

ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 20 MARCH 2022

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

Year C



Take a moment to say "hello" to God who is here, in this very special place.



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.

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...



FIRST READING EXODUS 3:1-8. 13-15

Moses is busy looking after his father-in-law's sheep. He has been happy here since he ran away from Egypt. However, today Moses' life changes forever. An angel, in the shape of a flame of fire coming from the middle of a

bush, appears to Moses. Curious, Moses goes forward to look, and then God speaks to him from the bush. God knows his people are suffering. God has heard the Israelites' cries for help and is sending Moses to free them from slavery.

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. God speaks to Moses and tells him he has heard the people's cries for help.

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 was with the Israelites in the desert and will be with us too.



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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 102

The Lord is compassion and love.



SECOND READING 1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-6. 10-12

Paul reminds us today how God looked after the people of Israel when Moses rescued them from slavery. They were guided by a cloud and were led through the sea. God provided food for everyone to eat and water

to drink. Despite all this, many people complained. Life may not always be easy, but God is with us in all our adventures - just as God was with the Israelites as they wandered in the desert. Let's be thankful for all our blessings!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!
Repent, says the Lord,
for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!



DO YOU KNOW?

Friday 25 March is the feast of **The Annunciation of the Lord**. When the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she was going to have the baby Jesus, it really was special news! Interestingly, this good news wasn't straightforward for Mary. It might be helpful to remember that sometimes things that we aren't too sure about at first can turn out to be the very best thing ever!



THINK

In **Lent** we think about how **we can be better, more loving people**. We can also remember to **be kind to ourselves**. God is like the wise gardener in our Gospel. If God can be patient with us, **we can be patient with ourselves too!**



GOSPEL LUKE 13:1-9

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

God is really patient and will give us all the time we need. Today we hear about an impatient man who wants to cut down a fig tree that isn't bearing any fruit. He has been coming to look for fruit on the tree for the past three years and thinks that's been plenty

of time. This useless fig tree is taking up space that a more fruitful tree could use. The wise gardener, however, has other ideas. He asks for a little longer, to fertilize the ground and see what happens next year. God is just like this kind, wise gardener.

◀ **STAND to LISTEN** to the priest or deacon as he prepares to read the Gospel. Before he reads the Gospel, what does the priest or deacon do to his forehead, his lips and his heart? Can you copy him?

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.



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, I would like to pray for farmers, gardeners and anyone who makes their living from the land. Be with them as they face their daily challenges and help them find joy in their work. Lord, hear my prayer.



OFFERTORY PROCESSION

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

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

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.

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 always guiding me and helping me. Thank you for your patience and kindness. Amen.



PRAY

"Take off your shoes."

Where is your sacred space? Where do you feel closest to God? Make a space for God in your heart. Be conscious of coming close and listening to God.



DO

Is there some planting you can do - for a window box or in a garden?



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)

redemptorist publications

Ichthus. Edited by Rachel Thompson. Published by Redemptorist Publications Wolf's Lane, Chawton, Hampshire GU34 3HQ. Copyright © Redemptorist Publications. A registered charity limited by guarantee. Registered in England 03261721. www.rpbooks.co.uk. Excerpts from the English translation of The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. Concordat cum originali Ann Blackett. Imprimatur + Peter Doyle, Bishop of Northampton 13 July 2018. Permission granted for distribution in the dioceses of Scotland.

FSC logo



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

