

## 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.

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 4:42-44

*A reading from the second book of the Kings.*

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing Elisha, the man of God, bread from the first-fruits, twenty barley loaves and fresh grain in the ear. 'Give it to the people to eat', Elisha said. But his servant replied, 'How can I serve this to a hundred men?' 'Give it to the people to eat' he insisted 'for the Lord says this, "They will eat and have some left over"'. 'He served them; they ate and had some left over, as the Lord had said.

*The word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 144

Response:

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

1. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,  
and your friends shall repeat their blessings.  
They shall speak of the glory of your reign  
and declare your might, O God. (R.)
2. The eyes of all creatures look to you  
and you give them their food in due time.  
You open wide your hand,  
grant their desires of all who live. (R.)
3. The Lord is just in all his ways  
and loving in all his deeds.  
He is close to all who call him,  
who call on him from their hearts. (R.)

## SECOND READING 4: 1-6

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

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you

together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, over all, through all and within all.

*The word of the Lord.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Your words are spirit, Lord,  
and they are life:**

**you have the message of eternal life.  
Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL 6:1-15

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John*

Jesus went off to the other side of the Sea of Galilee - or of Tiberias - and a large crowd followed him, impressed by the signs he gave by curing the sick. Jesus climbed the hillside, and sat down there with his disciples. It was shortly before the Jewish feast of Passover. Looking up, Jesus saw the crowds approaching and said to Philip, 'Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?' He only said this to test Philip; he himself knew exactly what he was going to do. Philip answered, 'Two hundred denarii would only buy enough to give them a small piece each'. One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, 'There is a small boy here with five barley loaves and two fish; but what is that between so many?' Jesus said to them, 'Make the people sit down'. There was plenty of grass there, and as many as five thousand men sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and gave them out to all who were sitting ready; he then did the same with the fish, giving out as much as was wanted. When they had eaten enough he said to the disciples, 'Pick up the pieces left over, so that nothing gets wasted'. So they picked them up, and filled twelve hampers with scraps left over from the meal of five barley loaves. The people, seeing this sign that he had given, said, 'This really is the prophet who is to come into the world'. Jesus, who could see they were about to come and take him by force and make him king, escaped back to the hills by himself.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, O Lord, we pray, the offerings which we bring from the abundance of your gifts, that through the powerful working of your grace these most sacred

mysteries may sanctify our present way of life and lead us to eternal gladness. Through Christ our Lord.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

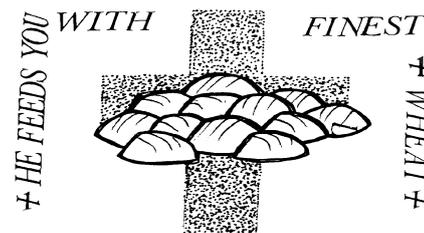
**O, bless the Lord, my soul, and never forget all his benefits.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We have consumed, O Lord, this divine Sacrament, the perpetual memorial of the Passion of your Son; grant, we pray, that this gift, which he himself gave us with love beyond all telling, may profit us for salvation.

Through Christ our Lord.

## GOSPEL REFLECTION



Had you been in the crowd at the Sea of Galilee, would you have followed Jesus around the shore of the lake to hear his words again? Would you have given up whatever food you had brought with you to share with others?

Do you go out of your way to actively hear God's words today?

How well do you use the resources you have been given by God? How easily do you share, not from your excess but from your own need? Is it important for you to share your wealth (including the word of God) with others?

Do you marvel at the bounty of God or do you tend to take it for granted? In the middle of plenty, do you worry about those who have too little to eat?

Do you waste as little as possible in using God's gifts? What would happen to our waste if it were possible to get it to the poor of the world?

*How can people in the first world countries learn to live more simply so others may have a fair share in God's gifts?*

## GOSPEL ACTION

Actively be Eucharist to another person this week. Consider ways to simplify your lifestyle in order to use less of the world's goods. How can you help redistribute God's gifts to the needy?

## Readings – 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday Year B

**First Reading:** Exodus 16:2-4.12-15

**Second Reading:** Ephesians 4:17.20-24

**Gospel:** John 6:24-35

**Homily**  
**25<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

**17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B**

Dear friends, it has been quite a week with the changes to Covid restrictions on Monday and the heatwave that we have experienced over these last few days, I hope you are all keeping well.

In the readings today we see God's great love and concern for those who are hungry. In the First Reading we see how Elisha insisted that the bread from the first-fruits be given to the people, even though the bread was marked out for offering to God and the left-overs stress God's great generosity.

There are parallels between this reading and the Gospel. In the Gospel, like Elisha Jesus feeds the people who are hungry, but even more astonishingly. Jesus fed the hungry and did so with great generosity and there are clear eucharistic overtones in the way that the miracle is related. Jesus *took the loaves, gave thanks and then distributed them to the people*. This is meant to remind us of what he did at the Last Supper and of what happens every time that we celebrate the Eucharist.

For this and for the next four Sundays the Gospels come from Chapter 6 of St John's Gospel. John has no account of the institution of the Eucharist, but I think that this Chapter more than compensates for that. I think this gives us a good opportunity to reflect on the importance of the Eucharist over these next few weeks as we ponder on this crucial chapter of John's Gospel.

In the Second Reading St Paul in his letter to the Ephesians talks about the unity and peace that binds them together as one Body, he urges them to bear with one another in *complete selflessness, gentleness and patience*. He makes it clear that there is *one Lord, one faith, one baptism and one God*.

There is much for us to reflect on this week as the lockdown restrictions are lifted and we begin the journey back to what will be a new normality for us as a Parish. It has been wonderful to see over the last weeks more and more people feeling able and confident to come back to Mass again. The vaccination programme has certainly made a difference and it is so important that everybody is vaccinated as COVID-19 is going to be with us for the foreseeable future.

We are going to take things slowly and gently in the Parish, you will notice some changes this weekend. We will stand up and sit down as normal during Mass, we will have Bidding Prayers again and I will be able to stand outside Church and say hello to people as they leave. However, we are going to keep hand sanitisation, face masks and social distancing as recommended, it is important that we ensure that everybody continues to be safe when they come to Church.

## Homily

25<sup>th</sup> July 2021

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

God loves us more than we could ever know or imagine and continues to generously feed us, who are spiritually hungry, with the bread of the Eucharist. We gather as one Body and we pray that as St Paul asks we will bear with one another in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience.

As always sending you my love and prayers and look forward to seeing you soon,  
God bless, **Fr Phil x.**

## **Bidding Prayers and Spiritual Communion**

**25<sup>th</sup> July 2021 – 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B**

In faith and trust we place all our prayers before God our loving Father.

For the Church and for Christians everywhere: may they bear witness to the presence of God in their lives as missionary disciples by preaching the Gospel of Jesus to all. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

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

For the leaders of our world; may all they do 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 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 peace in the troubled areas of our world. 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 power of the healing peace, 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 **Ava Battersby and Peter Butler** 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**

**25<sup>th</sup> July 2021 – 17<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**



## CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

### Statement from the Catholic Bishops of England

#### *Sunday – it is our Day<sup>1</sup>*

On 19<sup>th</sup> July, the current legislative powers which assist the mitigations against the covid-19 virus transmission will be rescinded by HM Government. Nevertheless, there will be an encouragement to personal and corporate responsibility in this area; as the Prime Minister said in his most recent statement “The pandemic is not over.” Even without this legislation in place, the Church in England and Wales will be adopting a cautious approach to capacity and activity within our buildings, especially at corporate acts of worship.

We are mindful of the certain fact that the Covid-19 virus is still circulating in society. Vaccines provide genuine protection against the worst effects of the virus, yet we recognise the legitimate fear on the part of some who otherwise desire to gather for Holy Mass. It is our continuing judgement, therefore, that it is not possible at the present time for all of the faithful to attend Mass on a Sunday thus fulfilling their duty to God.

It is hoped that it will be possible for all Catholics in England and Wales to fulfil this most important Church precept, that of the Sunday Obligation, by the First Sunday in Advent 2021. In the meantime, all Catholics are asked to do their best to participate in the celebration of the weekly Sunday Mass and to reflect deeply on the centrality of Sunday worship in the life of the Church.

In April, following our Plenary Assembly, we offered a reflection on the experience of the extraordinary long months of the pandemic. It was titled *The Day of the Lord*. We also began to look at the way forward. We spoke about the important invitation to restore the Sunday Mass to its rightful centrality in our lives. We asked for a rekindling in our hearts of a yearning for the Real Presence of the Lord in the Eucharist, as our response to the total, sacrificial love that Jesus has for us. We said: “The Eucharist should be the cause of our deepest joy, our highest manner of offering thanks to God and for seeking his mercy and love. We need to make it the foundation stone of our lives.”

May this continue to be our striving during these coming months as we journey back to the full celebration of our Sunday Mass and our renewed observance of *The Day of the Lord*.

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<sup>1</sup> St Jerome, *In Die Dominica Paschae II*