

FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HALF HOUR FOR OCTOBER 2018

"Listen to Me"

Greeting

Dear friends, there is never any room for complacency in our Christian life. Many of us are convinced that everything is going so very well. We would be misguided in thinking that there is nothing fundamentally wrong with how we live our lives. It is important for us to realize that the choices we make have consequences: sometimes those consequences are pretty insignificant but sometimes they are very serious indeed. As we gather to spend this hour with the Lord, let us remember that because He has given us so much, so much more is expected of us.

Hymn-A lamp for our steps

Opening Prayer - Psalm 139:1, 2, 7, 8 *(the congregation repeat each line after the leader)*

O LORD, you have probed me and you know me;
you know when I sit and when I stand;
you understand my thoughts from afar.
Where can I go from your spirit?
From your presence where can I flee?
If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I sink to the nether world, you are present there.

A moment of prayerful silence - so that the Word of God may enter into us and enlighten us.

Scripture Reading :Gospel of Luke 10: 13-16 *(to be read from the Bible)*

Reflection: *(pause for silence after each aspect)*

- To listen to the messengers of Jesus is equivalent to listening to him personally; to reject those messengers is to reject Jesus and to reject God. Those "messengers" include all those who sincerely proclaim the Gospel by their words and their lives.
- Even today, it is possible that there are people outside the Christian community, who, if they were privileged to hear the good news of the Gospel, and had been given by God the gifts we have been given, would respond much more generously than we are doing.

- Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum, had been blessed with the privilege of having Jesus teaching and healing in their midst. By reason of what they had heard and seen, those people were far more accountable for their actions than the people of Tyre, Sidon, and But they simply didn't see any need to repent. Perhaps they even thought Jesus' presence amongst them was a sign of God's favour with them! Jesus makes it crystal clear that they are not heaven-bound. Will Jesus be forced to utter similar words of grief over any of us?

The Christians of today have heard the teachings of Jesus and witnessed his miracles through the good news of the Gospel. We are privileged, so we must be also accountable. We must listen to and act on what Jesus continues to tell us through his "messengers", so that we might not make the same type of mistakes that Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum made.

Personal reflection (*pause after each*)

- 1 Have I realized that the way I have lived my life without Christ banishes me from the Kingdom of Heaven?
- 2 How open am I to hearing the message of Jesus coming to me from different people in my community?
- 3 How can I become a better Christian in my family, my workplace, the church?

What can I do towards personal transformation?

- Praise the Lord through actions of service to others instead of mere words.
- Be continually open to listening to what Jesus is saying.
- Thank the Lord for the privilege of knowing Him. Make it a daily habit.

Hymn -Show me your ways O Lord/Open our eyes Lord

Intercessory Prayer

Leader: God of grace and majesty, we trust in your love as we pray for the many needs of your church and the world. Our response is: Hear us O Lord, hear our prayer O Lord.

1. That the church may be sanctified through the work of the Spirit within us... (*pause*)... we pray to the Lord. (R)

2. That as our blessings increase so must our response to the Lord in word and deed ...*(pause)*... we pray to the Lord. (R)
3. That the faith of all believers may be renewed... *(pause)*...we pray to the Lord. (R)
4. That we may measure righteousness by our motives and actions, not by our position and status within the Church...*(pause)*....we pray to the Lord. (R)
5. That we may learn to take advantage of spiritual opportunities and not be distracted by things of lesser value.. *(pause)*....we pray to the Lord. (R)
6. That we may proclaim the good news to our children, by our words and our deeds...*(pause)*...we pray to the Lord. (R)

Leader: Heavenly Father, you show your almighty power in your mercy and forgiveness. Fill us with your gifts of listening and discernment, and help us to become accountable to you as doers of the Word. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Benediction follows.

Benediction Hymn – Let us bow in adoration

Concluding hymn – Happy the heart / Jesus Christ living in us

*Written by Maureen Pereira
For the
Archdiocesan Liturgy Committee*