

**Fr Callistus Khathali - HOMILY : 16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**Genesis 18:1-10**

**Colossians 1:24-28**

**Luke 10:38-42**

**Luke 10:41-42**

**'Martha, Martha, you worry and fret about so many things, and yet few are needed, indeed only one. It is Mary who has chosen the better part, and it is not to be taken from her.'**

In our second reading Paul in his letter to the Colossians speaks **about the mystery that was hidden for generations, but is now revealed, and that mystery is, "Christ among you, your hope of glory"** (Col 1:27b). This mystery is the subject of their teaching and proclamation. God's presence among us is being realized in the presence of his son Jesus Christ. This was prophesied by the prophet Isaiah when he stated that a young woman was with child and will give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel - God is with us (Isaiah 7:14).

In our first reading we read of **the Lord appearing to Abraham our Father in faith**. He appeared in the form of three men. Abraham received these men with so much honour and respect. They were indeed God's presence to him, and they even had a special message of hope for his old wife Sarah! She was to bear a son in her old age.

In the gospel we find Jesus visiting the sisters Martha and Mary. Martha was occupied with doing what is normal even today. When a special guest visits he is to be given some royal treatment. Martha was doing that, while Mary appeared not to be bothered about entertaining their guest. Martha turned to the Jesus asking him to intervene and get her sister to help her.

Jesus' answer has something very important to teach us. **Surely Jesus was fully human, therefore it was proper for him to enjoy the warmest hospitality that Martha and Mary could give him. At the very same time Jesus was fully divine, he came to bring blessings and graces** to Martha and Mary. He did not need exaggerated hospitality, but to be received as the Lord who was bringing them the good news of hope. Sitting at the Lord's feet was a place for the disciple who was being trained and taught by the Lord. Mary was there, at the better part she had chosen as Jesus said. In the penultimate verse of Matthew's gospel the Lord sent his disciples saying "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). Mary therefore teaches us where we should be as the Lord's disciples through our baptism - at the Lord's feet where we are taught and instructed by him. This is the only thing that matters as Jesus declares in today's gospel.

**Let us pray that we may learn to receive the Lord they he expects us to, and not the way we think. Most importantly let us ask the Lord to show us things that really matter, and to give us courage to choose the better part.**

**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*