

OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA

Mumbles

HOME PRAYER SERVICE FOR SUNDAYS

Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday) Year A, 22 March 2019

This home prayer service can be used by a single person (sole participant) or by family members at home. Where there are two or more persons, a family member leads the prayer service (including reading the reflection). Where possible, the participant(s) should have the prayer service around a table with a lighted candle, a crucifix and a Bible (or missal).

ENTRANCE SONG (OR ANTIPHON)

An opening song may be sung or the following antiphon is recited. All stand.

**Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.**

We begin with the sign of the Cross

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

A leader or the sole participant says:

**Blessed be the God of all consolation,
who has shown us his great mercy.
Bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.**

Response: Blessed be God for ever.

INTRODUCTION

Where there are two or more persons in the house, the leader introduces the celebration in these or similar words.

**We gather to be the Church of Christ.
Christ is with us, as he promised:
present in this assembly of his people,
in the proclamation of God's word.
Let us reflect on the word and pray together
Today we celebrate.... (e.g. the Fourth Sunday of
Lent)**

PENITENTIAL ACT

The sole participant or leader introduces the penitential act saying:

**Let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare
ourselves this celebration.**

A brief pause for silence follows.

**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,**

(And, striking their breast, they say:)

**through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;**

(Then they continue:)

**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.**

The sole participant or the leader says:

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

Response: Amen.

COLLECT

The sole participant or leader says the Collect Prayer:

**O God, who through your Word reconcile the
human race to yourself in a wonderful way,
grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and
eager faith the Christian people may hasten
toward the solemn celebrations to come.
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.**

Response: Amen.

READINGS

After each reading a brief silence is observed. It is desirable to take all the readings with the responsorial psalm, all of which are available in the Sunday Missal. Where all readings of the Sunday cannot be taken, the Gospel (printed below) is read. The one who reads the Gospel, if not a priest or deacon, does not say "The Lord be with you." but begins with "A reading from the holy Gospel according to..."

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1B, 6-7, 10-13A

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 23:1-3A, 3B-4, 5, 6

2nd Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Gospel Acclamation: John 8:12

Gospel: John 9:1-41

Gospel (shorter version): John 9:6-9, 13-17, 34-38

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man, and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a Sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you are a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

The Gospel of the Lord

REFLECTION

The sole participant or leader reads a homily prepared by the priest; or may give a short reflection on the scripture readings of the day. The reflection is followed by a period of silence. Even when there is no reflection a period of silence is included.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The creed is 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.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

The General Intercessions are said.

Leader: Through Christ our Redeemer, let us draw near to our loving Father in prayer.

Reader: Let us pray for the Church on her pilgrimage in this world. Lord, in your mercy

Response: Hear our prayer.

Reader: Let us pray that those who are sick with the coronavirus may regain their health through quality medical care and may those who have died from the virus find eternal rest with God. Lord, in your mercy

Response: Hear our prayer.

Reader: In thanksgiving to the Lord, we pray for parishioners who mark their birthdays this week: Julie Beaumont Rees, Ethan Jones, Paul Richards, Rachel Evans. May the Lord bless and keep them. Lord, in your mercy

Response: Hear our prayer.

[Other petitions may be added, after which the Our Father is introduced in these or similar words]

Reader: Let us pray to our Father in the words Our Saviour taught us: **Our Father, who art in heaven...**

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

After a brief period of silence, the Prayer of Spiritual Communion follows.

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

A song of thanksgiving may be sung after the prayer of spiritual communion.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

The sole participant or leader says the concluding prayer:

May your healing work, O Lord, free us, we pray, from doing evil and lead us to what is right. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The sole participant or leader concludes the rite by signing himself or herself with the Sign of the Cross while saying the following:

May almighty God bless us, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.