



# focus on sunday

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

### GREETING

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Lord be with you. And with your spirit.

### PENITENTIAL ACT

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

May almighty God have mercy on us..... Amen.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

(The Gloria is omitted awaiting its Christmas Proclamation.)

### OPENING PRAYER

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....



### LITURGY OF THE WORD

#### FIRST READING Zephaniah 3:14-18

**A reading from the prophet Zephaniah.** Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud! Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear.

When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem; Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you,

he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

**The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM Isaiah 12:2-6

**R. Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

1. Truly God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear. For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. [R]

2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name! Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples! Declare the greatness of his name. [R]

3. Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth! People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. [R]

#### SECOND READING Philippians 4:4-7

**A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians**

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

**The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!**

#### GOSPEL Luke 3:10-18

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.**

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!' A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise

you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

**The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

#### NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

All bow for following three lines:

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.



### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray brothers and sisters, .....  
**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**



### PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray, be offered to you unceasingly, to complete what was begun in sacred mystery and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work. Through Christ our Lord.

### EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you. And with your spirit. Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right and just.

### SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

### AFTER THE CONSECRATION

**The mystery of faith.** When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

### INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God, .....  
Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We implore your mercy, Lord, that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults and prepare us for the coming feasts. Through Christ our Lord.

### CONCLUDING RITE

The Lord be with you. And with your spirit.

May the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever. Amen.

Go in peace. Thanks be to God.



The coming of Jesus is joyful news for all his people. Our hope at Christmas is to be bearers of his joy.



They came to John to be baptised. They asked him, "What should we do?" John didn't tell them to say their prayers or attend the synagogue, important as that might be. He told them to live justly. Those that had more than they needed were told to

share with those who had less than they needed. Those with power and authority were told not to abuse that power for their own self-interest. They were to avoid the temptation to greed. The Messiah that John proclaimed was someone who was coming to inaugurate the Kingdom of God on earth, a Kingdom that would be, by definition, a Kingdom of justice, where people would live together in love, caring and sharing with each other. Compassion is showing kindness to another person. Justice is the word we use to describe compassion within the community or society as it strives to make things fairer for everyone. Justice is essentially political, it is "political love." It involves addressing systemic issues and ensuring that no one is left behind. So we Christians must be political. We must be on the side of those who are unwanted, discriminated against or denied their fair share of society's resources. John's exhortations - to share what we have, to avoid greed and use power or influence for the sake of others and not ourselves - are just as valid today as then. Together, compassion and justice form the foundation for a peaceful society.

Fr. Peter McVerry

### Jesus' Story

Fr. Liam Hickey

Jesus was always saying that people don't realise how good they are, getting up everyday for work for family, walking the floor at night minding children, having to watch what others want on TV, paying money for accommodation, clothes, food and books instead of buying fancy extras for themselves. All this is unselfishness. That is what Jesus noticed and praised in people. Lord, bless our preparations for Christmas. Help us to make home happy by working for each other.