

# 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)



We take Jesus with us to carry on the work that he did on earth, until we meet again next Sunday.

Go in peace.



redemptorist publications

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