

ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 3 MAY 2020

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Year A



Ask Jesus to help you listen carefully for him speaking to your heart during Mass today.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;
by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

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

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
lead us to a share in the joys of heaven,
so that the humble flock may reach
where the brave Shepherd has gone before...

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



FIRST READING ACTS 2:14. 36-41

Peter wants the crowd to know that Jesus really had been sent by God the Father and had been raised to life after being crucified. The crowd realise the enormity of this, and ask Peter what they should do in response. Peter

tells them they must be baptised and then they will receive forgiveness and the Holy Spirit and enjoy new life with Jesus. The crowd are convinced by all Peter said and about three thousand people became Christians.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN. Three thousand people are converted by St Peter's speech.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 22

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

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



SECOND READING 1 PETER 2:20-25

Sometimes life isn't fair! We try to do the right thing, but still get into trouble. It is tempting to sulk or get angry when people are cross with us for no good reason. Peter reminds us today that Jesus didn't try

to get anyone back when he was treated badly. He trusted in God and put his love for us into action. Jesus is like a loving shepherd who goes far out of his way to bring his sheep home safely.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN. Jesus is like a shepherd and he will take good care of us.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my own sheep and my own know me.
Alleluia!

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



DO YOU KNOW?

A bishop carries a **crozier** which is a special stick with a curved handle, like a shepherd's crook. It helps him, and us, remember that he is acting as a shepherd to God's people in his diocese.



THINK

Today is the **World Day of Prayer for Vocations**. A "vocation" is a "calling" from God. Some people are called to be priests or nuns; some are called to live as single people while God asks others to be married. God wants us to use the gifts he has given us to serve others. How might God be calling you?



GOSPEL JOHN 10:1-10

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

A sheepfold is a place where a shepherd can gather his sheep. One by one the shepherd calls his sheep who answer and follow him to safety. The shepherd always goes ahead of his sheep so that they know where to go. Once the gate to

the sheepfold is closed, the sheep know that they are safe. When Jesus describes himself as the gate to the sheepfold, he is showing that he is the one who can be trusted to keep people safe, so that they can live their lives to the full, without fear.

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 any children who are afraid and who do not feel safe. Be with them and help them find people who can look after them and help them. Lord, hear my prayer.



OFFERTORY PROCESSION

As we take our gifts of bread, wine and money to the altar, think of something that is worrying you, or needs sorting out. Now think of a happy time in the past week.

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 Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.



MY PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Thank you Jesus for coming to me in Holy Communion; help me to remember that you are my Good Shepherd and that you want always to keep me safe in your love. 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 sheep hear his voice"

Sit quietly with God and pray using your imagination. Listen carefully and hear Jesus call your name. Hear the love and care in his voice.



DO

Plan to do something fun with your friends or family - enjoy life!



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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