

Fr Callistus Khathali - HOMILY  
14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME -03rd July 2022

Isaiah 66:10-14  
Galatians 6:14-18  
Luke 10:1-12,17-20

**Do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you; rejoice instead that your names are written in heaven. Luke 10:20**

The gospel passage of today ends with **Jesus calling his disciples to rejoice that their names are written in heaven**. This was after the **seventy came back from the mission he had sent them to**. They came back **rejoicing that Satan and evil spirits submitted to them**.

**We do see evil surrounding us today**. Defeating any form of evil in Jesus' name should make us truly rejoice, but Jesus gives what should be **a greater cause for our joy. We belong to him, we are his people, our names are written in heaven. That is what matters most for us all**.

**Saint Paul** in our second reading echoes these sentiments. He says even circumcision (mark of those males belonging to God's chosen people in the Old Testament), does not matter. **What matters most is for us to become altogether new creatures**. It is a new creature, **renewed by Christ himself**, that has **a name written in heaven**. That is our home, **our final destination** where God wants us all to be.

**The question is can we really get there? What does it take for us to inherit eternal life** when we are so sinful? **Isaiah** gives us hope in our **first reading**. He calls us to **rejoice and be glad for Jerusalem**. Jerusalem that has become **a source of spiritual nourishment for God's people**. Jerusalem that carries people upon her hip, and comforts them like a mother. This is the very same Jerusalem that had sinned in many ways, including stoning the prophets. **God's power of healing and salvation** over Jerusalem is found at the beginning of Isaiah 40, or the beginning of **Handel's Messiah just after the overture**. "**Console my people console them, speak to the heart of Jerusalem and cry to her that her period of service is ended, that her guilt has been atoned for' (Is 40:1-2)**. For us, the New Testament generation, our guilt has been atoned for through the sacrifice of Christ.

**Our merciful and forgiving God is our key to heaven**. It is the same God who makes us **new creatures through his Holy Spirit in baptism** that we constantly renew. Let us therefore pray that **we may be inspired by the seventy disciples** in our gospel. **We too have been baptized and sent by him**. Let us constantly search for what he has given to us as **our mission, and do it diligently**.

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 Sunday.*

*Fr Callistus*