

ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 14 MARCH 2021

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Year B



Thank you, Jesus, for loving me so much!



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

COLLECT

O God, who through your Word
reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way,
grant, we pray,
that with prompt devotion and eager faith
the Christian people may hasten
toward the solemn celebrations to come...



FIRST READING 2 CHRONICLES 36:14-16. 19-23

God's people are not doing well. Instead of living as God asks, they have been copying the behaviour of their neighbours. Rather than listening to the prophets God has sent to remind them how to live, the people have ignored and laughed at them.

God is left with no option. Jerusalem is demolished, the Temple is destroyed and the people are taken captive. Hope comes from an unexpected person. Cyrus, the foreign king, sees what is needed and does God's work, rebuilding the Temple.

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. Hope comes from an unlikely place!

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. God's love is a completely free gift.



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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 136

O let my tongue
cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not!



SECOND READING EPHESIANS 2:4-10

God loves us very, very much. We know how much God loves us because Jesus has shown us. Jesus' death and resurrection have given us life. We can enjoy our life now because we have the joy of knowing

that we are loved – and we can look forward to living with God forever in heaven. We are God's work of art. God has made us to shine with goodness. Let's live good lives, sharing Jesus' love with everyone we meet.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!
God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son;
everyone who believes in him has eternal life.
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!



DO YOU KNOW?

Today is Laetare Sunday. "Laetare" means "rejoice" in Latin. Although we are in the middle of Lent, we have a glimpse today of the joy and happiness we will experience at Easter.



THINK

Catholic churches usually have a crucifix, a cross with the figure of Jesus on it. A crucifix can help us to understand how much God loves us. When we really love someone it can be hard putting their needs first. A crucifix helps us to see that joy can come out of suffering and that God is with us, whatever happens.



GOSPEL JOHN 3:14-21

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

God doesn't want to judge us. God just wants to love us. God the Father sent Jesus to show us just how much we are loved. Through his death Jesus brings light and life into the world. No one needs to be afraid anymore. We know God is on our

side, helping us to see how to live and giving us hope. If we keep our eyes on Jesus and follow his example, we can't go wrong. Jesus draws people together and together we can change the world, by sharing his light and love and living as he asks.

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

"We are God's work of art."

Think about how uniquely wonderful you are. No one else will ever bring to the world all you do. Ask God to help you grow in self-confidence.



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, I would like to pray for anyone who is depressed or anxious. Help them to know the joy and happiness that your love brings and give them hope. 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 when you were critical of other people and then think about how you appreciated the goodness of your family and 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

Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, to praise the name of the Lord.

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 and always being with me. Help me to walk in your light, sharing the joy your love brings me. Amen.



DO

Celebrate Laetare Sunday by doing something fun - go for a walk, play a game or have a joke competition!



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)



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.

FSC logo



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

Go in peace.

