

# ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER 2020

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Year B



Take a few moments to be still, so that you are ready to hear God speaking to you in today's readings.



## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O people of Sion, behold,  
the Lord will come to save the nations,  
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard  
in the joy of your heart.

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

## COLLECT

Almighty and merciful God,  
may no earthly undertaking hinder those  
who set out in haste to meet your Son,  
but may our learning of heavenly wisdom  
gain us admittance to his company...

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



## FIRST READING

ISAIAH 40:1-5. 9-11

God loves us very much. This message from God, given by Isaiah to the people of Israel, is meant for us too. God wants to comfort and look after us. God is like a shepherd, feeding his lambs, holding

them close to his heart. This is great news! We can be proud of our God and let everyone know just how much God cares for us. It doesn't matter what we may have done wrong, God will give us a second chance.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN. Isaiah has a hopeful vision for God's people

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 84

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy  
and give us your saving help

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



## SECOND READING

2 PETER 3:8-14

We might get impatient for God to act in the world. But, as we are reminded in this reading, God's time is not ours: a day can be like a thousand years and a thousand years like a day. We can be sure

that God will come and will make the world new again. In the meantime, we can live as God asks. If we follow Jesus' example and are loving, then we will be peaceful and ready to meet God.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN. God will come, but in God's own time, not ours.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Prepare a way for the Lord,  
make his paths straight,  
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.  
Alleluia!

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



## DO YOU KNOW?

In England and Wales today is **Bible Sunday**. Christians believe that **God inspired the writers of the Bible** and that the Holy Spirit can help us today to understand **God's message** to us. We can hear God speaking directly to us when we **listen with our hearts** to God's word.



## THINK

On Tuesday we celebrate the feast of **The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**. We remember that Mary was **born without sin**, because of Jesus her son. Mary enjoyed a perfect relationship with God and on her feast day **we ask her to help us** on our journey of faith.



## GOSPEL MARK 1:1-8

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

Right at the beginning of his Gospel, Mark wants us to know that Jesus is Good News! Jesus is the promised saviour who will bring us all new life. Jesus is the Son of God, spoken of by the prophet Isaiah in our first reading. Jesus will fulfil all the hopes of the prophets.

John the Baptist is God's messenger, preparing everyone for the saviour. Jesus is going to put right our relationship with God. Each of us has the opportunity now to make a new start and turn towards God, just as the people listening to John did.

#### 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

**"Prepare a way for the Lord"**

Ask God to show you how you can prepare a way for Jesus in your life. Listen to God speaking to your heart.



### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, I would like to pray especially for anyone who is anxious or worried at this time. Help them to feel your peace and loving presence. 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 were impatient and then think of a time when you were understanding.

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

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from 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 feeding me, just as a shepherd feeds his sheep. Help me to nourish others with your love. Amen.



DO

Can you make some cards, ready to give to your family and friends at Christmas?



# ΙΧΘΥΣ

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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