

OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA, MUMBLES

HOME PRAYER SERVICE FOR SUNDAYS

3rd Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) (B), 13 December 2020

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

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 celebrate our joy in Christ's redeeming work
among us, realising that he who is to come is
indeed already with us, "unknown to us".**

PENITENTIAL ACT

The sole participant or leader introduces the penitential act saying:

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

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 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, 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...".

First Reading:	Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11
Responsorial Psalm:	Luke 1:46-50,53-54
Second Reading:	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Gospel Acclamation:	Is 61:1(Lk 4:18)
Gospel:	John 1:6-8,19-28

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

A man came, sent by God.
His name was John.
He came as a witness,
as a witness to speak for the light,
so that everyone might believe through him.
He was not the light,
only a witness to speak for the light.
This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say

about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:
a voice that cries in the wilderness:
Make a straight way for the Lord.'
Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

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.

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: John the Baptist came as "a witness to speak light", a voice crying in the wilderness. As we prepare for the coming of that light, we ask the Father to hear our prayers.

Reader: Let us pray that each member of the Church on earth may be watchful and ready for Christ's coming. Lord, in your mercy

Response: Hear our prayer.

Reader: Let us pray that the poor and downhearted may hear the Good News and know the kindness of active Christians. Lord, in your mercy

Response: Hear our prayer

Reader: Let us pray that others may see the patience of God in the way we treat them. 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: Let us pray for our sick and housebound parishioners, that they may be strengthened through the power of the Holy Spirit. Lord, in your mercy
Response: Hear our prayer.

Reader: In thanksgiving to the Lord, we pray for parishioners who mark their birthdays this week: Caroline Solomon, Ellen Leonard, Yvonne Richards, Kevin Holley. May the Lord bless and keep her. Lord, in your mercy
Response: Hear our prayer.

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 is said by all.

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.