

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

All peoples, clap your hands.  
Cry to God with shouts of joy!

## PENITENTIAL ACT

You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

You came to call sinners:  
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

You are seated at the right hand of the  
Father to intercede for us:  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**  
May almighty God have mercy on us....



## THE GLORIA

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.  
We praise you, we bless you,  
we adore you, we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father  
you take away the sins of the world:**

**have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer; you are seated  
at the right hand of the Father  
have mercy on us;**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**



## OPENING PRAYER

O God, who through the grace of adoption chose us  
to be children of light, grant, we pray, that we may  
not be wrapped in the darkness of error but always  
be seen to stand in the bright light of truth.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING 2 Kings 4:8-11. 14-16

*A reading from the second book of the Kings*

One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there. After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way. She said to her husband, 'Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God. Let us build him a small room on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there.' One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down. 'What can be done for her?' he asked.

Gehaz, his servant, answered, 'Well, she has no son and her husband is old.' Elisha said, 'Call her.' The servant called her and she stood at the door. 'This time next year,' Elisha said 'you will hold a son in your arms.'

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

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 88:2-3, 16-19

**R. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.**

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;  
through all ages my mouth will proclaim  
your truth.

Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,  
that your truth is firmly established  
as the heavens.

[R]

2. Happy the people who acclaim such a king;  
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,  
who find their joy every day in your name,  
who make your justice the source of their bliss.

[R]

3. For it is you, O Lord, who are the glory  
of their strength;  
it is by your favour that our might is exalted:  
for our ruler is in the keeping of the Lord;  
our king in the keeping of the Holy  
One of Israel.

[R]

## SECOND READING Romans 6:3-4. 8-11

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

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life. But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia! Open our heart, O Lord,  
to accept the words of your Son.  
Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL Matthew 10: 37-42

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew*

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.'

'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me.'

'Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man will have a holy man's reward.'

If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then



# focus on sunday

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 2nd July 2023

Christ is no farther away than the people we meet every day.  
His cry for help is heard in the needs of the poor, homeless, and those  
rejected by society. Help us to hear and respond to His cry.

I tell you solemnly, he will most  
certainly not lose his reward.'

**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

### PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who graciously accomplish  
the effects of your mysteries,  
grant, we pray, that the deeds by  
which we serve you may be worthy  
of these sacred gifts.

Through Christ our Lord.

### AFTER THE CONSECRATION

*The mystery of faith.*

**Save us, Saviour of the world,  
for by your Cross and Resurrection  
you have set us free.**

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all within me, his holy name.**



*In Receiving, we Give*



Jesus' requirements for joining his movement would have shocked those who heard him. Family was as central an institution in those days as economics is in our world. A student I knew in school thought of joining the Jesuits but

when he heard that Jesuit life was austere, and instant obedience was demanded, he had second thoughts. I served in a number of American parishes and saw many people enter the RCIA programme with a view to becoming Catholic. Some dropped out before taking the final step at Easter, and citing belief in Catholic teaching on the Eucharist or the church's position on sexual morality as too much to take.

If anything attracts people to Christ it is the enthusiasm, joy and commitment of believers. People with long, grave and grim faces attract nobody. The late Catholic apologist, Hilaire Belloc, once said, "Wherever the Catholic sun does shine, there is laughter and good red wine!" Good Catholics know how to live their faith joyfully and carry it with conviction. Jesus Christ is the centre of our faith, not austerity or the rules of the church.

Who is Jesus Christ for you? That requires not only some thinking about and a bit of reading, but especially prayer. Saying prayers is not necessarily prayer. Prayer is dialogue between God and us, a dialogue initiated by the Spirit of God. Spirituality centres today are offering contemplative prayer opportunities. The lost prayer of contemplative listening is being rediscovered today. Pope Francis often uses the term 'encounter with Christ' to describe the action of God when people use the words of sacred scripture, especially the gospels, for quiet mindful prayer.

*Fr. Joe Walsh*