

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**Rejoice, Jerusalem and all who love her.  
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;  
exult and be satisfied at her consoling  
breast.**

## COLLECT

O God, who through your Word  
reconcile the human race to yourself in a  
wonderful way,  
grant, we pray,  
that with prompt devotion and eager faith  
the Christian people may hasten  
toward the solemn celebrations to come.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

## FIRST READING 36:14-16.19-23

*A reading from the second book of  
Chronicles*

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people  
too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all  
the shameful practices of the nations and  
defiling the Temple that the Lord had  
consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The  
Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent  
them messenger after messenger, since he  
wished to spare his people and his house. But  
they ridiculed the messengers of God, they  
despised his words, they laughed at his  
prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord  
rose so high against his people that there was  
no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of  
God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set  
fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything  
of value in it. The survivors were deported by  
Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to  
serve him and his sons until the kingdom of  
Persia came to power. This is how the word of  
the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through  
Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its  
sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by,  
it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its  
desolation'.

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to  
fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken  
through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of  
Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation  
and to have it publicly displayed throughout  
his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of  
Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has  
given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has  
ordered me to build him a Temple in  
Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among  
you of all his people, may his God be with  
him! Let him go up."  
*The word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 136

Response: **O let my tongue cleave to my  
mouth if I remember you not!**

1. By the rivers of Babylon  
there we sat and wept,  
remembering Zion;  
on the poplars that grew there  
we hung up our harps. (R.)
2. For it was there that they asked us,  
our captors, for songs,  
our oppressors, for joy,  
'Sing to us,' they said,

- 'one of Zion's songs.' (R.)  
3. O how could we sing  
the song of the Lord  
on alien soil?  
If I forget you, Jerusalem,  
let my right hand wither! (R.)  
4. O let my tongue  
cleave to my mouth  
if I remember you not,  
if I prize not Jerusalem  
above all my joys! (R)

## SECOND READING 2:4-10

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the  
Ephesians*

God loved us with so much love that he was  
generous with his mercy: when we were dead  
through our sins, he brought us to life with  
Christ-it is through grace that you have been  
saved - and raised us up with him and gave us  
a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.  
This was to show for all ages to come, through  
his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how  
infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by  
grace that you have been saved, through faith;  
not by anything of your own, but by a gift  
from God; not by anything that you have done,  
so that nobody can claim the credit. We are  
God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to  
live the good life as from the beginning he had  
meant us to live it.

*The word of the Lord.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Glory and praise to you, O Christ!  
God loved the world so much that he gave  
his only Son;  
everyone who believes in him has eternal  
life.  
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!**

## GOSPEL 3:14-21

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
John*

Jesus said to Nicodemus:  
'The Son of Man must be lifted up  
as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,  
so that everyone who believes may have  
eternal life in him.  
Yes, God loved the world so much  
that he gave his only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not  
be lost  
but may have eternal life.  
For God sent his Son into the world  
not to condemn the world,  
but so that through him the world might be  
saved.  
No one who believes in him will be  
condemned;  
but whoever refuses to believe is condemned  
already,  
because he has refused to believe  
in the name of God's only Son.  
On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that  
though the light has come into the world men  
have shown they prefer  
darkness to the light  
because their deeds were evil.  
And indeed, everybody who does wrong  
hates the light and avoids it,  
for fear his actions should be exposed;  
but the man who lives by the truth

comes out into the light,  
so that it may be plainly seen that what he does  
is done in God;'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

We place before you with joy these offerings,  
which bring eternal remedy, O Lord,  
praying that we may both faithfully revere  
them  
and present them to you, as a fitting,  
for the salvation of all the world.  
Through Christ our Lord.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one  
together.**

**It is there that the tribes go up,  
the tribes of the Lord,  
to praise the name of the Lord.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, who enlighten everyone who comes  
into this world,  
illuminate our hearts, we pray,  
with the splendour of your grace,  
that we may always ponder  
what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty  
and love you in all sincerity.  
Through Christ our Lord.

## GOSPEL REFLECTION



**How do you measure God's love for you? Is  
there any greater proof of this love than  
God's willingness to be humanly present to  
us in Jesus?**

Do you try to put human limits and measures  
on God's love? Do you think God measures  
our love?

**What might the world be like if Jesus had  
not been born? In your own words, describe  
what Jesus did for us by coming into the  
world, and what effect this has had.**

How do people come to know Jesus? Why do  
they sometimes reject him?

**Why does evil exist in the world? Is evil our  
own doing? Why do people tend to place the  
blame elsewhere, for example, on the devil?**

How can you be a light which overcomes the  
darkness of evil in the world?

**Is Jesus still present in the world today?  
Where and how? How can you best reveal  
him to the world?**

Do people of faith have an obligation to be  
good faith examples? Do you look up to others  
who are good faith examples?

## GOSPEL ACTION

*Meditate on all the blessings that have come  
into your life because of your faith in Jesus.  
Share your faith with another person this  
week, and ask them about their faith life.*

## Readings – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent Year B

**First Reading:** Jeremiah 31:31-34

**Second Reading:** Hebrews 5:7-9

**Gospel:** John 12:20-33

Dear friends, today is Laetare Sunday, Laetare is a Latin word from the entrance antiphon for today's Mass and means be joyful, rejoice; it is a day of celebration and the austerity of Lent is lessened for a day. We are encouraged in our Lenten preparations and traditionally if we have given something up for Lent, like chocolate or wine, we are allowed to enjoy them today. Today is also Mother's Day and we give thanks for our Mothers and we pray for them especially today.

In the Gospel we hear one of the most widely quoted and popular verses in the Bible, John chapter 3 verse 16. It has been called the Gospel in a nutshell, because in a few words it sums up the central theme or meaning of Christianity for us. If you google 3 16 or 3:16 the first page comes up with John's words. I think I've said before, often if you are watching a live sporting event abroad, particularly in South America, you sometimes see somebody in the crowd holding a banner with the numbers 3:16, a good way of spreading the word and the Good News of the Gospel.

On this Laetare Sunday we hear these marvellous words once again, it is a great message for us to reflect on this weekend, **God so loved the world**. It was God who took the initiative in our salvation, God made the first move and sent his only Son into the world. God loves the world and God loves each one of us; we all need to be loved in our lives and Mother's by giving birth to us, caring for us and nurturing us reflect God's love. I know how blessed I have been to have the Mum I have and the grandmothers I have had, great examples of Motherhood who have shown me how to love and how to live that life of love.

The Gospel shows us how all inclusive God's love is, it is freely given and directed to everyone. It is not just for one nation or people, it is not just for those who are good but for all people whoever and wherever they are. God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that **all people** who believe in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.

Through the passion, death and resurrection of God's Son Jesus we have been saved, we have the promise of everlasting and eternal life a great and wonderful gift; and this is what we will celebrate during Holy Week and Easter. However, salvation demands something of us, we are called to believe and to choose the light and live in that light.

Homily 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Lent B – 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021

In the second reading St Paul tells us that we are God's work of art created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it. We are God's work of art, a beautiful image, each one of us is something that is treasured and loved by God.

On this Laetare Sunday, this 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent let us pray that we will live that good life and choose to live in the light and the brightness of Jesus, God's Son who loves us very much.

Happy Mother's Day to all our Mothers, sending love and prayers, **Fr Phil x.**

## **Bidding Prayers and Spiritual Communion**

### **14<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent, Year B**

On this Laetare Sunday we bring all our prayers to God our Father:

We pray for the Church: that she may be a beacon of hope throughout the world, reminding us of our responsibility to care for and protect Our Common Home and God's precious gift of Creation. **Lord, in your mercy...**

We pray for all Mothers on this Mother's Day: we give thanks to God for them and for the love and care they show for their children reflecting the love that God has for all. **Lord, in your mercy...**

We pray for those who are sick, housebound or struggling in any way: that they may experience the healing love and grace of the Lord. **Lord, in your mercy...**

We pray for our parish and our local community: that through the grace of God we may hear the urgent cry of the earth and of the poor and be inspired to respond at this crucial time. **Lord, in your mercy...**

We pray for world leaders: that God may grant them wisdom to make just decisions which respect the earth and all that lives in it, especially those who are poorest and most vulnerable. **Lord, in your mercy...**

We pray for all the faithful departed especially **Yvonne Craven**, those who have died from Covid-19 and all those who have died recently: **"Eternal rest grant unto them..."**

We pray for those who mourn the loss of loved ones; may Christ's message of hope in eternal life bring them comfort and consolation. **Lord, in your mercy.....**

We ask Our Lady and all the Saints to join their prayers with ours as we say: **"Hail Mary..."**

God our loving Father,  
we offer these and all our prayers  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
**Amen.**

## **Bidding Prayers and Spiritual Communion**

### **14<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent, Year B**

## **Spiritual Communion**

*Prayer of St Alphonsus*

My Jesus,  
I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar.  
I love you above all things and  
I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
come spiritually into my soul  
so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever.  
Amen.

## **CAFOD Prayer for Glasgow**

Creator God,  
We cry out to you  
The earth is damaged and in chaos  
People in poverty are suffering the most  
Greed and consumerism are a disease  
And your Church is too often asleep

Merciful Lord,  
Protect your people and restore your earth,  
Embolden governments to take action,  
Awaken Church leaders  
Give the youth influence  
And guide businesses to change

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord  
May we unite and be bold  
Take heart and find hope in you,  
Worship you with our lifestyles  
Walk in your truth  
and see justice and renewal in the earth

**Amen**