

ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 26 JULY 2020

17TH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

Year A



Say "hello" to God our Father who has invited you here today.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

God is in his holy place,
God who unites those who dwell in his house;
he himself gives might and strength to his people.

COLLECT

O God, protector of those who hope in you,
without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy,
bestow in abundance your mercy upon us
and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide,
we may use the good things that pass
in such a way as to hold fast even now
to those that ever endure...



FIRST READING 1 KINGS 3:5, 7-12

After the death of his father David, Solomon has become king. God appears in a dream to Solomon and asks him what he wants. Solomon knows that as a young man he has a lot to learn. He has not got

the leadership skills to govern God's chosen people. So Solomon asks God to give him a wise heart. God is pleased that Solomon has not asked for riches or power and gives Solomon the wisdom he has asked for.

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. Solomon asks God for a wise and understanding heart.

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 will bring good out of bad and help us all to become more like Jesus.



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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 118

Lord, how I love your law!



SECOND READING ROMANS 8:28-30

God is always with those who love him. Even when things go wrong, God is there. And God will turn what is bad into something good. We can all grow to be better people through the bad things that happen

to us. As we grow to become better people we grow to be more and more like Jesus. Jesus is our big brother, helping us on our way. Each of us is special because we are made in the image of God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father,
Lord of heaven and earth,
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom
to mere children.
Alleluia!



DO YOU KNOW?

Wednesday 29 July is the feast day of **St Martha**. Along with her sister Mary and brother Lazarus, Martha was a good friend of Jesus. We often hear about Martha being busy when Jesus came to visit, but there is much more to her. Martha is one of the first people to recognise that **Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God**.



THINK

Solomon grew into a **very wise king**. When two women were fighting over a baby Solomon suggested dividing the baby in two with his sword. One of the women begged him to give the baby to the other woman. So Solomon gave her the baby. He knew that the real mother would **give the baby up to save its life**.



GOSPEL MATTHEW 13:44-52

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

Jesus continues to describe the kingdom of heaven. He says it is like treasure hidden in a field. Someone who finds the treasure sells everything he has so that he can buy the field with the treasure. The kingdom is also like a pearl merchant. When he

finds one of great value, he sells everything so that he can buy it. Like these men we have a choice whether or not we want the kingdom. Like them, we might have to give some things up so that we can put God first in our lives. But, like them, we will gain so much!

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

Dear Jesus, I am only young and, like Solomon, I have a lot to learn. Help me to put love at the centre of my life and to trust you to guide me in the right way. Amen.



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, please bless all the women working in the Church. Let their contribution in building your kingdom be recognised and celebrated. 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 sad time this week and then think of a happy time when life felt good.

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

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.

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 for helping me to know and understand you more each day. Help me to remember you are always with me. 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.



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