

ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 2 MAY 2021

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Year B



How many good things have you already done today?



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.

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...



FIRST READING ACTS 9:26-31

Saul was a real enemy of the first Christians, tracking them down, putting them in jail and even killing them. It's not surprising then that the disciples are afraid of Saul when he arrives in Jerusalem to join them. They just didn't trust he

really had changed and become a Christian. Barnabas tells them the story of Saul's conversion and how he has been bravely preaching about Jesus in Damascus. Now Saul shows by his actions that he really is a believer.

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. Saul really has changed and become a Christian.

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. Love is about what we do, not just what we say or feel.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 21

You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.
Or Alleluia!



SECOND READING 1 JOHN 3:18-24

If we love God then we will love each other. This sounds very nice, but is not always easy. Love means putting someone else before ourselves and doing something to help and care for them. We can't just talk about love;

we have to put our words into action. We don't need to worry though, because Jesus will help us to live as he asks. Everyone will know that we love God when they see us caring for each other.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.
Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty.
Alleluia!



DO YOU KNOW?

Monday 3 May is the feast of Ss Philip and James, Apostles. Both men were friends of Jesus, each chosen to be one of his twelve apostles. On Tuesday 4 May we celebrate the feast of The English Martyrs, forty men and women who gave their lives for their faith. We ask Jesus to help us to be a good friend to him, like all these saints.



THINK

Vines grow grapes and they were very important in Jesus' time. It takes a long time and hard work to grow good fruit. Our good deeds are like fruit. If we stay with Jesus we will have lots of help as we grow.



GOSPEL JOHN 15:1-8

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

Jesus is the true vine and God the Father is like the farmer looking after the vine. Jesus says we are like the branches of the vine. To produce fruit a branch must stay part of the vine plant. If we want to produce good fruit, then we must stay with

Jesus. We need Jesus and each other to help us to do good things in the world. Together we will be able to do great things! If we are rooted in God's love we will grow strong. We will be able to follow Jesus, spreading love to the people we meet.

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? Can you copy him?



PRAY

"Our love is not to be just words and talk, but something real and active."

Help me, Jesus, to share your love this week. Give me energy and determination when I feel as though I can't be bothered. Amen.



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, I am thinking about anyone who feels as though they have no roots and do not belong. Help them to find friendship and to feel strong in your love. 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 about a time this week when you didn't do something you should have done, and then remember how often you did do something helpful and useful.

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.

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

Thank you, Jesus, for showing me how real your love for me is. Help me to put my love for others into action too. 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)

redemptorist publications

Ichthus. Edited by Rachel Thompson. Published by Redemptorist Publications Wolf's Lane, Chawton, Hampshire GU34 3HQ. Copyright © Redemptorist Publications. A registered charity limited by guarantee. Registered in England 03261721. www.rpbooks.co.uk. Excerpts from the English translation of The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. Concordat cum originali Ann Blackett. Imprimatur + Peter Doyle, Bishop of Northampton 13 July 2018. Permission granted for distribution in the dioceses of Scotland.

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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.

