

Sunday 05th June 2022

Fr Callistus Khathali - HOMILY: PENTECOST SUNDAY

Acts 2:11- 'We hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

Today's feast marks the fulfillment of Jesus' promise of sending the Holy Spirit to his disciples.

Our **first reading (Acts 2:1-11)** recounts something that never happened before. Even during the time of Jesus we do not have this miracle of the gospel preached to people from different nations in their own native language.

Jesus sent his apostles on a mission to make disciples of all nations. It is therefore fitting that on the day of Pentecost, **the Holy Spirit enabled them to be heard by all the nations that had gathered in Jerusalem. This marked the beginning of the missionary endeavour of the Church. Today we boast of the Church that is truly Catholic (for everyone) and global.**

The language of the Holy Spirit is the language that is heard in all languages without any simultaneous translation. The content of this language, as Jesus tells us in today's gospel (John 15:15-16,23-26), is everything that Jesus taught. The good news of our Lord Jesus Christ is a global phenomenon engraved in every language.

This language of the Holy Spirit has some important components. Saint Paul in his letter to the Romans (8-17) states that our ability to call Jesus the Lord is the language of the Holy Spirit, and the Spirit also makes us call God Abba - Father. **The language of the Holy Spirit therefore is all about God.** What those pilgrims heard in their own languages was God's marvels. At the very centre of this language is **the language of love that unites us all** as Jesus tells us in today's gospel.

With **Jesus gone to heaven, the day of Pentecost marked the beginning of the Apostles era.** This is the language that John the Baptist understood. When Jesus began this ministry, John understood that his time had come to an end. John even said "He (Jesus) must increase and I (Jesus) must decrease" (John 3:30). **Proclamation of the gospel belongs to people of different ages. It is handed over and passed on, the content thereof remains the same.**

It is therefore **our time today to take up the baton left behind by those who proclaimed God's marvels before us.** The language of our belief in God does not need any simultaneous translation as it has already made its home in all languages.

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 special intentions. Have a wonderful Pentecost Sunday.

Fr Callistus