

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Fr Callistus Khathali - HOMILY : THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER 1st May 2022

John 21:17

Jesus said to him a third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter was hurt that he asked him a third time, 'Do you love me?' and said, 'Lord, you know everything; you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep.'

The last part of today's gospel (John 21:1-19) is about Jesus asking Simon Peter three times if he loved him. As Peter confirmed his love for the Lord, the three requests were to:

- **feed my lambs**

- **look after my sheep**

- **feed my sheep.**

The magical number here is three and it's on the third Sunday of Easter.

It was the same Peter who had denied the Lord three times earlier on.

On Good Friday we read that when the cock crew he remembered that the Lord had said to him he will deny him three times. He went out and wept bitterly. It was a moment of darkness for Peter. The night had fallen upon him with tears all over his face.

Part of our responsorial psalm 29(30) says "At night there are tears, but joy comes with dawn..... For me you have changed my mourning to dancing, oh Lord my God I will thank you for ever." This captures what Peter experienced in this episode. His moment of darkness, of messing up, of failure was turned into the moment of greatness. He was not just forgiven, but the Lord gave him a huge responsibility. He was put on par with the Lord who is the Good Shepherd (our theme for next Sunday). The Lord had reached the end of his Galilean ministry. He was basically giving Simon Peter the responsibility of carrying on with looking after his people! This Petrine ministry continues still today with Pope Francis. In today's first reading (Acts 5:27-32,40-41) Peter's driving force in his ministry was "obedience to God comes before obedience to men." He is an example to us, that given another chance in life we must use it well. Obeying God and doing what he calls us to do, is all what matters to us.

Our Risen Lord wants to raise us from our fallen state, he wants to change our failure to success, our mourning into dancing, and our darkness to light. Let us love him more than anyone and anything else so that he can also accomplish greater things in our life as he did to Simon Peter.

May Almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I will meditate on the Glorious Mysteries of the holy rosary today as I pray for your personal intentions.

Have a wonderful Sunday.

Fr Callistus Khathali