

# ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 7 MARCH 2021

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

Year B



Thank God that we are free to come to such a special place to say our prayers



## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

My eyes are always on the Lord,  
for he rescues my feet from the snare.  
Turn to me and have mercy on me,  
for I am alone and poor.

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

## COLLECT

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy and an everlasting inheritance...

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



## FIRST READING

EXODUS 20:1-17

Nothing could be better than saving the Hebrews from slavery. But now God helps even more, by giving the people rules to live by. These commandments will help everyone to get on with each other and so get to know God better. The first

few rules remind us that everything comes from God and then the rest focus on other people. Moses' covenant with God involves everyone. God will be with the people and they want to thank God by keeping the commandments.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN. God gives the people a special gift - his commandments!

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 18

You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.

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



## SECOND READING

1 CORINTHIANS 1:22-25

Jesus' death and resurrection seemed just as strange two thousand years ago as it can do to people today. It makes no sense. And yet, for those of us who believe, Jesus' death is what gives us meaning

and makes the most sense of life. God does not need a great show of power or fit into human ideas of wisdom. We see in Jesus just how much God loves each one of us. We don't need anything else.

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!  
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord,  
whoever believes in me will never die.  
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

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



## DO YOU KNOW?

Wednesday 10 March is the feast day of **St John Ogilvie**. He was born in Scotland in 1579 and sent to school in Europe. John became a Jesuit priest (like Pope Francis) and returned to Scotland, where it was illegal to be Catholic. St John Ogilvie died rather than give up his faith.



## THINK

Unlike the other Gospels, the cleansing of the Temple is at the start of John's Gospel. From the very beginning we see that Jesus is not afraid to stand up for what is right, even if it causes trouble. Jesus will help us to stand up for what is right too.



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

Right at the start of his ministry Jesus shows by his words and actions just who he is and what he is about. When he goes to Jerusalem for the Passover Jesus stands up for what is right. Finding traders in the Temple, Jesus physically chases them and their animals away. This is

his Father's house and it should be treated with respect. Having made it clear that he is God's Son, Jesus explains that his actions point to something even more important. The real temple is Jesus himself. He will die and rise again three days later. Jesus is in charge of everything.

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?

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.

Watch as the gifts are made ready and the priest washes his hands and prepares for the Eucharistic Prayer.

We listen to the prayer of praise and thanks to God.

You are invited to sing a Communion song or say this verse, which has been especially chosen for today's celebration.



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, I would like to pray for anyone who is suffering today because they were brave enough to speak out against injustice. Be with them and give them hope. Lord, hear my prayer.



OFFERTORY PROCESSION

As we take our gifts of bread, wine and money to the altar, think of a time when you were happy to ignore something that you knew was wrong and then think about all the times this week you chose to do what is right.

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?



THE LORD'S PRAYER

As the priest extends his hands, we say the prayer that Jesus taught us.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.



MY PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Thank you, Jesus, for sharing your life and love with me. Help me to follow your ways and so grow closer to you. Amen.



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

Go in peace.



PRAY

"I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery."

Make a list of all God has done for you, everything you are grateful for. Say a great big "thank you"!



DO

Find out about trading rules and talk to your family about buying fairly traded food and clothes.



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)

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