

ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 25 JULY 2021

17TH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

Year B



Thank God for all the good things in your life - like your food!



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 2 KINGS 4:42-44

A man brings the prophet Elisha bread made from the first grain that has been harvested. Elisha asks that this food be given to the people. His servant is incredulous. He doesn't understand how so little food can feed

so many people. Elisha insists. God has promised that there will be enough for the people to eat - and that there will be food left over. The servant gives the bread to the people and, just as God has said, there is some left over.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 144

You open wide your hand, O Lord,
and grant our desires.



SECOND READING EPHESIANS 4:1-6

Paul was put in prison a number of times because of his faith. This letter, to his friends in Ephesus, is being written from jail - so we know it's saying something worth listening to. Paul wants his friends to live out their calling to

be good Christians. He knows that they will need to support each other to do this. Paul asks them to be patient and gentle with each other and to keep the peace between themselves. Jesus will keep us all united.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
A great prophet has appeared among us;
God has visited his people.
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. God miraculously feeds the people.

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. We are all united in one body, in our one Lord.

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



DO YOU KNOW?

On **Thursday 29 July** we celebrate the feast of **St Martha**. Along with her sister Mary and brother Lazarus, she was a great friend of Jesus. Just like St Peter, **Martha recognised Jesus as the Messiah and the Son of God. Martha is a role model in faith.**



THINK

Baptism is the start of our **lives as Christians**. It doesn't matter which branch of Christianity we belong to, there is just **one baptism**. If someone wants to become a Catholic having been baptised in another Christian denomination, they will not be baptised again. Baptism brings us **all together in Jesus** and gives us the **Holy Spirit to help us on our journey**.



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

Having heard about his miracles, crowds of people follow Jesus up the hillside. Jesus knows they will need food and asks Philip where they can buy bread. Philip's maths tells him that it will cost too much to feed everyone. Andrew sees a young boy who has five loaves and two fish

- but they won't go far. As always, Jesus knows what to do! He asks the disciples to get everyone to sit down. Then Jesus blesses the food and hands it out to everyone. Five thousand men and their families eat as much as they want - and there are twelve baskets of leftovers!



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, I would like to pray for anyone who is hungry today. Inspire us all to work to make the world a fairer place so that everyone has enough to eat. Lord, hear my prayer.

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. Here is a prayer you could say privately.



OFFERTORY PROCESSION

As we take our gifts of bread, wine and money to the altar, think about any time this week when you felt alone and then think about all the people who have looked after you in some way this week.

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

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.



MY PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Loving Lord, thank you for feeding me with the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Let it bring me closer to you and to all of your people. Amen.



PRAY

"All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord."

Think about all the gifts God has given you. Family, friends, a home, food, clothes - and all the things you most enjoy. Thank God for each and every one!



DO

Keep your eyes open and see how many times you can spot someone who needs help this week.



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)



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

Go in peace.

