

FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HALF HOUR For MARCH 2019

Christ – The Living Word

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

(Silence 2 mins)

Hymn: Joyful Celebration no. 44 As we gather may your Spirit work within us

Introduction:

Dear friends, this coming Sunday we celebrate Bible Sunday. This celebration reminds us of the importance of God's written Word not only in the life of the Church, but also in society and for every believer. It is our duty to know His Word well, to put its message into practice, and to share its rich content with all. Do we accept that His Word is our light and our life? (silence 1 min)

Hymn: Come to the table of the word of God ...

Jesus just finished fasting for forty days and forty nights. Jesus was vulnerable on account of his hunger. Satan seized the opportunity and tempted Him with food. Jesus was quick to pull out the spiritual weapon, the sword of God, which is His Word, to battle Satan, when He said, *"Man shall NOT live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."*

Scripture Reading: Matthew 4:1-4 to be proclaimed from the Bible (Silence 5 mins)

Reflection:

Jesus spent forty days alone in the desert and was vulnerable, so the devil tried to tempt him. Jesus uses the Word of God and answers him, thus keeping his focus on God and His will. Like Jesus, we must choose to surrender ourselves to God and keep him alone as the center of our lives and all that we do. We need to make a choice to live a life according to God's word. *(Let us pause and reflect over each of the following points).*

- To keep Christ as the centre we need to be humble. Is my life filled with pride, arrogance, and conceit? **2 minutes silence**
- Do we recognize that God is our ultimate Provider? Which areas are there in my life that I still need to surrender to the Lord to have complete faith? **2 minutes silence**
- What will Jesus' words *'on every word that come from the mouth of God'* mean to me? **2 mins silence**

Hymn: Joyful Celebration no. 309 O the Word of my Lord...

Living by every word that proceeds out from the mouth of God is tough and challenging. At the end of the day, living by God's word is the best way to live this life, as God's word is perfect. Surrendering ourselves to God in thanksgiving and praise, allows God to transform us into ever more perfect members of the Body of Christ.

Intercessions

Our response: Lord, graciously hear us

1. For our Holy Father, the Bishops, the clergy and the religious that the word of Christ may dwell richly in their hearts, and knit them together in the bond of your love; *let us pray to the Lord...*
2. For the sick, the lonely and the hurting; that they will be able draw strength from the love of our Lord Jesus shown through the Word; *let us pray to the Lord...*
3. For all of us gathered here: that we will be renewed in our love for the Scriptures and that we will truly encounter Christ through them; *let us pray to the Lord...*
4. For all our parish members that as we prepare for Bible Sunday and the season of Lent soon approaching; may God's Word may help us choose right over wrong, peace over violence and injustice; *let us pray to the Lord...*
5. For all baptized members of the church, that they may keep Christ as the centre of their lives and spend time daily in prayer and reading the Word of God; *let us pray to the Lord...*
6. For each one of us, that God's Word may lead us to a deeper realization of His continuous presence with us and his desire for our sanctification; *let us pray to the Lord...*
7. For our personal intentions; (Pause); *let us pray to the Lord...*

Concluding Prayer:

Father, thank You for giving me Your Word as a guide, as a light, as a revealer of truth about Yourself. Help me to be a person who keeps Your Word, stay faithful, whatever the cost, whatever the situation in my life. Thank You for the opportunity to see, to learn, to know, and obey your will as your Word inspires and guides us. We ask this in Jesus' name, **Amen**.

Hymn: Joyful Celebration no. 232 Just to fix our eyes on Jesus...

Benediction: Let us bow

Concluding hymn: Joyful Celebration no. 249 Lightened by the Word of God...

*Written by
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