

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

**Tell among the nations his glory,  
and his wonders among all the peoples,  
for the Lord is great and highly to be praised.**

**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**

O God, whose will it is that all should be saved  
and come to the knowledge of the truth,  
look upon your abundant harvest and be  
pleased to send workers to gather it,  
that the Gospel may be preached to all  
creation  
and that your people, gathered by the word  
of life  
and sustained by the power of the  
Sacraments,  
may advance in the path of salvation and love.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever.  
**Amen.**

**FIRST READING**

Isaiah 56:1-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice,  
act with integrity, for soon my salvation  
will come and my integrity be manifest.  
Foreigners who have attached themselves  
to the Lord to serve him and to love his  
name and be his servants – all who observe  
the Sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to  
my covenant – these I will bring to my holy  
mountain. I will make them joyful in my  
house of prayer. Their holocausts and their  
sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my  
house will be called a house of prayer for all  
the peoples.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

Ps 97

Response:

**All the ends of the earth have seen the  
salvation of our God**

1. Sing a new song to the Lord  
for he has worked wonders.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have brought salvation. **(R.)**
2. The Lord has made known his salvation:

has shown his justice to the nations.  
He has remembered his truth and love  
for the house of Israel. **(R.)**

3. All the ends of the earth have seen  
The salvation of our God.  
Shout to the Lord all the earth,  
ring out your joy. **(R.)**
4. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp  
With the sound of music.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
acclaim the King, the Lord. **(R.)**

**SECOND READING** Ephesians 3:2-12

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the  
Ephesians.

You have probably heard how I have been  
entrusted by God with the grace he meant  
for you and that it was by a revelation that I  
was given the knowledge of the mystery as I  
have just described it very shortly. If you read  
my words, you will have some idea of the  
depths that I see in the mystery of Christ. This  
mystery that has now been revealed through  
the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets  
was not known to men in past generations;  
it means that pagans now share in the same  
inheritance, that they are part of the same  
body, and that the same promise has been  
made to them in Christ Jesus, through the  
gospel. I have been made the servant of that  
gospel by a gift of grace from God who gave  
it to me by his own power. I, who am less  
than the least of all the saints, have been  
entrusted with this special grace, not only  
of proclaiming to the pagans the infinite  
treasure of Christ but also of explaining how  
the mystery is to be dispensed. Through  
all the ages, this has been kept hidden in  
God, the creator of everything. Why? So  
that the Sovereignities and Powers should  
learn only now, through the Church, how  
comprehensive God's wisdom really is,  
exactly according to the plan which he had  
had from all eternity in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
This is why we are bold enough to approach  
God in complete confidence, through our  
faith in him.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

**God so loved the world that he gave his only  
Son, so that they who believe in him will  
have eternal life.**

**Alleluia.**

**GOSPEL**

John 17: 11, 17-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
John

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said,  
"Holy Father,  
keep those you have given me true to your  
name,  
so that they may be one like us.  
Consecrate them in truth:  
your word is truth.  
As you sent me into the world,  
I have sent them into the world.  
And for their sake I consecrate myself  
so that they too may be consecrated in truth.  
I pray not only for these,  
but for those also who through their words  
will believe in me.  
May they all be one.  
Father may they be one in us,

As you are in me and I am in you  
so that the world may believe it was you who  
sent me.

I have given them the glory you gave me,  
that they may be one, as we are one.  
With me in them and you in me,  
May they be so completely one  
that the world will realise that you sent me,  
and that I have loved them as much as you  
loved me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

**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 during the next 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.**

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Look, O Lord, upon the face of your Christ,  
who handed himself over as a ransom for all,  
so that through him, from the rising of the sun  
to its setting,  
your name may be exalted among the nations  
and in every place a single offering may be  
presented to your majesty.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

**Go into all the world, and proclaim the  
Gospel, says the Lord. I am with you always.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Nourished by these redeeming gifts, we pray,  
O Lord,  
that through this help to eternal salvation  
true faith may ever increase.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## PARTNERS IN MISSION

(JOHN 17:11, 17-23)



Today we are called to pray for the church's worldwide mission. As today's Gospel shows us, Jesus was the first to pray for the success of this mission. He does so in the final moments of the Last Supper before he heads out into the dark, to make the short journey to the Garden of Gethsemane where he will be arrested, and his passion will begin.

The distinguishing mark of Jesus' disciples and the communities called churches they will establish in his name, is their unity with one another in his love, both as disciples and as communities in fellowship. A community of individuals will never hear the call to reach out to others in mission. A church that is internally divided, where the members are at war with one another, will not be fit for mission. Whatever witness it attempts to give will be so impoverished and weakened that it will fail to represent the generous self-forgetting love of Christ, who washed his disciples' feet and fed them with his Body and Blood. Jesus puts it very simply when he prays for his disciples to his Father: "Consecrate them in truth." If the church does not face the truth about itself, about the world and the people it is called to serve, its witness will be false and worthless. ■

### SAY

Lord Jesus, watch over your missionaries who have left home and family to witness worldwide to your love. When times are difficult, comfort them. In good times, help them to bear even greater witness to your love.

### LEARN

The church received its mission from Christ its founder when he said "Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And look, I am with you always; yes, to the end of time." (Mat 28:19-20)

The church's mission work also includes all that can be done for the development and well-being of the human person.

Lay people, as singles or married couples, are welcome partners in the church's mission.

Give up some little pleasure this week and give the price of it to the missions.

### DO

Organise or join a group to discuss what a renewed priesthood for today would look like. What lifestyle might be appropriate for a priest in our day and age?



## REFLECT

Many people will know that the main patron of the missions is St Francis Xavier, a Jesuit who spent 11 years evangelising India and Japan before dying in sight of China. Many will also know that St Therese of Lisieux, the Little Flower, is the second patron of the missions: even though she spent her life in an enclosed convent, her prayer was focussed on the needs of the missionary church. Less well

known is Pauline Jaricot. Although she had dreamed of being a missionary from childhood, Pauline never left her native France and spent all her life in her family home. When she was still just about 20, Pauline hit on a scheme for helping the missions. She asked each of her best friends to find ten other people who would be willing to contribute one cent each week for the work of the missions. The associates would collect

the money regularly and see it was sent off to the missions. Pauline's little society eventually became known as the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. It is the major Catholic organisation worldwide for supporting the church's overseas missions. It is known in Ireland as World Mission Ireland. Recently it has supported the mission work in Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland. ■