

# OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

07 FEBRUARY 2021

JESUS TOOK HER BY THE HAND. We sometimes come to Mass poor, sick and troubled, much like the people who crowd around the door of Jesus in today's Gospel. In this Mass let us express our needs to Jesus. Let us ask him to take us by the hand and help us as he helped Simon's mother-in-law. Then, with our spirits uplifted, we will go out from Mass with a renewed desire to share God's love with others.

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** Ps 94: 6-7

**O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.**

## GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**R. And with your spirit.**

## PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

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

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

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

**R. Christ, have mercy.**

P. You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

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

**R. Amen.**

## 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.

## COLLECT

P. Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unfailing care, that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly grace, they may be defended always by your protection. 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.

**R. Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

**FIRST READING** Job 7: 1-4, 6-7

**A reading from the book of Job**

*I am filled with sorrow all day long.*

Job began to speak:

Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed service, his time no better than hired drudgery? Like the slave, sighing for the shade, or the workman with no thought but his wages,

months of delusion I have assigned to me, nothing for my own but nights of grief. Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?'

Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!'

Restlessly I fret till twilight falls. Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have passed, and vanished, leaving no hope behind. Remember that my life is but a breath, and that my eyes will never again see joy. The word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 146: 1-6. R. v. 3

**R. Praise the Lord who heals the brokenhearted. or Alleluia!**

1. Praise the Lord for he is good; / sing to our God for he is loving; / to him our praise is due. **R.**

2. The Lord builds up Jerusalem / and brings back Israel's exiles, / he heals the brokenhearted, / he binds up all their wounds. / He fixes the number of the stars; / he calls each one by its name. **R.**

3. Our Lord is great and almighty; / his wisdom can never be measured. / The Lord raises the lowly; / he humbles the wicked to the dust. **R.**



**SECOND READING** 1 Cor 9: 16-19, 22-23

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians**

*Punishment will come to me if I do not preach the Gospel.*

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me.

So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the weak I made myself weak. I made myself all things to all men in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessing.

The word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Mt 8: 17

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**He bore our sickness, and endured our suffering. Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL**

Mk 1: 29-39

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

**R. Glory to you, O Lord.**

*He cured many who suffered from diseases of one kind or another.*

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had

# ST MARTHA'S PARISH STRATHFIELD



Parish Priest: Father John Hayes

Administration Coordinator: Nicolle Mazzaferro (Mon-Thurs) [admin@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:admin@stmarthas.org.au)

Administration Support: Larissa Argiro (Fridays) [office@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:office@stmarthas.org.au)

Safeguarding Officer: Dianne Dawson [safeguarding@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:safeguarding@stmarthas.org.au)

Parish Ministries Coordinator: Helen Williamson

Music Ministry: Marcella Ayoub & Agnes Lee

Children's Liturgy Coordinator: Rachel Suriano

Plenary Council Ambassador: Helena O'Neill

Youth Ministry: Jessica Gereis [youth@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:youth@stmarthas.org.au)



**'He cured many who suffered from diseases of one kind or another'... Mark 1:29-39**

70 Homebush Rd Strathfield NSW 2135

Phone: 9746 6131 Fax: 9746 3040

Email: [office@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:office@stmarthas.org.au)

Website: [www.stmarthas.org.au](http://www.stmarthas.org.au)

Parish Office: Mon- Fri 9.00am-3.00pm



St Martha's School: 9764 1184

Email: [info@stmstrathfield.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@stmstrathfield.catholic.edu.au)

Principal: Carolyn Parsell

Assist Principal: Steven Belcastro

REC: Attilia Kazacos

THE PARISH OF ST MARTHA'S ACKNOWLEDGES THE WANGUL PEOPLE AS THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND ON WHICH THE CHURCH IS BUILT

## Vision:

**Welcoming  
Eucharistic  
Transformed by the Word  
Full of Grace  
Proclaiming Good News**



*Please  
continue  
to support the  
St Vincent De Paul Society  
through the Church  
Poor Boxes.*

## Mission:

**Alive with the Spirit  
Inspired by St Martha  
We Celebrate & Witness  
God's love  
Using our Gifts & Talents**



## MASS TIMES

Tuesday: 7.30am

Wednesday: 9.10am

Thursday: 9.10am

Friday: 9.10am

Saturday: 9.10am, 5pm Vigil Mass

Sunday: 8.00am; 10.00am & 6.00pm



### 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month:

8-9am Adoration, 9am Benediction, 9.10am Healing Mass and Anointing of the Sick, followed by reconciliation

### RECONCILIATION:

Saturday after 9.10am Mass or by appointment.

### BAPTISM:

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month at 11.00am by appointment only.

(One months' notice is required).



### Next Preparation Session:

7<sup>th</sup> February 2020 in the Parish Hall  
Contact the Parish office for more information.

### MARRIAGES: By appointment only.

(6 months' notice is required).



**ROSARY:** Tuesday & Saturday after morning Mass, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 8.30am and 7.30pm on Fridays in conjunction with Marian Movement of Priests Cenacle and Divine Mercy Chaplet.

### PRAYER GROUP / ADORATION AT

**ST MARTHA'S CHURCH:**

Mondays 10.30am - 11.30am

Resumes 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021



**Please support our Catholic Press  
Copies of the Catholic Weekly \$2  
& Catholic Leader \$2.50  
are available at the Church Entrances.**



GLUTEN FREE HOSTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ANY CELIA PARISHIONERS. IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION PLEASE TELL THE CHURCH WARDEN OR SEE AN ACOLYTE IN THE SACRISTY PRIOR TO MASS.

## SAFE GUARDING

A reminder to parents that the Notice-Board located at the side entrance contains various resources for children regarding Safeguarding.

### A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY.

Abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you - or anyone you know - have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at 9390 5810 or [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org). You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance.

The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

Please be aware that if you "TAG" St Martha's in photos on your Facebook page, the images also appear on an "unofficial" St Martha's Facebook page. This "unofficial" page was created automatically by Facebook and is not controlled by St Martha's. We kindly remind you to take care when uploading photos of any children without parent consent.



### IMPORTANT NOTICE:

IF YOU PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING MINISTRIES YOU ARE REQUIRED TO SIGN IN - ACOLYTES; READERS; EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS; CHOIR; CHILDREN'S LITURGY (LEADERS & CHILDREN) & SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM (LEADERS & CHILDREN). SIGN IN FOLDERS ARE KEPT IN THE SACRISTY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION.

ALTAR SERVERS ARE NOT PERMITTED IN THE SACRISTY WITHOUT A PARENT/TEACHER. THE SIGN IN FOLDER IS LOCATED IN THE CORRIDOR OUTSIDE THE SACRISTY.

### 'Sharing the Word'

**Mondays at 7pm in St Martha's Church.**

**Everyone is Welcome.**





*St Martha's Parish  
warmly welcomes the appointment  
of Fr John Hayes  
as our Parish Priest.*



St Martha's Parish Strathfield has not had a parish priest for some years so it is with great excitement that we welcome Fr John to our faith filled community. Our Parish has a rich history and today has a very diverse cultural dimension. St Martha was a woman of great care and attention; but she was also a practical woman and her hospitality was well known as Jesus stayed with Martha, her sister Mary and Lazarus (Jn 11:5) while breaking his pilgrimages. Martha has often been challenged for her practical approach to life and neglecting her spiritual needs. Here at St Martha's our vision is to be welcoming, Eucharistic, hospitable and faithful to the Word; if we follow our patron saint and use her actions as our guide to love others, we will always be in conformity with the Gospel message. We want to encounter Jesus at a deeper level and follow our baptismal commission to spread the 'Good News'. Fr John comes into a community that is a sign of the presence of Jesus Christ, is alive with the Spirit, inspired by St Martha, celebrates our rich Eucharistic tradition, is prayerful and witnesses God's love using our many gifts and talents.

Fr John comes from Emerald in Central Queensland. He completed various studies and jobs prior to entering the Seminary at 28 years of age. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1997. He trained for 6 years as a missionary in India and worked there for another 3½ years. In 2001 he returned to Brisbane and worked in the Cathedral and inner city parishes. In August 2004 Fr John came to Sydney and was Vicar-Rector of the Missionary Diocesan Seminary in Pagewood. In 2006 he was given care of the Pagewood parish and continued there as the Parish Priest.

We look forward to learning more about Fr John, his many experiences and reflections and particularly his vision for the St Martha's Parish Community as we embark on the Archdiocese's Mission Plan to "go, make disciples of all nations" (Mt 28:19). We take this opportunity to thank Fr John for his ministry and pastoral service to St Martha's so over the coming weeks let us introduce ourselves and warmly embrace him into our Parish Community in the true spirit of our Patron St Martha.



A very warm welcome also to the teachers, staff, families and 320 students for the 2021 school year. We especially welcome our new Principal Carolyn Parsell and Assistant Principal Steven Belcastro along with 63 kindergarten students to St Martha's. The opening school Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February at 9am.

*Congratulations!*

Congratulations to Cathy Harrington who will be receiving a Life member award from Archbishop Anthony Fisher for 30 years of service at the Annual Catechist Mass this Sunday at St Mary's Cathedral at 2.30pm. The Mass will be livestreamed via youtube via this link: [https://youtu.be/myqi2nC\\_SpQ](https://youtu.be/myqi2nC_SpQ).



## LENT 2021

**THE SEASON OF LENT COMMENCES ON ASH WEDNESDAY - 17<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

**ASH WEDNESDAY IS A DAY OF FASTING AND ABSTINENCE.**



**7.00am Mass & Distribution of Ashes  
9.10am Mass with the school community  
7.00pm Mass & Distribution of Ashes**





This weekend we celebrate the Sunday of the Word of God. You may recall that last year, just before the coronavirus pandemic hit, Pope Francis instigated a new annual celebration, the "Sunday of the Word of God" to remind us all of the importance and value of Sacred Scripture for the Christian life, as well as the relationship between the word of God and the liturgy. In the rest of the world, the Sunday of the Word of God is celebrated on the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, but the Australian bishops have decided that in Australia it will be held on the First Sunday in February each year instead.

**Liturgical Notes Prepared by Dr Paul Taylor, Director of the National Office for Liturgy**

One of the primary ways in which the faithful honour God's Word in the liturgy is by faithfully listening to the proclamation of the readings and the homily, and by discerning the various ways in which God's Word applies to their lives. Within the liturgical celebration itself, the Church's *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (2012) offers concrete guidelines for honouring God's Word at Mass. One most visual sign is proclaiming the Word from a dignified Lectionary or a specially decorated Book of the Gospels at the ambo (cf. *GIRM* 349). Holding the Book of the Gospels aloft during the entrance procession and carrying the Book from the Mass altar to the ambo during the singing of the Gospel Acclamation is a way of highlighting the Lord's Word to be proclaimed. Incensing the open Book of the Gospels and arranging servers to hold lighted candles on either side of the ambo are ways of reverencing the sacredness and light of Christ's presence during the proclamation of the Gospel. As a sign of love for Christ and his message, the Book containing the Gospel reading is also kissed by the priest or deacon after the reading, like the altar which is venerated by the presiding celebrant at the beginning and end of Mass (cf. *GIRM* 123, 134, 169). Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter *Aperuit Illis* (30 September 2019) suggests that on Sunday of the Word of God, the book containing God's Word might be "enthroned" or given due honour in the church. It is a point also made in Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation *Verbum Domini* (2010) n. 68, so the faithful can reflect upon God's Word. An important point to remember here is the Second Vatican Council's insight that Christ's presence is recognised in the actual "proclamation" of the Word, when the Church believes that Christ is present and speaking to those assembled through the words of the Church's minister [*Sacrosanctum concilium* (1963) art. 7], rather than in the physical book itself.

*Aperuit Illis* also reminds us that for many centuries before being written down, God's Word was passed down orally from one generation to another. Therefore the actions of proclamation, listening and heeding God's Word are still accorded high priority. The other ways in which due honour might be given to God's Word including placing the Lectionary or Book of the Gospels on a significant stand near the ambo or entry to the church, in a dedicated side chapel or in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, for people to read.

**Sacramental Programme for First Reconciliation**

Dear Parishioners,

It is with much pleasure that I announce we will soon be commencing the Sacramental Programme for First Reconciliation for year 3 students. Since the year 3 children did not celebrate this Sacrament last year due to the Covid complications, it is important for them to have it now, so they will be ready for First Holy Communion later in the year.

The parents or carers of children who are beginning year 3 this year should refer to the parish website or office in order to download the enrolment form, and return it on or before Monday 15<sup>th</sup> of February.

The information night for the parents/carers is on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> of February in the Parish Hall at 6.30pm. (Only one parent is required to attend, without the child).



Please note: Year 2 students will receive First Reconciliation in Term 4 2021.



**COULD THE PARISHIONER CURRENTLY USING PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPE NUMBER 170 KINDLY CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE ASAP.**

**Monday Morning Prayer Group will commence on 15<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am in the Church. The first session will be the start of the Wollongong Lenten Program "Comfort". Everyone is warmly welcome to attend. We express much gratitude to Cathy Milgate.**



**The Abdallah and Sakr Families have launched i4give Day a national day of forgiveness on 1<sup>st</sup> February in memory of their children Antony, Angelina, Sienna and Veronique who were tragically killed in Oatlands one year ago. i4give Day encourages us all to find someone we can forgive or ask for forgiveness.**



## Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press)

Today we continue to read from Mark's Gospel, learning more about the ministry of Jesus. Jesus cured Simon's mother-in-law, and she immediately began to serve Jesus and his disciples. Jesus also cured many others who were brought to him, healing their illnesses and driving out demons. As we will see throughout Mark's Gospel, Jesus did not permit the demons to speak because they knew his identity and would have revealed it to those who were present. On the morning after this busy day, Jesus retreated in prayer, but was pursued by Simon and others who brought news that many people were looking for him. At this point in Mark's Gospel, we begin to see a distinct role for the inner circle of

Jesus' disciples—they act as intermediaries between Jesus and the people. Jesus reports to his disciples that they need to leave Capernaum to preach in other places. Today's Gospel completes a picture of Jesus' ministry: preaching, curing the sick, driving out demons, and then moving on to continue this work in another place. Mark's Gospel tells us that Jesus did this throughout Galilee. Jesus' compassion and healing of the sick is a sign of the Kingdom of God. The Church continues to extend Christ's healing presence to others in its ministry to the sick. In the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, the Church prays for spiritual and physical healing, forgiveness of sins, and comfort for those who are suffering from illness. In today's Gospel we also notice the importance of prayer in Jesus' daily life. Jesus rose early in the morning, removed himself from the crowds, and went to a deserted place to pray. When the disciples found him, he told them that it was time to move on. We believe that in his prayers Jesus found guidance and direction from God. We also bring our decision-making to God in prayer, asking for his guidance and direction in our lives.

**The new roster to commence 6<sup>th</sup> March is currently being compiled.  
Kindly notify the parish office of any changes as soon as possible.**

### 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> February

	VIGIL	8AM	10AM	6PM
<b>Special Ministers</b>	Czarina Mendoza Cruz	Yvonne Martins	Helen Williamson	Andrew Bova
	Cathy Milgate	Geraldine O'Sullivan	Jackie Romanous	Mary l'Estrange
			Rachel Suriano	
	VIGIL	8AM	10AM	6PM
<b>Readers</b>	Julie Erskine Henness	Daniel Martins	Anne Marrins	Theresa Kuk
	Camille Kafka	Sandor Toth	Claudia Elias	Anne Chow
	VIGIL	8AM	10AM	6PM
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Beatrix A.	Julian M.	Michael S.	Katarina S.
	Natalie C.	Lucas M.	Anthony S.	John Paul B.
	Aidan L.	Jacob M.	Aidan M.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
	Lachlan M.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
	VIGIL	8AM	10AM	6PM
<b>Wardens</b>	Edith Pun	Georgette Sahyoun	Trudie Rogers	Vince Blefari

**If you are unable to attend your rostered Mass kindly organise a replacement.**

### MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Recently Deceased:</b>	Maureen Duggan, Captain Sir Tom Moore, George Karam, Dorothy Spratt, Alessio Pappalettera, Father Isidore Anantharaj, Bishop Geoffrey Robinson, Chi Kong, Caterina Randazzo, Betty Rooney, Ann-Maree Leydon.
<b>Repose of The Soul:</b>	Fr Adrian Horgan, Fr Paul Ryan, Br Ray Dowding, Gerald Wilson, John Ferguson, Daniel Lucich, James Brady, Ken Fraser, Connie Wong, Mary Bentley, Aldo Amarino, Salvatore (Phillip) Puglisi, William (Bill) & Dorothy Starr, Roger O'Reilly, Stefano, Estelle Thurn, Anne Cecilia Glass, Reginald & Agnes Glass, Gerald & Frances Gleeson, Faado & Alice Herro, John, Doreen & Des McNamara Patrick & Janet Reynolds, Jim Reynolds, Ken Rich, Monica & Patrick Ryan, Stephen Maxwell Stewart & Christopher John Stewart, Dr Stephanie Winfield, Philip Winfield, Tom O'Rourke, Norman & Christine Coorey, Caterina & Matteo Genova, Francesco & Maria Colagiuri, Lisa Cooke, Michael & Mary Cassar, Guiseppe & Romilda Reginato.
<b>Anniversaries:</b>	Dan Dillon, Leni Fragassi, Sr M Fabian rsm, Joseph & Margaret McGannon, Richard Sullivan, Maureen Sarks, Rosario Pagano, Violet Bouffler.
<b>Sick Intentions:</b>	Nicola Bailey, Moira Harrington, Aida Bechara, Susanna Boroczky, Pat Fraser, Tony Grace, Baby Alice Ladd, Margaret Davidson, Marc Kayrouz, Peter Starr & Ajith Antony Seemampillai..
<b>Special Intentions:</b>	Jessica Harter, Peter Hetheron, Reg Jones, Eileen & Harold Crocker, Siva Sothy, The Pagano & Colagiuri Families, May & Frank Grieves, Eileen Givney, Anne Goodrick. For Deceased Friends & Benefactors of the Dominican Order.



gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## HOMILY

### PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED

*Or the Nicene Creed may be said.*

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

#### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:*

**R. Blessed be God for ever.**

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**R. 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

P. O Lord, our God, who once established these created things to sustain us in our frailty, grant, we pray, that they may become for us now the Sacrament of eternal life.

Through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. Lift up your hearts.

**R. We lift them up to the Lord.**

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**R. It is right and just.**

## PREFACE I-VIII OF THE SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME

*After the Preface, we sing or say:*

**All: 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.**

## THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

**All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.**

## COMMUNION RITE

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

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...**

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray...

**All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.**

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said...

**R. Amen**

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*All exchange a sign of peace*

## LAMB OF GOD

**All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**R. 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

 cf. Ps 106: 8-9

**Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. O God, who have willed that we be partakers in the one Bread and the one Chalice, grant us, we pray, so to live that, made one in Christ, we may joyfully bear fruit for the salvation of the world.

Through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen**

## THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

P. Go in peace.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

## BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

### CONCERN FOR OTHERS

In the midst of his suffering Job takes stock of his life and judges that it can be best described as drudgery and futile. His words are a powerful reminder to us that ours is not the first or last generation to search for meaning in the midst of the complexity of the human situation. It is into the darkness, pain and questioning of ours that Jesus enters with a message of hope. His mission and message is one of healing, freedom and new beginnings.

Paul writes to the Corinthians about the mission that he has received from the Lord, that of preaching the gospel message. He is dealing with a situation where some of the people are exercising their freedom in Christ by eating meat which had previously been sacrificed to idols. While Paul agreed with them that idols did not exist, and that the meat was only meat, their mistake was in not being concerned about their 'weaker' brethren who were scandalised by their behaviour. Rather than arguing who is right and who is wrong, Paul argues that not causing suffering to the other person is a higher value. Using his own practice as an example he talks about how he has tried to become all things to all people so that he might not be an obstacle to the gospel message being preached. Since he exercises his freedom by concern for the other, he hopes that the 'stronger' members of the community will do the same.

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

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