



21 MARCH 2021

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

INTRODUCTION:

As we draw nearer to Holy Week and Jesus' Passion, Death and Resurrection, today's Gospel tells us that new life is only possible by the death of one's self through suffering and service. Jesus promises that if we die to ourselves by serving him, we will receive the reward of eternal life. Our covenant with God cannot be complete if we are not ready to follow His path of suffering and death. At this Eucharistic Celebration, let us focus on strengthening our Christian values and deepening our relationship with God.

INTRODUCTION TO THE READINGS:

In the first reading, God offers us a new covenant, a new heart and a new life. When we pray Psalm 51, we are not just asking to be forgiven but to be completely transformed. In Christ, our transformation has already been accomplished. He chose death freely that he might bear the fruit of new life for us. Jesus, in his obedience to God, endures death on the cross and in his suffering, he *"was made perfect and became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him"*.

READINGS:

First Reading: Jer 31:31-34

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 51:3-4,12-13,14-15

Second Reading: Heb 5:7-9

Gospel: Jn 12:20-33

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: Heavenly Father, through the Passion, death and Resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, You have shown Your immense love for us. With faith and confidence, we place our prayers before you.

Our response is: Lord, hear our prayer.

For our Pope Francis, the bishops, the clergy, the religious and all the members of the Church, that we may rediscover the call to lose oneself for the sake of the Gospel, to follow Christ by serving others and to live the Mission of Christ in our daily lives; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

For our World leaders, that they may work with dignity and integrity seeking what is best for the common good and attending to the special needs of the vulnerable; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

For all those emotionally, physically and financially affected by the ongoing Pandemic, that God will comfort, strengthen and heal them and that people will live with greater consideration, compassion and care for one another; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

For all of us gathered here and those hearing online Eucharist, especially those who are ill, worried, burdened or feeling unworthy, that we will be renewed by God's mercy and accept the forgiving love of God; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

Celebrant: Almighty God, you have planted in our hearts the hope of eternal life through sacrifice and service. Renew our lives during this Lenten season, wash us clean and sustain us by Your presence. Hear these prayers we have placed before You. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER FOR RELIEF FROM THE CORONA VIRUS:

Almighty and merciful God, who show Your love to all creation everywhere, hear graciously the prayers we make for all those affected by the Coronavirus in various parts of the world.

We come before You asking for an efficacious control of the outbreak, for a healing of those affected, for the victims and their families.

We thank You for blessing the efforts of our research scientists working on the development of a vaccine. We pray that these vaccines will be effective in combating the virus and its mutants, and in controlling the spread of the pandemic. We pray that the vaccine be available for all our people even the poor and those in rural areas.

We pray for doctors, nurses and health workers who are in the frontline of this battle, that they be kept safe and have the strength and courage to continue their heroic efforts.

We pray for the Government and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Commission for Liturgy
Archdiocese of Bombay*