

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help. Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Saviour!**

## COLLECT

O God, strength of those who hope in you, graciously hear our pleas, and, since without you mortal frailty can do nothing, grant us always the help of your grace, that in following your commands we may please you by our resolve and our deeds, 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 17:22-24

*A reading from the prophet Ezekiel*

The Lord says this:

‘From the top of the cedar, from the highest branch I will take a shoot and plant it myself on a very high mountain. I will plant it on the high mountain of Israel. It will sprout branches and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Every kind of bird will live beneath it, every winged creature rest in the shade of its branches. And every tree of the field will learn that I, the Lord, am the one who stunts tall trees and makes the low ones grow, who withers green trees and makes the withered green. I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will do it.’  
*The word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 91

Response:

**It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.**

1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord to make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your truth in the watches of the night. (R.)
2. The just will flourish like the palm-tree and grow like a Lebanon cedar. (R.)
3. Planted in the house of the Lord they will flourish in the courts of our God, still bearing fruit when they are old, still full of sap, still green, to proclaim that the Lord is just. In him, my rock, there is no wrong. (R.)

## SECOND READING 5:6-10

*A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians*

We are always full of confidence when we remember that to live in the body means to be exiled from the Lord, going as we do by faith and not by sight -we are full of confidence, I say, and actually want to be exiled from the body and make our home with the Lord. Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on

pleasing him. For all the truth about us will be brought out in the law court of Christ, and each of us will get what he deserves for the things he did in the body, good or bad.  
*The word of the Lord.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL 4:26-34

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark*

Jesus said to the crowds: 'This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man throws seed on the land. Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing; how, he does not know. Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the crop is ready, he loses no time: he starts to reap because the harvest has come.' He also said, 'What can we say the kingdom of God is like? What parable can we find for it? It is like a mustard seed which at the time of its sowing in the soil is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade.' Using many parables like these, he spoke the word to them, so far as they were capable of understanding it. He would not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything to his disciples when they were alone.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who in the offerings presented here provide for the twofold needs of human nature, nourishing us with food and renewing us with your Sacrament, grant, we pray, that the sustenance they provide may not fail us in body or in spirit. Through Christ our Lord.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As this reception of your Holy Communion, O Lord, foreshadows the union of the faithful in you, so may it bring about unity in your Church. Through Christ or Lord.



## GOSPEL REFLECTION



*What does it mean to trust in the Lord?*

What are the things that give you hope? How do you grow in hope and trust?

What part does Eucharist play in nurturing trust and hope? What happens to you, personally, when you receive Eucharist? Do you feel changed or empowered from the Eucharist?

Do other people have an influence on your trust and hope? How?

What are the things in life that make trust and hope more difficult? How do you handle those things?

How are you taught by God? Is the learning experience sometimes difficult? How and why?

What is your vision of the fullness of the kingdom?

## GOSPEL ACTION

*Look for an increase in trust and hope this week from the life experiences of those around you. In what way will your trust be helped? In what way will your trust be hurt? How will you deal with this?*



**Readings –12<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ord. Time YRB**

**First Reading:** Job 38:1.8-11

**Second Reading:** 2Corinthians 5:14-17

**Gospel:** Mark 4:35-41

## Homily

13<sup>th</sup> June 2021

11<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Dear friends, we are now back in Ordinary Time, green vestments are worn again in church and we get back to the normal rhythm of the liturgy again. Next week we will hear whether or not the restrictions are going to be lifted as was suggested in the roadmap out of lockdown, however my guess is that restrictions will not be fully lifted for at least a couple of weeks or so in view of the recent increase in the spread of the virus again. We have been patient up to now and I suspect that we will have to be patient for a little while longer.

The prophet Ezekiel in the First Reading foretold that God would take a twig from the top of the cedar and plant it on Mount Zion and under God's protective power the twig would grow into a great cedar. In this way Ezekiel dreamed that God would transplant the exiled people of Israel back to the land of their fathers and he glimpsed a future son of David whose kingdom would be universal.

This promise is fulfilled in Jesus who is the one who ushers in the kingdom of God. The parables of the seed that grows by itself and the mustard seed were meant to encourage the early Church, because they were worried about the slow growth of the kingdom; even in those days they wanted something instant and straight away. The parables were an attempt to tell the disciples to be patient, to trust, and not to expect instant results. Through the power of God, from small and insignificant beginnings the kingdom will grow into something great.

The parable of the mustard seed answered the question, could the kingdom really grow from such small and humble beginnings? St Mark's reply was that the little group of disciples could indeed become a kingdom and like the first parable of the seed, growing all by itself, this is a very encouraging parable.

It seems that what life intends to be great, it first makes small. In our society today we are very impressed by the scale of things, we are impressed by things that are big and large. However, many great things begin in small and often hidden ways eg a building begins with one brick on another, a book begins with one word on a page, a journey with a single step, a huge river from a tiny spring, a lifelong friendship from a first encounter.

Beginnings are important and it is necessary to take care of things in their beginnings. The kingdom of God has continued to grow and develop here at Holy Apostles & Martyrs during lockdown. Many people have done so much to help and serve others and people have been touched in many different ways. We continue to take steps forward as a Parish family together and I see the fruit of that every single day. We look forward to the restrictions being lifted and being able to get back to what will be a new normal for us as a Parish.

## Homily

13<sup>th</sup> June 2021

11<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Let's continue to be kind and to look after and care for one another as we reflect on God's kingdom here and now, and our part and our role as kingdom builders.

"Thy kingdom come thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven."

Sending love and prayers, **Fr Phil x.**

## **Bidding Prayers and Spiritual Communion**

**13<sup>th</sup> June 2021 – 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B**

We bring all our needs before the Lord in faith and trust.

For the Church and for Christians everywhere: may they bear witness to the presence of God in their lives and continue to build the kingdom of God here on earth. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For ourselves: nourished by the Body & Blood of Christ may we reach out to all, especially those who are most in need. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the leaders of our world as they meet this weekend for the G7 summit; may all they discuss and decide be for the common good of the whole human family particularly those who are most poor and in need and for the care of the earth and all of creation. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all peoples that they may be drawn together in unity and peace, we especially pray for continued peace in the Holy Land.  
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all those in our parish who are sick, housebound or finding life difficult that they may experience the healing love and grace of Christ.  
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

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, hear our prayer.

For all the faithful departed especially **Connie Bell** and all those who have died recently: **“Eternal rest grant unto them...”**

For all 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, hear our prayer.

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

Loving Father,  
We offer these and all our prayers to you,  
through Jesus your Son,  
who is Christ Our Lord, Amen.

## **Bidding Prayers and Spiritual Communion**

**13<sup>th</sup> June 2021 – 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time 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**