

14 AUGUST 2022

**PRISON MINISTRY SUNDAY**

**TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**THEME: INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND PASTORAL CARE FOR PRISONERS**

**INTRODUCTION:**

It is good to be reminded once in a while that the decision to do the right thing, the good thing, is not always easy and without conflict. Jesus himself did not make easy decisions and avoid conflict. He reminds his followers to be prepared for difficult decisions and conflict as well.

Today we celebrate Prison Ministry Sunday in the Archdiocese. On this occasion, we recall the sacrificial life of St. Maximilian Kolbe, the patron saint of Prison Ministry. May we be filled with the fire of love, and zeal to work selflessly, serving our society, especially those in prison.

**First Reading** : Jer 38: 4-6, 8-10

**Responsorial Psalm** : Ps 40: 2, 3, 4, 18

**Second Reading** : Heb 12: 1-4

**Gospel** : Lk 12: 49-53

**PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

**Celebrant:** Dear brothers and sisters, Jesus shows great compassion towards sinners and the poor. Let us therefore pray that we will be guided by the Holy Spirit to show our compassion towards others saying:

**R: Lord, graciously hear our prayer**

**For the universal Church.** May the Pope, Bishops, priests and consecrated people be powerful instruments of your liberating love and helping hands to the brethren within the walls of the prison to rejuvenate your image and likeness in them.....we pray to the Lord.

**For government machineries, prison authorities and staff.** Those imprisoned face physical, mental and emotional persecution. We ask for your saving grace that the prison authorities and staff may be kind, gentle and understanding towards them and government machineries may work towards protections of their rights.....we pray to the Lord.

**For those who are wrongly accused and imprisoned.** Lord as you know, they undergo a lot of agony and bitterness. Merciful God, graciously bless them with a positive self-realisation and with legal assistance for their speedy release.....we pray to the Lord.

**For volunteers engaged in Prison Ministry, Mumbai:** who dedicate their time and talent for the least, lost and last, empower them in their endeavours, let your guidance and protection always be upon them and in their ministry.....we pray to the Lord.

Let us pray for our personal needs, the needs of our parish community, and needs of the prison ministry Mumbai(*Pause*) .....we pray to the Lord.

**Celebrant:** Loving Father, stretch out your healing hands and touch our brethren who are imprisoned and help them to lead a renewed life. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.