

ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 23 AUGUST 2020

21ST SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

Year A



What are the statues or pictures of Jesus in church saying about him?



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.

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

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...

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

FIRST READING ISAIAH 22:19-23

Whatever he has done, it's not good enough and Shebna loses his job. Isaiah speaks on God's behalf and gives the post to Eliakim. Eliakim is given a robe and sash and the authority to be in charge

of he people of Jerusalem. The key to the House of David is given to Eliakim. What he opens, no one else can close. What he closes no one else can open. God decides who is in charge and no one questions God.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN. The key is the symbol of the power of the servant Eliakim.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 137

Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands

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

SECOND READING ROMANS 11:33-36

God is amazing and wonderful. No one can ever really understand God. God's ways are not ours and are a mystery. God's love is deeper, wider and higher than we can begin to imagine. God is wiser than we

can ever hope to understand. We will never know why God acts in certain ways, but we can trust in God's love and goodness. Everything exists and continues to live because of God. God is fantastic!

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN. Everything comes from God and exists because of God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
You are Peter
and on this rock I will build my Church.
And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it.
Alleluia!

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



DO YOU KNOW?

Jesus put Peter in charge of his disciples, making him the **first Pope**. Pope Francis is now doing the job that Peter did. **Jesus has chosen Pope Francis** to be the leader of the Church today. He is **God's representative on earth**. Can you find out some of Pope Francis' teaching?



THINK

Have you ever named something, like a pet or a toy? Perhaps you have helped to name a younger sister or brother? Names often say something **special** and are chosen with great care. **Jesus gives Simon the new name of "Peter"**. Do you what this means? Do you know the meaning of your own name and why you were given it?



GOSPEL MATTHEW 16:13-20

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

Simon Peter is a man of great faith. When the disciples are wondering who Jesus really is, it is Simon Peter who recognises Jesus. Simon knows that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. He has been given the gift of faith and is not afraid to say out loud what he

believes to be true. Simon Peter's faith is central to the whole story of Christianity. Jesus knows that Simon has what is needed to be a great leader. Jesus gives Simon Peter the keys to the kingdom, the symbolic authority to make decisions on earth on God's behalf.

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

"On the day I called, you answered."

Talk to God about anything that is worrying you. Trust in God's love.



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, I would like to pray for Pope Francis. Help and guide him to make wise and loving decisions about your Church. 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 didn't do what you should have done and then think of a time when you lived up to someone's expectations and did a great job.

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.

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, says the Lord, and I will raise him up on the last day.



MY PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Thank you, Jesus, for your love and goodness. Help me to follow in your footsteps and show love to everyone, especially people who are lonely or worried. Amen.



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)



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

Go in peace.

ICHTHUS



redemptorist

publications

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