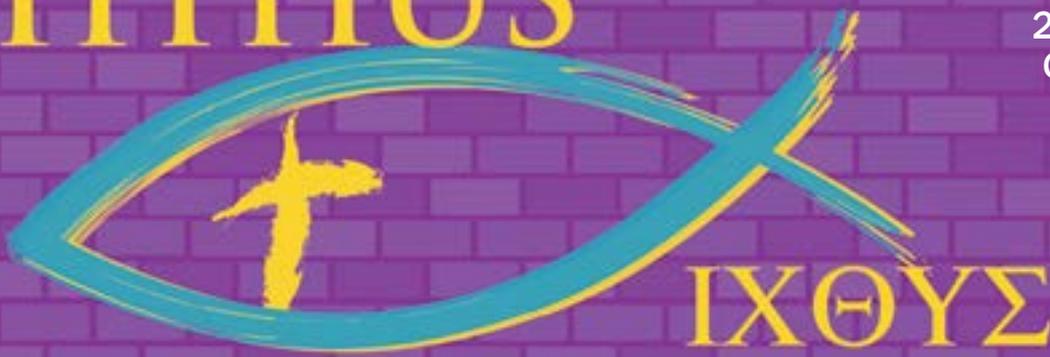


ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 22 AUGUST 2021

21ST SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

Year B



Come, Holy Spirit, and fill me with your power.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;
save the servant who trusts in you, my God.
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

COLLECT

O God, who cause the minds of the faithful
to unite in a single purpose,
grant your people to love what you command
and to desire what you promise,
that, amid the uncertainties of this world,
our hearts may be fixed on that place
where true gladness is found...



JOSHUA 24:1-2. 15-18

Having been wandering
in the desert for forty
years, Joshua has
brought the Israelites to
the Promised Land. Now
he has an important
question for them. Joshua
gathers all the people
together and asks if they
going to serve God or

turn to the gods of the
neighbouring tribes?
The Israelites are clear.
They have no intention of
deserting the God who
has saved them, looked
after them on their
journeying and brought
them to safety. They will
serve the Lord, their God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 33

Taste and see that the Lord is good.



SECOND READING EPHESIANS 5:21-32

When Paul was writing this
letter to the Christians in
Ephesus, women did not
enjoy the same rights as
today. Although we might
question some of Paul's
ideas, he is actually
challenging people at
that time – as well as
giving us something to

think about. Men and
women should treat each
other with mutual love
and respect. Real love
for someone else means
putting them before
ourselves. Jesus shows
us how to put love into
action and we want to
follow him.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Your words are spirit, Lord,
and they are life:
you have the message of eternal life.
Alleluia!

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.
Will the Israelites
make a choice for God
or not?

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.
Jesus loves the
Church just as a
husband and a wife
love each other.



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



DO YOU KNOW?

Tuesday 24 August is the
feast of **St Bartholomew,
Apostle**. He was one of
Jesus' twelve special
friends and is sometimes
thought to be called
Nathaniel in John's Gospel.
We don't know much
about Bartholomew, but
believe **he spread the
message of God's love** until
he was killed because of his
faith in Jesus.



THINK

Joshua asked the Israelites
to make a choice: **to serve
God or not**. We might
make a **big choice for
God**, perhaps when we are
preparing to be confirmed.
But every day we make **little
choices for God**. Will we
make the choice to **be kind,
to stand up for someone or
to help out at home?**



GOSPEL JOHN 6:60-69

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

Many of the people listening to Jesus cannot accept his teaching. It is all too much for them and makes no sense. Jesus knows that they are not happy and tells them that everything he says is true. Some of Jesus' disciples are still unhappy. Many of them leave Jesus at this point

and stop following him. So Jesus turns to his twelve special friends and asks them if they are going to leave as well? Simon Peter answers for them all. They are going nowhere. They believe Jesus. Jesus has the words of eternal life. Jesus is the Holy One of God.

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 facing a difficult choice today. Help them to see clearly what is true and right. Lord, hear my prayer.



OFFERTORY PROCESSION

As we take our gifts of bread, wine and money to the altar, think about a sad time this week and then think about a time when you were happy and enjoying life.

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 earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.



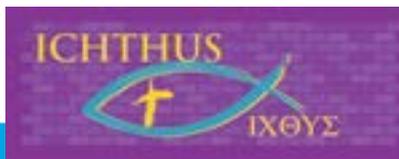
MY PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Thank you, Jesus, for showing me the truth of your love. Help me to always stay close 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

"The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;

those whose spirit is crushed he will save."

Talk to God about any sadness in your life. Ask God to bless anyone you know who is sad. Trust in God's healing love.



DO

Serve God today by choosing to speak kindly to the people you meet - especially the people you live with.



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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