still, he hires even more.

At the end of the day when the landowner pays the wages, they all get the same amount. The first workers think this is very unfair, but the landowner points out that that was what they had agreed. Like the landowner, God is generous, whether we understand it or not!

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

"He is close to all who call him, who call on him from their hearts."

Talk to Jesus as honestly as you can about everything that is happening in your life. Tell him about the good and bad things, big and small.



## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, please help me to see other people in the way that you do. Help me to love everyone, especially the people I don't like. 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 challenging time this week and then think of a relaxed and happy time when you were enjoying 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 Good Shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know 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 loving me so much. Help me to trust you and to share your love by what I say and by what I do. Amen.



DO

Make an effort to be generous this week when people get rewards or praise that you wish you were getting.



# 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:

- # (Jesus)
- } (Christos)
- o (Theou/God's)
- { (Uios/Son)
- ψ (Soter/Saviour)

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publications

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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.

