

# ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 11 APRIL 2021

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Year B



What can you see in church that tells you we are celebrating Eastertide?



## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

## COLLECT

God of everlasting mercy, who, in the very recurrence of the paschal feast kindle the faith of the people you have made your own, increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed, that all may grasp and rightly understand in what font they have been washed, by whose Spirit they have been reborn, by whose Blood they have been redeemed...

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.



## DO YOU KNOW?

Today is **Divine Mercy Sunday**. Pope John Paul II asked us to celebrate on this day when **Faustina Kawalska** was made a saint in 2000. She was a Polish nun who had a special mission to help people think about **God's forgiveness**.



## FIRST READING ACTS 4:32-35

The first Christians are united, heart and soul. They share everything they have with each other. These first believers make sure that everyone is looked after. If someone is in need, people with property sell it and bring

the money to the apostles who share it out. The apostles continue to spread the Good News about Jesus' resurrection and are given great respect. They are witnesses to the truth about Jesus in their words and in their actions.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN.

The first Christians shared everything so no one was left in need.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 117

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

Or Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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



## SECOND READING 1 JOHN 5:1-6

We are all God's children. God our Father loves us and we love Jesus, God the Son. Together we are one big loving family. It's not possible to say we love God and not love God's children. We love everyone in the world

because they are our brothers and sisters. The commandments are all helping us to love God and each other. Keeping the commandments and living as God asks is not hard to do because we have Jesus to help us.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN.

We are all God's children!

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus said: "You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe." Alleluia!

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



## THINK

The first Christians **shared everything** they had. You may already share with other people too. We can share our **time and energy** as well as our **money and possessions**. Perhaps this week we could all keep our eyes open for ways to **help people in need**, and do what we can to help out.



## GOSPEL JOHN 20:19-31

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

Having seen Jesus die, the disciples are scared. While they are hiding in a room together Jesus comes and stands among them, bringing his peace. The disciples are delighted to see Jesus! Jesus gives them the gift of the Holy Spirit and asks the disciples to go and spread the message

of God's love. Thomas wasn't with the disciples when all this happened and he finds it all very difficult to believe. Thomas wants proof. So, eight days later, Jesus comes and gives Thomas the help he needs to believe. If we can believe even without seeing Jesus, then we really are happy.

### 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

"Peace be with you."

Spend a few moments enjoying some quiet time with Jesus. Close your eyes and let your body relax. Let Jesus' peace fill your heart.



### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, I want to pray for people who have really good reasons to be scared. Please help them find the help they need and give them your peace. 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 of a time when you were worried and then think about a time this week when you were calm, happy and confident.

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.



# 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)

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, 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 giving me your peace and for helping me to believe. Help me to share your peace with everyone I meet this week. 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.



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