

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Fr Callistus Khathali - HOMILY : THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

**Hebrews 9:28**

**Christ, having offered himself only once to bear the sin of many, will manifest himself a second time, sin being no more, to those who are waiting for him, to bring them salvation.**

**"Where the Head has gone in glory, the Body is called to follow in hope" (from the Collect - opening prayer - of the mass of Ascension of the Lord).**

In the account of the Lord's ascension in our **first reading (Acts 1:1-11)** we hear the disciples asking Jesus when he was going to **restore the kingdom of Israel**. In Jesus' time Israel was under the rule of the Roman Empire.

Jesus was seen by many as the political liberator. This was the hope they had in him. He surely did not promise to be that kind of liberator. I do not even recall him being approached and asked to do that. So he was expected to fulfil the hope that he was not even asked to fulfill. We know how those who needed to be cured, approached, asked, and even pleaded with him.

**We surely have our own hopes in Jesus.** We even have those that are never realized. We have prayed, sometimes even with novenas, for intentions that were never given. Losing hope is a reality that affects us, especially when we have specific expectations that are never met. The Lord's ascension is met with the disciples who saw their hope in the Lord as their liberator diminishing. That loss of hope is clear in what the two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24). They expressed their disappointment that the conquered and crucified Lord did not meet their expectations.

The Lord was surely not here to bring political freedom. He was rather here to **set humanity free from sin**. The Lord certainly achieved this, not only for Israel, but for the entire human race. **We too have been set free, and are being constantly set free from sin.** The Lord is now in heaven waiting to welcome all who believe in him into his heavenly glory (Hebrews 9:28).

**As we celebrate the feast of the Head of the body, the Church, that has gone up to heaven in glory, let us live in hope of the fulfilment of us members of this body meeting up with our Head in heaven.**

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.

Blessed Joseph Gerard, pray for us.

**Have a wonderful Sunday.**

*Fr Callistus*