

SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

For Families and Households during Social Isolation.

The Introductory Rites

Gathering

A Bible may be placed on a table together with a candle and a cross.

Sign of the Cross

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

Leader: Blessed be Jesus who makes us one, and strengthens us by the power of his Spirit.

All: **Blessed be God forever.**

Leader

(in these or similar words): Friends in Christ, although we cannot celebrate the Eucharist this day, we gather in God's name for when two or more come together God is always with us. We worship in union with the whole Church keeping this day of the Lord holy.

Opening Rite

Leader: Before listening to the Word of God let us praise the Lord Jesus Christ.

A brief period of silence follows.

Leader: Lord Jesus, you have built your Church on a firm foundation: Lord, have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: Christ Jesus, your love is eternal: Christ, have mercy.

All: **Christ, have mercy.**

Leader: Lord Jesus, you are the Christ, the son of the living God: Lord, have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: **Amen.**

Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us pray.

All pause for silent prayer.

God on high
your Son Jesus inspired Peter
to be a rock of faith for the Church.
Increase our faith in you.

When we are unsure of the right path
give us strength to follow in your way.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

[Isaiah 22:19-23](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:
I dismiss you from your office, I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiyah.
I invest him with your robe, gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;
and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
and to the House of Judah.
I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder;
should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open.
I drive him like a peg into a firm place;
he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 137:1-3. 6. 8. R. v.8

(R.) Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. (R.)
2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. (R.)
3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. (R.)

Second Reading

Romans 11:33-36

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

From him, through him, and in him are all things.

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Reader: From the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Matthew 16:13-20

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

A short period of reflection may be observed.

Profession of Faith

Leader: In union with the whole Church let us profess our faith.

All: **I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,**

At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary, all bow.

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of the Faithful

Leader: **Knowing that we all belong to the family of God, we confidently bring before our Lord all our needs, and the needs of the entire Church and world.**

1. For the Pope: that he might always be a source of inspiration and courage for all Christian people. We pray to the Lord.
2. For politicians and all involved in government: that they may always keep the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable people before their eyes, especially as they seek to control and eliminate the Covid-19 virus. We pray to the Lord.
3. For vocations to the priesthood and religious life: may more people have the courage to hear and accept God's calling in their lives. May all young people look to the future with hope and confidence. We pray to the Lord.
4. For all those suffering from the Covid-19 virus, and their families who feel the pain and distance from their loved ones with a heavy heart. We pray to the Lord.
5. For our partnered parishes. May each member reach out to those near them, or whom they encounter in the streets, with friendship, respect and cheerfulness. We pray to the Lord.
6. For all our loved ones and all who have worshipped in this church who have died. And for Gentile Biscontin, Sue Sherman, ... who died recently, those who have died because of Covid-19 infection; and those whose anniversaries occur: may they enjoy eternal rest and peace. We pray to the Lord.

Leader: **Eternal God,
we make these prayers in faith
and in the name of your Son, our redeemer,
Jesus Christ, who is Lord for ever and ever.**

All: **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Leader: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say.

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

The Concluding Rite

Blessing

Leader: May the Lord be with us and protect us now and for ever.
All make the sign of the cross during the blessing.

All: **Amen.**

Dismissal

Leader: Let us go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

© The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.
The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.
The prayers are from the English Translation of the Roman Missal © 2010 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved.