

Fr Callistus Khathali - HOMILY: 19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Wisdom 18:6-9

Hebrews 11:1-2,8-19

Luke 12:32-48

Luke 12:32

There is no need to be afraid, little flock, for it has pleased your Father to give you the kingdom.

My reflection is centred on the two F words (excuse my expression), one at the beginning of our gospel, and the other one in the second reading. At the beginning of our gospel passage Jesus calls the little flock to have no fear (Luke 12:32) since it has pleased the heavenly Father to give them the kingdom.

Dispelling fear features prominently in the gospel as part of the greater message of the revealed glory of God. The angel Gabriel at the annunciation called Mary to fear not (Luke 1:30). The angel who announced to the shepherds the birth of the Lord called them to fear not (Luke 2:10). To Simon Peter, after the great catch, Jesus said, fear not as from now on you will be catching men (Luke 5:10). The Risen Lord kept on calling the disciples to fear not as he showed himself to them after his resurrection.

Fear remains an issue with us. We have all reasons to be afraid especially when we live in a country that is infested with violent crimes. Spiritually, when we honestly look deep into our sinfulness, we fear that we do not deserve God's mercy, let alone the rewards of eternal life in his kingdom.

God's fundamental message to us is his mission of dispelling our fears, as he reveals his glories we are called to share in. The second F word comes in here. We are called to have Faith in what God has promised. Our first reading goes on to say that such promises were made through the oaths that God made. Once God makes an oath, he does not change. Fear has indeed been dispelled from us, and the kingdom has been given to us. Let us have Faith in this.

Faith should also be made manifest by our acts of faith. Jesus's invitation in the gospel is to get rid of what impedes us from focusing on the kingdom given to us - our greatest inheritance.

Let our act of faith be our driving force as we continue with our earthly journey leading us to our heavenly inheritance.

May Almighty God bless you, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.
I will meditate on the Glorious Mysteries today as I pray for your personal intentions.

Have a wonderful day Sunday

Fr Callistus