

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

COLLECT

O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who live and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

FIRST READING 24:1-2. 15-18

A reading from the book of Joshua

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.' The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord our God and serving other gods. Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the lord, for he is our God.' The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps33:2-3. 16-23. R/ v.9

Response:

Taste and see that the Lord is good

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips; in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad. (R.)
2. The Lord turns his face against the wicked to destroy their remembrance from the earth. The Lord turns his eyes to the just and his ears to their appeal (R.)
3. They call and the Lord hears and rescues them in all their distress. The

lord is close to the broken-hearted; those whose spirit is crushed he will save. (R)

4. Many are the trials of the just man but from them all the Lord will rescue him. He will keep guard over all his bones, not one of his bones shall be broken, (R)
5. Evil brings death to the wicked; those who hate the good are doomed. The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants. Those who hide in him shall not be condemned. (R)

SECOND READING 5:21-32

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

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body-and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church 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 Ch6:60-69

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you

should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?

'It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. 'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him. Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O Lord, who gained for yourself a people by adoption through the one sacrifice offered once for all, bestow graciously on us, we pray, the gifts of unity and peace in your Church. Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Complete within us, O Lord, we pray, the healing work of your mercy and graciously perfect and sustain us, so that in all things we may please you. Through Christ our Lord.

Gospel Reflection



Who is God? What difference does God make in your life? What might your life be like without your belief in God?

Gospel Action

Reveal God to someone this week through your actions, your words, or both.

Readings – 22rd Sunday Year B

First Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-2. 6-8

Second Reading: James 1:17-18. 21-22. 27

Gospel: Mark 7:1-8. 14-15. 21-23

Dear friends, this weekend we reflect on choices, we all have to make choices everyday in our lives but some of those choices are more important than others; some are life-choices that dictate how we are going to live out our lives, these are the crucial and important decisions that we are called to make.

In the First Reading we hear about a covenant-renewal ceremony that took place at Shechem shortly after the people had entered the promised land. Joshua called upon them to make a choice, either to serve the God of their fathers or to serve other gods. The people declared very clearly and definitely, 'We will serve the Lord,' as they chose the God of their fathers.

In the Gospel Jesus invites those who had listened to his discourse on the Bread of Life to make up their minds whether or not they were going to believe him and follow him. It is sad to see that apart from the Twelve many left him at this point, and even one of the Twelve betrayed him.

The Twelve are faced with a vital choice and decision, Jesus questions them and asks them if they want to leave him too, and it is Peter who answers with a great profession of faith, **'You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'** This is the parallel for John to the scene at Caesarea Philippi when Peter makes a similar profession of faith.

The Twelve commit themselves to the Lord, they make the choice to remain with him and continue to follow him. Peter acknowledges Jesus for who he is, the Holy One of God who has the message of eternal life.

We are asked the same question by Jesus today, over these last few weeks we have been reflecting on the Bread of Life discourse, and now we are asked if we believe and if we are choosing the Lord in our lives. I think this is a good time for us to ponder these questions posed by Jesus, we have come through one of the most difficult times I can remember in my life with the pandemic over this last year or so. This crisis has affected all aspects of our lives, however we are slowly but surely starting to get

Homily
22nd August 2021

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

back to some sort of normality again and in Church from September we will be starting things over once again.

We are invited to choose the Lord in our lives today, let us take that great profession of faith made by Peter as our own, yes Lord I believe you are the Holy One of God, the one who has the message of eternal life.

Sending you my love and prayers,
God bless, **Fr Phil x.**

Bidding Prayers and Spiritual Communion

22nd August 2021 – 21st Sunday 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