

PENTECOST SUNDAY – A – 24.05.2026

Acts 2,1-22; 1 Cor 12,3-7. 12-13; Jn 20,19-23

INTRODUCTION

One winter evening, a family noticed that the fire in their fireplace had almost gone out. Only a few red embers glowed under the ashes. The room grew cold. The father gently stirred the coals and blew softly. At first, nothing seemed to happen. Then a tiny flame flickered. He added a small piece of wood and blew again. Within moments, the fire was burning brightly, warming the whole room.

The fire had not gone out. It only needed breath.

In many ways, this is how we can feel in our faith.

Sometimes life grows cold. Our hearts feel tired, or we are afraid. Our hopes shrink. We may even hide behind the “locked doors” of routine, fear, or worry, thinking that nothing will ever change.

The disciples on that first Easter evening were like that fire. Afraid, confused, and hiding behind locked doors, their courage and joy seemed gone. Then Jesus came. He stood among them, said, “Peace be with you,” and

breathed on them: “Receive the Holy Spirit.” That breath transformed them completely. Fear turned to courage, doubt to joy, silence to bold witness. The embers of their faith became a blazing fire.

Today, we celebrate that same gift. Today, we celebrate Pentecost: the breath and fire of the Holy Spirit, who is still at work in our lives.

We have gathered in His name. He is in our midst. He is ready to breathe life into our hearts, rekindle our courage, and send us forth as witnesses of love, mercy, and hope. Let us open our hearts and ask for His Spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus Christ, you come to us when our faith grows weak and our courage fades. Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you call us out of locked rooms and send us into the world with your peace. Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you breathe your Spirit upon fearful hearts and turn them into witnesses. Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to renew the hearts of the disciples, also breathe His Spirit upon us. May He forgive our sins, rekindle the fire of faith within us, and send us forth with courage and joy to proclaim His love.

INVITATION TO THE GLORIA

The Spirit brings joy where there was fear, light where there was darkness, song where there was silence. Let us lift our voices and praise the God who renews the face of the earth.

COLLECT

Almighty and ever-living God, on this day you filled the hearts of your disciples with the fire of the Holy Spirit. Breathe upon us again, renew our faith, drive out our fear, and make us courageous witnesses of your love, so that, united in one Spirit, we may proclaim your mighty works to the world. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

HOMILY

On a cold winter evening, a family sat around a fireplace that had almost gone out. Only a few red embers glowed under the ashes. The room was growing chilly. The father took the poker, gently stirred the coals, and blew softly. For a moment nothing happened. Then a small flame appeared. He added a bit of wood and blew again. Within minutes the fire was burning brightly, warming the whole room.

“Look,” he said to his children, “the fire was there all along. It just needed breath.” That is Pentecost.

The disciples, before Pentecost, were like those fading embers. Jesus had died. Their hopes had collapsed. Even after hearing that He was risen, they hid behind locked doors. Fear had covered their faith like ashes over a fire. They were still believers—but not yet bold. Still disciples—but not yet missionaries. And then came the breath.

In the Gospel of John, the risen Jesus stands among them and says, “Peace be with you.” He does not scold them for

running away. He shows them His wounds. And then He does something very simple and very powerful: He breathes on them and says, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

That breath takes us back to the very beginning of the Bible. In Genesis, God forms Adam from the dust and breathes into him the breath of life. Now Jesus breathes again. It is a new creation. The frightened men behind locked doors begin to live again.

Pentecost is the Church’s first deep breath.

But Luke, in the Acts of the Apostles, describes the same mystery in another way. He speaks of a strong wind and tongues of fire. Wind and fire—images of power, energy, movement.

A little boy once tried to fly a kite on a day when there seemed to be no wind. He ran and ran, but the kite only dragged along the ground. An old man nearby smiled and said, “The wind is there. You just have to lift the kite high enough to catch it.”

The Spirit is like that. The wind of God is blowing—but we must lift our hearts to catch it.

At the first Pentecost, Jerusalem was filled with pilgrims from many nations. Different languages. Different cultures. And suddenly these simple fishermen began to speak about the mighty works of God. Each person heard the message in his own language.

It was not a return to one single language, like at the Tower of Babel where people tried to build a name for themselves. Babel was unity built on pride and fear.

Pentecost is unity built on humility and love. The Spirit did not erase differences. He created understanding. Diversity remained—but now there was communion.

Isn’t that what our world longs for? We speak so much, yet we understand so little. Parents and children talk past each other. Nations sign agreements but prepare for war. Even in the Church, we can argue more than we listen. The Spirit builds bridges.

A parish once had an old organ that sounded terrible. Some pipes were too loud; others made no sound at all. A visitor said, “This organ is useless.” But an organ builder replied, “No, it just needs tuning. Every pipe matters—but

they must work together.”

There are many gifts, St. Paul says, but the same Spirit.

The Spirit does not create clones. He creates harmony.

Your gift—whether it is kindness, teaching, listening, organizing, encouraging—is given for the good of all.

When the Spirit tunes us, we become part of a beautiful symphony. But before harmony comes courage.

After Jesus’ death, the disciples were not only sad; they were afraid. Fear locks doors. We know something about that. We lock our homes. We protect ourselves emotionally. We avoid difficult conversations. Fear can keep us safe—but it can also keep us small.

Pentecost turns locked doors into open hearts.

Think of electricity in a house. When the power goes out, everything stops. The best appliances become useless.

One evening after a storm, a little boy asked his father, “Why does everything stop working?” The father answered, “Because everything depends on power.”

The Church depends on power too—not political power, not human strength—but the power of the Holy Spirit.

Without the Spirit, the Church becomes just another organization. With the Spirit, she becomes alive.

The apostles are the proof. Before Pentecost: hiding. After Pentecost: preaching in public. Before: confused. After: clear and courageous. What changed? They met the risen Lord. They experienced forgiveness. They received a mission. And they received the Holy Spirit.

And the first gift that Spirit brought was peace and forgiveness. “Whose sins you forgive are forgiven.” That is divine power. The power to heal consciences. The power to say to a wounded heart, “You are forgiven.”

A man once told me that during a very dark period of his life, he would sit quietly each morning and pray just three words: “Come, Holy Spirit.” He said there were no fireworks, no dramatic emotions. But slowly he noticed something: a little more patience, a little more courage, a little more hope. The Spirit was not a hurricane; He was steady breath.

Sometimes the Spirit comes like fire—dramatic, visible, transforming everything at once. History has seen such moments of renewal. But often the Spirit comes quietly:

In a mother who cares faithfully for her family day after day.

In someone who chooses forgiveness over resentment.

In a young person who discovers that Scripture is not a dusty old book but a living Word that speaks personally.

Without the Spirit, the Bible can feel like frozen meat taken from the freezer—hard and cold. But put it on the fire, and it becomes nourishing and attractive. The Spirit warms the Word until it feeds the soul.

Pentecost is not only a past event. The Acts of the Apostles tells of several “mini-Pentecosts.” Again and again the believers prayed—and the Spirit came. The Church is always in need of a new Pentecost. We as individuals are always in need of fresh breath.

Where are the locked doors in my life?

Where has fear cooled my love?

Where has routine covered the glowing embers of faith?

The wind is still blowing. The breath is still given. Jesus still says, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

Let me finish with one last story. In a hospital room, a nurse once described the most moving moment of all: when a newborn baby takes its first breath. There is a brief silence—everyone waiting—and then the child inhales and cries out. That breath is life. Without it, nothing else matters.

Pentecost was the Church’s first cry of life.

And perhaps today can be your breath again.

Maybe your faith feels like embers under ashes. Maybe your inner battery feels empty. Maybe fear has locked a door in your heart.

The fire is still there. It only needs breath.

So let us pray with confidence:

Heal our wounds. Renew our strength.

On our dryness pour your dew.

Come, Holy Spirit. Breathe on us again.

And set our hearts on fire. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE CREDO

United by one Spirit, though many members,
let us now profess the faith that gives us life and courage.

PROFESSION OF FAITH (for personal meditation only)

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
who holds the world and my life in His loving hands.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who became one of us,
who died for our sins and rose again,
and who stands among us with peace.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God within us,
who renews hearts, breaks down walls,
gives courage for what is good,
and leads us in the ways of love.

I believe in one Church, built not by fear but by the Spirit,
in the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the dead,
and life everlasting.
Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray that these gifts of bread and wine to the Lord may, by
His Holy Spirit become a source of courage, light, and fire
in our hearts, and may strengthen us to go forth and
proclaim His love to the world. May they be acceptable to
God the Father almighty.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
send your Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine.
As your breath turned fearful disciples into bold witnesses,
so let your Spirit transform these offerings
into the Body and Blood of Christ.
Inflame our hearts with love for your Word,
strengthen us when we are weak,
and give us courage for the mission you entrust to us.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
For you sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church
as a mighty wind and as tongues of fire,
so that people of every nation and language
might hear the good news and be gathered into one Body.
By your Spirit, fear was changed into courage,
division into unity, and silence into joyful proclamation. And
so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:
Holy, Holy, Holy...

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

Filled with the Spirit who makes us children of God,
let us pray with confidence to the Father
in the words our Savior gave us:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from all that dims our faith,
and breathe upon us with your Holy Spirit.
May your fire warm our hearts,
may your courage strengthen our souls,
and may your mercy guide us safely through life,
so that, renewed in Spirit, we may await with hope the
coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you breathed your Spirit upon your disciples
and said, "Peace be with you."
Look not on our failings, but on the spark of faith within us.
Fill your Church with that same Spirit of courage and unity,
so that your love may flow through our hearts,
our homes, our communities,
and into the world.
Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold Him who breathes new life into our hearts
and takes away the sin that separates us from God.
Blessed are those called
to receive the fire of His Spirit in this holy Eucharist.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The disciples were hiding. Jesus breathed on them.

You have received that same breath.

The Spirit is not only around you —

He is within you.

Where there is fear,

He gives courage.

Where there is division,

He builds unity.

Where faith grows cold,

He rekindles fire.

Whisper now in your heart:

Come, Holy Spirit.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

O God,

who have nourished us with the Bread of Life
and refreshed us with the Cup of Salvation,

send us forth in the power of your Spirit.

Open the doors we have closed,

heal the wounds we carry,

and make us instruments of your peace

in our families, our communities, and in the whole world.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING

May almighty God bless you:

The Father, who created you in love;

The Son, who stands among you with peace;

And the Holy Spirit, whose breath gives you life and
mission.

And may the blessing of almighty God,

the Father, and the Son ✠ and the Holy Spirit,

come down on you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go forth, filled with the Holy Spirit.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

When you feel your faith growing cold, remember:

The fire is still there.

It only needs breath.

Each morning this week, pray simply:

“Come, Holy Spirit.”

24.05.2026 – Our Lady, Help of Christians

Solemnity (Gloria, Credo)

Sirach 4,11-18; 1 Cor 1,18-25; John 19,25-27

INTRODUCTION

A young woman once set out on a long bushwalk in unfamiliar terrain. Confident at first, she followed the path easily, but after some time the track became unclear, and she realised she had lost her way. As anxiety began to rise, she remembered that her mother had insisted she carry a map and a compass. Trusting that guidance, she stopped, reoriented herself, and slowly found her way back to the right path.

In life, we too can lose our sense of direction—caught between what we hold onto and what God is asking us to let go of. Today, on this Solemnity of Our Lady, Help of Christians, we are reminded that we are not left alone. Mary, our Mother, walks with us. She helps us to trust God, to let go of what holds us back, and to follow Christ more freely, even when the path is difficult.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you call us to follow you with undivided hearts, yet we cling to what holds us back: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you gave us Mary as our Mother and Help, yet we fail to trust her guidance: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you show us that true life is found in surrender and trust, yet we are often afraid to let go: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, free us from the attachments that keep us from following him wholeheartedly, strengthen us through the help of Mary, our Mother, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, who in your providence gave us the Blessed Virgin Mary as Help of Christians, grant, we pray, that through her intercession we may find the courage to trust in you, the freedom to let go of all that hinders us, and the strength to follow your Son faithfully along the path of life.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

HOMILY: FOLLOWING THE PATH OF LIFE WITH MARY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS

A few years ago, I heard a story about a young man who inherited a successful family business. He had everything one could wish for—wealth, status, and a beautiful home—but he felt restless. One day at a retreat he was asked, “What would you give up if it meant you could truly live the life God wants for you?” He left unsettled, because the answer seemed impossible. That tension—between wanting life and feeling unable to let go—echoes not only the Gospel story we know well, but also speaks to the deeper journey of faith we celebrate today in Mary, Help of Christians.

Today’s readings invite us to contemplate the path of life, a path marked not by human strength or worldly wisdom, but by trust in God. St Paul reminds us that the message of the Cross is foolishness to the world, yet it is the power and wisdom of God. At the foot of that Cross, in the Gospel of John, we find Mary—standing firm, faithful, and present in

the darkest hour. And there, Jesus entrusts her to us:

“Behold your mother.”

Mary, Help of Christians, is given to us precisely in that moment when everything seems lost. She is not removed from the struggles of life; she stands right in the midst of them. She knows what it means to trust when the path is unclear, to surrender when the cost is great, and to remain faithful when hope seems hidden.

Like the rich man in the Gospel we reflected on, we too can find ourselves torn between desire for life and fear of letting go. But Mary shows us another way. At the Annunciation, she was invited into something far beyond her understanding. She did not cling to her own plans or security; instead, she entrusted herself completely to God: “Let it be done to me according to your word.” Her freedom came not from holding on, but from giving herself entirely to God’s will.

In the first reading from Sirach, we hear that wisdom “walks with the just as a mother.” This is a beautiful image

for today’s feast. Mary accompanies us with that same maternal care. She does not force us, but gently leads us, teaching us to choose what truly gives life. As Help of Christians, she supports us in our struggles, strengthens us in our weakness, and guides us when we are uncertain.

This is especially meaningful for us in Australia, where Mary is honoured under this title as our patron. Our history has known hardship, isolation, and challenge, yet through it all, the faithful have turned to Mary as their help and protection. Her presence reminds us that we are never alone in following Christ, even when the path is demanding.

The message of the Cross, as St Paul says, may seem like weakness, but it is there that true life is found. Mary understood this. She stood beneath the Cross, not in despair, but in faith. She teaches us that the courage to let go, to trust, and to follow Christ comes not from ourselves alone, but from God’s grace.

So the question remains for each of us: what must I let go of to follow God more freely? It may be fear, control, comfort, or attachment to our own plans. Whatever it is, we do not face it alone. Mary walks with us. She helps us to say “yes,” even when it is difficult.

Let us then turn to her with confidence. As our Mother and Help, she leads us to her Son. May she teach us to trust more deeply, to love more freely, and to follow Christ more courageously—knowing that with God, all things are possible.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that as we place these gifts upon the altar, we may also place before God all that weighs upon our hearts, trusting, with Mary our Help, that he will receive and transform them for our good and the good of all his holy Church and pray that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God the Father almighty.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive, O Lord, the prayers and offerings we bring on this solemn feast, and as we honour the Blessed Virgin Mary, Help of Christians, grant that, through her maternal intercession, we may be freed from all that binds us and grow in trust and generosity of heart.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For you have given us the Blessed Virgin Mary as a loving Mother and sure Help for your people. In her, you show us the path of faithful trust, for she surrendered herself completely to your will and stood firm beneath the Cross of her Son. In her maternal care, you guide your Church through the uncertainties of life, teaching us to rely not on our own strength, but on your grace.

Through her example, we learn to let go of all that hinders us and to follow Christ with courage and freedom, knowing that your power is made perfect in our weakness.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim: Holy, Holy, Holy...

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say, trusting as children who are never abandoned, and guided by Mary, our Mother and Help:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, and graciously grant peace in our days, that, helped by the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may be freed from all that holds us back and live in the freedom of your children as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles:

Peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our fears and attachments, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will.

Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who calls us to follow him with trusting hearts. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, you call us to a deeper freedom, to a life not burdened by fear or attachment, but rooted in trust. With Mary at our side, help us to walk your path with courage. Teach us to surrender what we cannot keep, so as to receive what you alone can give.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received the Sacrament of salvation, we humbly ask you, O Lord, that, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Help of Christians, we may grow in trust, be strengthened in our journey, and persevere in following your Son with generous hearts. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

May almighty God bless you, who has given you Mary as a Mother and Help, strengthen you in every trial, and guide you along the path that leads to life.

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go forth in peace, trusting in the help of Mary, and follow Christ with courage and freedom.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

What is one thing I need to let go of this week in order to follow Christ more freely—and how can I ask Mary, Help of Christians, to guide and strengthen me in doing it?

Monday, 8th Week of Easter

1 Pet 1:3-9; Mk 10:17-27

Following the Path of Life

INTRODUCTION

A traveller once set out on a long journey through a dense forest. At the beginning, his bag was filled with many things he thought he needed—extra clothes, tools, even small treasures he did not want to leave behind. As the path grew steeper, he became exhausted. An old guide met him along the way and said, “If you want to reach the summit, you must leave behind what weighs you down.” At first, the traveller hesitated, but little by little, he let go of what he carried. And as he did, he found himself walking more freely, with greater joy, until he finally reached the top.

In our lives of faith, we are often like that traveller. We desire the fullness of life that God promises, yet we hold tightly to things that weigh us down. Today, Jesus invites us to walk the path of life with freedom, to trust Him, and to let go of whatever keeps us from following Him wholeheartedly.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you call us to follow you with undivided hearts,
yet we cling to what holds us back: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you look upon us with love and invite us to
deeper freedom, yet we hesitate in fear and attachment:

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you remind us that with God all things are
possible, yet we often rely only on our own strength:

Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins,
free us from all that binds our hearts, and bring us to
everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, source of all goodness,
you call us to follow your Son
and to walk the path that leads to life;
grant that, freed from all attachments
that hinder our love for you,
we may respond generously to your call

and trust in your saving power.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

HOMILY

A few years ago, I heard a story about a young man who
inherited a successful family business. He had everything
one could wish for—wealth, status, and a beautiful home—
but he felt restless. One day at a retreat he was asked,
“What would you give up if it meant you could truly live the
life God wants for you?” He left unsettled, because the
answer seemed impossible. That tension—between
wanting life and feeling unable to let go—reminds me of
today’s Gospel.

In our reading, a man runs up to Jesus with a burning
question: “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” He is
sincere and faithful to the commandments from his youth.
Jesus first points him back to the basics: love God and
love your neighbour. Yet Jesus sees that the man is held

back—not by wrongdoing, but by his attachment to wealth, the quiet master competing for his heart.

Jesus' response surprises him: "Go, sell everything you own, and follow me." It is not a command for everyone, but it is this man's particular invitation. Sadly, he walks away sorrowful because he cannot let go. How often do we encounter moments like this in our own lives—when God's call feels too demanding or beyond our strength?

This encounter teaches us several things. First, goodness ultimately comes from God. When the man calls Jesus "Good Master," Jesus points beyond himself to God, the source of all goodness. Our lives, too, are meant to reflect that goodness in how we love and serve others.

Second, the path to life is personal. The commandments guide everyone, but Jesus calls each of us in a unique way. Some are called to radical generosity, others to patient service or faithful living in ordinary life. What matters most is freedom—the freedom to respond to God

without being held captive by attachments, whether wealth, ambition, or fear.

Third, God often calls us beyond what we think we can do. Like Mary at the Annunciation, we are reminded that nothing is impossible with God. Our weakness is met by God's strength.

Finally, this story reveals the tender love of Jesus. He looks at the man, loves him, and calls him toward a fuller life. The sadness of the rich man warns us that when love invites and we turn away, we miss something precious.

The question from that retreat remains for all of us: what must I let go of to follow God more freely? It may not mean giving away everything, but it does mean releasing whatever holds us back. In letting go, we often discover that the life God offers is far richer than we imagined.

So let us run to Jesus with our questions, listen carefully to his voice, and have the courage to take the next step he asks of us—trusting that with God all things are possible.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

As we bring our gifts to the altar, let us also offer the burdens and attachments of our hearts, trusting that God will transform them by his grace and pray that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God the Father almighty.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive, O Lord, we pray,
these offerings of your people,
and grant that, as we place before you
the signs of our lives and labours,
we may also surrender all that holds us back
from following you with freedom and love.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
For in your goodness you call us to life in its fullness
and invite us to follow your Son along the path of freedom.
You look upon us with love,

even when we hesitate and cling to what cannot save us,
and you gently lead us beyond our fears
into the richness of your grace.

For you alone are the source of all goodness,
and in you we find the courage to let go
and the strength to walk in faith,
trusting that nothing is impossible for you.

And so, with Angels and Archangels... Holy, Holy, Holy...

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say, trusting in the Father who gives us all we
need:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of
your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from
all distress, as we learn to let go of all that binds us
and trust more deeply in your loving providence,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you looked with love upon those who sought you
and called them to follow you in freedom;
look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
who calls us to the fullness of life
and gives himself to strengthen us on the journey.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, you have looked upon us with love and fed us with
your life. Teach us to trust you more deeply,
to release whatever weighs down our hearts,
and to follow you with freedom and joy.
For in you, we discover that what we surrender
is nothing compared to the life we receive.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May the working of this heavenly gift, O Lord, we pray,
take possession of our minds and bodies,
so that we may walk the path you set before us
with hearts made free and generous, trusting always in
your grace. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

May almighty God bless you,
and give you the grace to let go of all that hinders you,
the courage to follow Christ more closely,
and the joy of discovering the fullness of life in him:
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go forth, trusting in the Lord who calls you,
and follow him with freedom and love.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

What is one thing I am holding onto that makes it harder to
follow Christ freely—and how can I begin to let it go,
trusting that God's way leads to a fuller life?

Tuesday of the 8th Week of Easter (St. Philip Neri)

1 Pet 1:10–16; Mk 10:28–31

INTRODUCTION

A woman once decided to volunteer at a small community shelter after retiring. At first, she felt she was giving up her time, her comfort, and her quiet routine. The work was demanding, and some days were exhausting. But after a few months, she began to say something surprising:

“I thought I was giving my time away, but I have received more than I ever gave—new friendships, a sense of purpose, and a joy I never expected.”

In a similar way, today’s Gospel invites us to reflect on what we gain in following Christ. Like Peter, we may sometimes wonder what comes from the sacrifices we make. Yet Jesus assures us that what we receive far outweighs what we leave behind. As we gather as one family in faith, let us open our hearts to the richness of God’s grace.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you call us to leave behind what holds us back and to follow you with trust: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you gather us into a new family, the Church, where we find love and belonging: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you promise that every sacrifice made in faith will bear fruit beyond our imagining: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and strengthen us to trust in his promises, that in letting go of what holds us back, we may discover the richness of life in Christ, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, who call us to follow your Son with generous hearts and to trust in the promise of your abundant grace, grant that, letting go of all that hinders us, we may find in your Church a true home and, in loving service, receive the blessings you have prepared for us. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

HOMILY: “WHAT WE GAIN IN FOLLOWING”

A young man once told me about his grandfather, a simple fisherman who had left his hometown in search of better opportunities. His grandfather often said, “The sea asks for everything, but it gives back even more.” As the young man grew older, he realised that his grandfather’s words were not only about fishing but about life itself: sometimes the greatest gains come through sacrifice and trust.

In today’s Gospel, Peter asks Jesus a very human question: “We have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?” Peter and the other disciples had indeed left their homes, families, and livelihoods to follow Jesus. Unlike the rich man who walked away because the cost seemed too high, they had chosen commitment. Yet Peter’s question reveals a concern we can all recognise—what do we gain for what we give up?

Jesus’ answer is both reassuring and challenging. He promises that those who follow him will receive far more than what they leave behind, not only in the life to come

but even now. This promise is not about worldly reward but about a deeper richness: a new family, the community of believers. Those who follow Christ discover a spiritual home in the Church—a network of love, support, and shared faith that goes beyond ordinary relationships.

Saint Philip Neri, whose feast we celebrate today, lived this truth beautifully. He left behind the comforts of ordinary life to serve God and others, drawing people together in faith and joy. His life shows that generous self-giving creates a true family in Christ.

Following Jesus, however, is not always easy. The Gospel speaks honestly of difficulties and persecutions. The path of discipleship often leads us beyond our comfort zones. Yet it is precisely in letting go—of attachments, of self-interest, of the easier path—that we discover God’s generosity. Like Peter, we sometimes ask: “Is it worth it?” Jesus assures us that every act of faithfulness opens space for God’s grace, bringing blessings in ways both seen and unseen.

Even if our sacrifices seem small compared to those of the apostles, we all have attachments that can hold us back. Each time we choose generosity over self-interest, love over convenience, or service over comfort, we live the promise Jesus gave Peter: by giving ourselves, we receive far more. The Church becomes a spiritual home where we walk together in faith, joined also by the saints who encourage us from heaven.

The fisherman grandfather discovered that the sea gave back more than he expected. In the same way, when we follow Jesus with trust, we find that by letting go, we gain far more—a family, a community, and a life filled with grace, both now and for eternity.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father, who invites us to offer not only these gifts, but our very lives, trusting that what we give in love will be transformed by his grace.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May these offerings, O Lord, which we bring with trusting hearts, be a sign of our willingness to follow you generously; and grant that, as we place our lives in your hands, we may receive from you the abundance of your grace. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For in your wisdom you call us to follow your Son, not by clinging to what passes away, but by entrusting ourselves to your providence. In him, you reveal that every sacrifice made in love bears fruit beyond measure, and that those who leave all for his sake are gathered into a new family, the Church, rich in faith and bound together in charity. Through the witness of the saints, especially Saint Philip Neri, you show us that a life given generously becomes a source of joy and communion.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and

Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

Trusting in God who gives us more than we ask and
gathers us as one family, let us pray with confidence to the
Father in the words our Saviour gave us:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant
peace in our days, that, trusting in your generosity and
freed from all selfish attachment, we may live as your
faithful people, confident that what we give in love will be
returned in grace. As we await the blessed hope and the
coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I
leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but
on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace
and unity, as we strive to live as one family, supporting one
another in love and generosity in following you.

Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who calls us to follow
him and promises us a share in his life; blessed are those
called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, you remind us that in giving, we receive; in letting go,
we gain. Help us to trust more deeply in your promises.
May this Eucharist strengthen us to live generously, to love
without counting the cost, and to rejoice in the family you
have given us in the Church.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May the grace of this holy Sacrament, O Lord, strengthen
us in our journey of discipleship, that, learning to let go of
all that hinders us, we may discover the richness of life in
Christ and remain united as one family in your love.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

May the Lord bless you and strengthen you in every act of generosity, that in following Christ with trust, you may discover the abundance of his grace, now and always. And may almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go forth, trusting in the Lord's promise that what you give in love will return to you in grace, and glorify the Lord by your life.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“What we give up for Christ is never lost; it is transformed into a greater gift—new life, deeper joy, and a family in faith.”

Wednesday, 8th Week of Easter

1 Pet 1:18-25; Mk 10:32-45

INTRODUCTION

A young volunteer once began helping at a community kitchen. At first, he imagined he would do something noticeable—organizing, leading, making an impact. Instead, he was asked to wash dishes in the back room. Day after day, he scrubbed plates while others served in front. No one thanked him, and no one seemed to notice. After some weeks, he grew discouraged and approached the coordinator. The coordinator simply said, “Because you have been faithful in what no one sees, many have been able to be served. That is where true greatness begins.”

In today's Gospel, Jesus challenges our understanding of greatness. While the disciples seek honor and recognition, Jesus points them toward a different path—the path of service, sacrifice, and self-giving love. As we gather for this Eucharist, we are invited to examine our hearts and ask: do we seek to be served, or are we ready to serve as Christ serves us?

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you call us to follow you on the path of humble service, yet we often seek our own recognition:

Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you gave your life for others, yet we hesitate to give ourselves in love: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you teach us that true greatness is found in serving, yet we cling to power and comfort:

Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God,
who calls us from self-seeking to self-giving love,
have mercy on us, forgive us our sins,
and lead us on the path of true greatness
through humble and faithful service,
and bring us to everlasting life.

COLLECT

O God, who have shown us in your Son
that true greatness is found in humble service,
grant, we pray,
that we may follow Christ on the path of self-giving love,

seeking not our own glory but the good of others,
and so share more deeply in his saving mission.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

HOMILY

A young man once visited a teacher, asking how to achieve honour, influence, and recognition. The teacher had him carry a bucket of water across a muddy path. Exhausted, he reached the other side. The teacher said, “True greatness is measured not by what you claim for yourself, but by how faithfully you serve others.”

Today’s gospel shows Jesus on the road to Jerusalem, confronting his disciples’ understanding of greatness. James and John sought seats of honour, glory, and recognition. Jesus makes it clear: the world’s values—power, prestige, self-promotion—do not define a disciple. He asks, “Can you drink the cup I must drink, or be baptized with the baptism I must be baptized with?” True greatness is found in service, in emptying oneself for others. Jesus came not to be served, but to serve, offering his life for the vulnerable. This is the

model of authority in God's kingdom: not to dominate, but to serve.

He also asks, "What is it you want me to do for you?"—a challenge to examine our hearts. Requests driven by self-interest are not granted; those offered in the spirit of service are embraced. Every prayer and act of service allows us to participate in Christ's self-emptying love. Each Eucharist invites us to drink the cup and share in his mission by loving and serving others.

The challenge is simple yet profound: Do we seek glory for ourselves, or are we willing to follow Jesus on the path of service, even when it costs us? True greatness comes through humble, selfless love.

A nurse in a busy hospital was often unnoticed. One day, a family thanked her for her quiet care. She said, "I'm just doing my job." In that moment, she embodied Jesus' teaching: greatness is found in faithful service, not recognition.

May we, too, follow Jesus this way—seeking not to be served, but to serve, and finding true glory in selfless love.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

As we bring these gifts to the altar,
let us also offer our own lives—
our efforts, our hidden acts of service,
and our desire to follow Christ more closely
in humble and selfless love and pray that our sacrifice may
be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look with favour, O Lord, we pray,
on the gifts we offer,
and grant that, as we share in this holy sacrifice,
we may learn to offer ourselves in humble service,
following the example of your Son,
who gave his life for others. Through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For in your Son, Jesus Christ,
you have revealed the true path to greatness:
not in power or prestige,
but in humble and faithful service.
He emptied himself for our sake
and gave his life for the salvation of the world.

Through him, you teach us
to seek not honour for ourselves
but to serve one another in love,
and to discover that true glory is found in self-giving.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and
Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

As children of a Father who calls us to serve one another
in love, let us pray with sincere hearts,
seeking not our own will,
but the coming of his Kingdom through lives of humble
service as Jesus himself taught us:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin
and safe from all distress, as we learn to follow your Son
in humble and selfless service,
seeking not our own glory but the good of others,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,
look not on our sins,
but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with your will,
as we strive to serve one another in love
and walk in the path of humble service you have shown us.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
Behold the One who came not to be served but to serve,
who gives himself to us in this Eucharist.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Christ has given himself to us completely.
In silence, we ask for the grace
to live what we have received—
to love without seeking reward,
to serve without needing recognition,
and to follow him faithfully each day.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished by this sacred gift, O Lord,
we humbly ask
that, strengthened by the Body and Blood of your Son,
we may grow in the spirit of humble service
and give our lives in love for others,
following the example of Christ,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

BLESSING

May almighty God bless you,
and strengthen you to follow Christ on the path of service,
to seek not greatness in the eyes of the world
but in humble and faithful love,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life
through humble and generous service to others.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Greatness in God's eyes is found in what is often unseen.
This week, choose to serve quietly and generously—
especially where no one notices—and discover the joy of
Christ's way.

Thursday of the 8th Week of Easter

1 Pet 2:2-5, 9-12; Mk 10:46-52

INTRODUCTION

A young boy once received a small music box from his grandmother. At first, he was disappointed—it seemed ordinary and uninteresting. But one evening, in a quiet moment, he opened it and truly listened. The gentle melody filled the room, stirring something deep within him. From that day on, he realized that some of the most beautiful realities are not first seen, but heard and received with the heart.

In today's Gospel, we meet Bartimaeus, a blind man who could not see Jesus, yet recognized Him by listening. While others tried to silence him, he cried out with faith, "Lord, let me see again." His persistence and trust opened the way to healing and new life. As we gather for this Eucharist, we too are invited to listen more deeply—to God's Word, to His presence, and to His call—and to ask for the grace to see with the eyes of faith.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you call us to listen to your voice and trust in your mercy: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you heal our blindness and open our eyes to your presence: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you lead us on the path of faith and invite us to follow you: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and, opening our hearts to hear his voice and our eyes to see his truth more clearly, bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

COLLECT

O God, who call us out of darkness into your wonderful light, grant that, like Bartimaeus, we may listen attentively to your Son, cry out to him with faith, and receive the healing that opens our eyes to follow him faithfully.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

HOMILY: “LORD, LET ME SEE AGAIN”

Some years ago, a man who had lost his sight attended a friend’s wedding. Afterward, guests admired the church, the gardens, and their photos, but the blind man thought, “Didn’t they hear the bell?” To him, the pealing bell—vibrant and celebratory—conveyed more beauty than any image could. Though he could not see, he perceived the essence of the occasion with clarity that others missed.

This reminds us of Bartimaeus in today’s gospel. Though blind, he heard of Jesus and cried out, “Son of David, have pity on me!” The crowd tried to silence him, but he persisted. Bartimaeus teaches us that faith begins in listening—with ears and heart—and in daring to respond, even against opposition.

Jesus listens, calls him forward, and asks, “What do you want me to do for you?” Bartimaeus answers simply, “Master, let me see again.” In that moment, faith expressed in hearing and speaking brings healing. He sees and follows Jesus along the road—a path leading to Jerusalem, the cross, and new life.

The story invites us to reflect: Are we attentive to the Lord’s voice in scripture, prayer, and the lives of others? Do we speak our faith boldly, even when uncomfortable? Do we let the Lord heal our spiritual blindness, opening our eyes to His presence in our lives and in the world around us?

Even without physical blindness, we have blind spots—failing to see others’ needs, God’s creation, or Christ’s presence in daily life. Bartimaeus’ prayer, “Lord, let me see again,” can be our own—a prayer for clarity, openness, and courage to follow Christ.

Like that blind man who learned to “see” through sound, touch, and presence, let us open our ears, hearts, and eyes to the Lord today, ready to answer His question, “What do you want me to do for you?” May we, like Bartimaeus, follow Him faithfully on life’s road.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that we, who have heard the Lord's call and seek to follow Him with renewed faith, may offer this sacrifice with humility and devotion, so that it may be acceptable to God, our almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O Lord, receive the gifts we bring before you, and in your kindness grant that, as we listen to your Word and seek your healing, these offerings may become for us a source of grace, opening our hearts and eyes to your presence and strengthening us to follow you more faithfully.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks,

Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For in your loving mercy, you do not abandon your people in their blindness, but you call them to listen to your voice and walk in your light.

Through your Son, Jesus Christ, you opened the eyes of the blind and revealed the path of faith to those who seek you with sincere hearts.

In him, we learn to recognize your presence not only with our eyes but with attentive hearts, and to follow him courageously on the road that leads to life.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory,
as without end we acclaim: Holy, Holy, Holy...

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

Like Bartimaeus, who cried out in faith and was heard by the Lord, we too lift our voices with trust, calling upon our Father, who listens to his children and opens our hearts to his light, and pray as Jesus himself taught us...

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free
from sin and safe from all distress,
as we strive to listen to your voice and walk in the light of
your truth,
awaiting the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour,
Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I
leave you, my peace I give you,
look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance
with your will, as we seek to follow you with open hearts
and renewed vision.

Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

In faith, like Bartimaeus, we come before the Lord, asking
to see more clearly and to follow him more closely.

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the
sins of the world.

Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

“Lord, let me see again.”

In the quiet of this moment, let this prayer echo within us.

May the One we have received open our eyes to his
presence in our daily lives,
our ears to his voice,
and our hearts to follow him with courage and trust.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished by this sacred gift, O Lord, we ask that you
open the eyes of our hearts,
that we may recognize your presence among us and follow
you with renewed faith and love,
becoming living stones built into your holy people.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

May almighty God bless you,
and, as he opened the eyes of the blind,
may he open your hearts to hear his voice and your lives to
follow him faithfully:
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go forth in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life,
listening to his voice and witnessing to his light.
Thanks be to God.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

This week, make Bartimaeus' prayer your own: *“Lord, let me see again.”*

Ask not only for clearer sight, but for a listening heart—
because when we truly listen to Christ, we begin to see as
he sees and follow where he leads.

Friday of the 8th Week of Easter

1 Pet 4,7-13; Mk 11,11-26

INTRODUCTION

A few years ago, a man inherited an old community hall in his neighbourhood. Once, it had been full of laughter and gatherings, but over the years it had fallen silent. Dust covered the chairs, the walls were faded, and the sense of life was gone. Rather than abandoning it, he invited neighbours to clean, repaint, and host small events. Slowly, life returned—the hall became a living place again.

In today's Gospel, Jesus sees the Temple similarly. Meant to be a “house of prayer for all peoples,” it had become a marketplace. Like the fruitless fig tree, the Temple's purpose had been forgotten. Jesus' actions show us that God desires fruitfulness in our lives, not just in buildings: lives of prayer, forgiveness, and love, where hearts and communities bear the fruits of mercy.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

Lord Jesus, you desire that our hearts be living temples of prayer and mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you call us to bear fruit through forgiveness and love. Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, cleanse us of what prevents our lives from bearing fruit, and restore us to devotion. Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God, who desires that we be living temples of His love, grant us pardon and peace. May He remove all fruitlessness from our hearts, fill us with prayer and mercy, and help us bear the fruits of forgiveness, so that our lives reflect His presence. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, who desire that your house be a place of prayer and that our lives bear the fruits of mercy and devotion, grant that we may cultivate hearts open to forgiveness and prayer. Strengthen us to be living temples of your Spirit,

reflecting your love in our families, communities, and Church. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

HOMILY: “A HOUSE OF PRAYER, A FRUITFUL LIFE”

A few years ago, a parishioner visited an old family church abroad. Once vibrant, it was now almost empty. The altar was neat, the pews in place, but the sense of life—of real prayer and community—was missing. It had become a building rather than a living place of encounter with God. In today’s gospel, Mark presents a scene that mirrors this. Jesus enters the Temple and sees it has lost its purpose. Like the fruitless fig tree, the Temple, meant to be “a house of prayer for all the peoples,” had become a marketplace. Commercial activity had overtaken a place meant for encounter with God. Jesus’ anger is not only judgment—it is love and a call to reform. God desires fruitfulness: a life of prayer, an open heart, a community that reflects His purpose. Jesus immediately turns to prayer, reminding us that the fruit God seeks is in our lives, not just institutions. Prayer is a living relationship with God, and it is linked to forgiveness:

“When you stand praying, forgive anything you have against anyone, so that your Father in heaven may forgive your failings too.” True fruitfulness comes from a heart that prays and forgives, letting God’s love flow through us.

Mark connects the fig tree and the Temple to show that fruitlessness—whether in trees, institutions, or hearts—is serious. But fruitfulness is possible when we let God act in us. The Temple was meant to be a house of prayer; we are called to be living temples of God’s love, bearing mercy, forgiveness, and devotion in our families, communities, and Church.

That parishioner’s story stayed with me. Though the church remained quiet and empty, his prayer, forgiveness, and small act of service began to restore God’s presence. Like the fig tree and the Temple, each of us is called to bear fruit wherever we are.

May we, as a community and as individuals, let our prayer and forgiveness bear fruit, turning every “house of God” and every heart into a place where God’s love and mercy are alive and visible.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these offerings and our lives may be transformed by God’s Spirit, so that, like the Temple and the fig tree, they may bear the fruit of prayer, forgiveness, and love, and be pleasing to God, the Almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord, accept these gifts, and by your Spirit transform them and us into living temples of your love. May our prayers rise as incense, our hearts open in forgiveness, and our lives bear the fruit of mercy, that your presence may dwell in every family, community, and place where we serve. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For you have called us to be living temples, places where your Spirit dwells and prayer rises as a fragrant offering.

Yet, like the fig tree that bore no fruit and the Temple that had become a marketplace, our hearts and communities often stray from your purpose. In your love, you do not abandon us but call us to renewal. Through your Son, Jesus Christ, who cleared the Temple and restored it to its true purpose, you show us that fruitfulness flows from prayer, forgiveness, and mercy.

By his example, he teaches us that the life you desire is not in structures alone but in hearts open to you and to one another. Through Christ, our lives are made fruitful, and our communities become living signs of your love. And so, with the angels and all the saints, we proclaim your glory, as without end we sing: Holy, Holy, Holy...

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, let us dare to pray as he taught us, confident that our prayers can bear fruit and our hearts can become living temples of God's mercy:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our hearts and in our lives. May your Spirit help us to bear the fruit of mercy, prayer, and forgiveness in every family, community, and place we inhabit. Just as Jesus restored the Temple to be a house of prayer, restore our hearts to be living temples where your love is alive and visible. Keep us steadfast in devotion, open to reconciliation, and fruitful in every good work, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, who purified the Temple and called the people to bear fruit in prayer, mercy, and forgiveness, grant us your peace. May our hearts, renewed by your Spirit, become living temples where your love dwells. Help us forgive those who have wronged us, and act with mercy in our families, communities, and Church. Strengthen our prayer and devotion, so that the fruit of your Spirit may flourish in our lives, and the peace you won for us may reign in our hearts always. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb, where our hearts are made fruitful in prayer, mercy, and love.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Christ comes to dwell in our hearts. Like the fig tree and the Temple, our lives flourish when rooted in prayer and forgiveness. Let this communion strengthen us to bear fruit in love, mercy, and devotion wherever we are.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, may the sacrament we have received renew us to be living temples of your Spirit. Let our hearts be fruitful in prayer and forgiveness, and may our lives reflect your love in every family, community, and place where we serve. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord let His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you kindly and fill your hearts with the fruits of prayer, forgiveness, and love. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go forth, bearing fruit in prayer, mercy, and love, and make every place you enter a living temple of God.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Like a neglected chapel restored to life, our hearts and communities flourish when nourished by prayer, mercy, and forgiveness. Let each of us become a living Temple, bearing the fruits of God's love wherever we go.

Saturday, 8th Week of Easter - *Jude 17,20-25; Mark 11,27-33*

INTRODUCTION

In a quiet village, a teacher noticed that every day, a small group of children gathered by the riverbank, building tiny rafts from sticks and leaves. One morning, a sudden flood swept through the village. The children's makeshift rafts, though fragile and simple, floated safely downstream, carrying not only their small toys but also a few stranded animals. The villagers were amazed—what seemed like an insignificant act of trust and creativity turned into a powerful expression of care and protection.

In today's Gospel, we encounter a similar truth. Jesus challenges the rigid authorities of His time, overturning tables and confronting those who misuse power. He shows that true authority does not dominate or coerce—it liberates, empowers, and nurtures. Just as the children's trust in their simple skills brought safety, our trust in Christ's loving authority opens us to His guidance, protection, and generosity. His authority invites us to act courageously in love, even when it seems risky or inconvenient, bringing light into the world.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE

Lord Jesus, you reveal the authority of love that frees, heals, and protects: Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you call us to follow your Spirit with courage, even when it challenges the rules of the world: Christ, have mercy. Lord Jesus, you invite us to bring our small acts of care and justice into the marketplace of life: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God, who calls us to trust in the tender and life-giving authority of Christ, forgive our sins, strengthen our hearts, and guide us to act in love, courage, and generosity. May we follow Him faithfully and bear witness to His liberating power. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the source of true authority, not to dominate but to free, heal, and bless, grant that we may submit to His guidance with the openness and trust of children. May we follow His Spirit in our words and deeds, bringing His love, justice, and mercy into every corner of our lives. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

HOMILY

There's a story about a young boy who walked into a busy marketplace with a small loaf of bread. He wanted to give it to someone hungry, but the guards said, "You can't do that here." Undeterred, he quietly offered it to a man sitting alone. No one stopped him. The simple act of following what he knew was right touched the man deeply. Authority had its rules, but love transcended them.

In today's Gospel, we see a dramatic example of authority being questioned. Jesus enters the Temple and overturns the tables of the money changers. The religious leaders confront him: "What authority have you to do these things?" Jesus doesn't answer directly because their hearts are closed. Instead, he asks them about John the Baptist. Their inability to answer reveals the deeper truth—true authority comes from God and frees rather than threatens.

From the start of his ministry, people were amazed by Jesus' authority. Unlike rigid leaders, ordinary people

recognized the liberating power of his words and actions. His authority is not coercive; it empowers, guides, and invites us to be fully alive. Jesus alone is Lord, and submitting to him opens us to the "glorious freedom of the children of God."

Jesus' authority is also tender. He welcomed children, blessing them even when his disciples hesitated. His authority is protective, inclusive, and life-giving. We are called to approach him with the openness and trust of children, recognizing our dependence on God and receiving generously what he offers.

How do we live under Jesus' authority? We follow him not out of fear, but love and trust. We allow his Spirit to shape our words, actions, and decisions. We bring our own small "loaves of bread" into the marketplace of life, even when risky or inconvenient, knowing his authority is always for life.

Like the boy who acted without permission, Jesus' authority calls us to act in love and justice, even when the

world resists. His authority frees, heals, and blesses, inviting us to a life of courage and generosity.

Let us go forth, hearts open to the Lord's authority, following him with the trust of a child and the courage to bring God's blessings into the world.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that our offerings, made in gratitude and trust, may be a sign of our willingness to follow Christ's tender authority, acting in love and justice in the world.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord, graciously accept these gifts we bring. May they become instruments of your Son's life-giving authority, inspiring us to act with courage, generosity, and love. Transform them into blessings for all, that your care and mercy may reach every heart. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For you have made your Son, Jesus, the source of life and true authority. From the beginning of His ministry, He amazed the crowds with His words and deeds, showing that true leadership does not oppress but liberates. Unlike rulers who rely on fear or rigid control, He empowers, protects, and invites all to the fullness of life. He blesses children, guides the humble, and calls us to acts of courage and compassion. Therefore, with angels and archangels, with thrones and dominions, and with all the hosts of heaven, we proclaim your glory, as with one voice we sing: Holy, Holy, Holy...

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

With confidence in the tender authority of Christ, who guides, protects, and strengthens us, let us pray as He taught us, trusting that our Father hears every prayer and blesses every act of love.

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from all evil and every form of injustice. May we follow your Son's life-giving authority with courage and trust, allowing your Spirit to shape our words, our decisions, and our actions. Lead us to bear witness to your mercy and love in the world.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus, whose authority brings freedom, peace, and life, fill our hearts with your serenity. Teach us to act in love and justice, courageously and generously, so that we may be instruments of your peace. Let your Spirit dwell in us and guide our steps. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word, and my soul shall be healed.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

As we receive the Body and Blood of Christ, let us remember that His authority is not about control or fear but about life, love, and freedom. Like the children trusting their rafts or the boy offering bread in the marketplace, we are called to act in courage, compassion, and generosity. Each small act of love reflects the tender authority of Christ in the world.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, strengthen us with the gifts we have received. May your Son's authority shape our hearts, guiding us to live with trust, courage, and generosity. Help us to bring His love and mercy into our families, our communities, and all the world. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

May Almighty God bless you, who has called you to follow the tender authority of Christ: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life of trust, love, and courageous service. Be witnesses of Christ's liberating authority in every act of care, mercy, and justice you perform.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Christ's authority is gentle yet powerful: it frees, heals, and calls us to courageous acts of love. Trust Him, follow Him with the openness of children, and let your small acts of care transform the world.