

2018 July

Click on a date to view reflections

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

These reflections are brought to you by the confreres at
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Readings: Wis 1:13-15, 2:23-24; 2Cor 8:7-9, 13-15; Mk 5:21-43

In the first reading we see, it is very clear that 'God did not make death and he does not delight in the death of the living.' When Jairus came to Jesus and pleaded with him to save his daughter who is at the point of death, Jesus immediately went with him. After reaching his home, Jesus saw people were weeping and wailing loudly. Understanding of death is different for God and for human. For humans, death is end of life but for God death is beginning of a new life. To show that everything is possible for God, Jesus told them that she was not dead. The people around could not believe in Jesus' power, so they laughed at him. But we all know what had happened to a woman who believed in Jesus and touched his clothes by believing that she could be healed just by touching his clothes. Faith in God is primary step for the miracles to happen in our life. When people came to Jairus and told him that his daughter was dead, Jesus said to him 'do not fear, and only believe.' The second reading is inviting us to share from abundance to the needy. Having divinity in him, Jesus never refused the needy who came to him for help. He was available and approachable to everyone who came to him in need. Through the readings of the day the Church is inviting us to believe in God and be generous to the needy.

Bandula Praveen csc

[Back to Calendar](#)

Readings: Amos 2:6-10, 13-16; Mt 8:18–22

The gospel reading today spells out the meaning of following Jesus in its deeper and radical sense that is “Detachment”. Detachment is a necessary step if we want to make the Lord our treasure and lasting joy. It frees us so that we can give ourselves without reserve to the Lord and his service. There is nothing greater we can do with our life than to place it at the service of the Lord. We cannot match God in generosity. Jesus promises that those who are willing to part with what is most dear to them for his sake, "will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life" (Mt 19:29). Thus, it is crucial for all of us who claim ourselves to be Christians to reflect and ask ourselves this very personal question: Is there anything holding me back from giving myself to the Lord and serving him?

Jowelson Khongtani csc

Readings: Act 10:24-35; Heb 1:2-3; John 20:24-29

Today the Holy mother church celebrates the feast of St. Thomas, Apostle of India who brought the light of Christ to our nation. The light that was brought by him still keeps burning giving light to the whole world. On this feast, I am remembered of his love for Christ. Someone beautifully said that for a true disciple of Christ radiating the love of Christ is no longer a choice, but a mission. And to radiate the love of Christ one must experience Christ at a deeper level. The apostle Thomas having a great missionary zeal wanted to take Christ's mission with sure affirmation of his love for his master. In the Gospels we find three references to him in connection with Jesus. There is not much; however these three references give sufficient meaning to understand the discipleship of Apostle Thomas. The first reference is found in John 11:16, "let us also go, that we may die with him." Thomas speaks out what he feels, to stand by Jesus no matter what comes on the way and what others think of him, even to die for him. The second reference is in John 14:5, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Thomas wants to know more of Jesus, for him Jesus was the whole of his attention and attraction. And the third reference is found in today's gospel "Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe." At times many say Thomas as doubting Thomas but for me he is not. When we look at this reference closely we can understand who Thomas is. To affirm the person of Jesus, one must see how the nails had pierced his hands. Secondly, to affirm the person of Jesus, one must have touched him and lived with him more closely. When all disciples gathered in fear and anxiety, here is the man who went out of the room in search of his master with courage. To prove love, one must have courage. As we celebrate the feast of the great apostle of India, let us remember that discipleship is a call to speak out, to stand for Jesus in all situations, long for Jesus, and see and touch Jesus in everyday of our life.

Antony Cheliyan csc

[Back to Calendar](#)

Readings: Amos 5: 14-15, 21-24, Mt 8: 28-34

“Rejected for the Glory of God” is the focal theme I have derived from today’s readings. The first reading reminds us to be faithful to our call to live the Christian life by always seeking good not evil. Though it seems to be easy to say in words yet challenging it is when practiced in action. Standing for good means being prepared to face rejections. I am sure whether we live in the community or in the family, you and me may have been rejected several times during our life for being steadfast in doing good. At times we have also rejected others for exposing our mistakes by being good in their action.

Rejection is a painful experience, and Jesus is the only person who has never rejected anyone. He has been and continues to be rejected more than anyone who has ever lived. Even in the today’s Gospel we see that he was rejected by the people near the Gadarene boundary (Mt 8:34) for doing good. By chasing the evil spirit, He not only cured them but opened the road into the city and made trade possible by using that road, since before it was closed due to the fear of those demoniacs. But in the eyes of those people, Jesus was a stumbling block in their lives, yet he continued his mission of spreading the good news and sought to do good always. This is true in our day-to-day lives too because at times we have rejected others or been rejected by others for seeking what is good.

Today let us pray to our Heavenly Father to give us the same grace and strength like Jesus Christ, to seek to do good always in spite of being rejected for it, so that we may experience the saving power of God in our family, community and above all in our lives.

M.M. Martin csc

[Back to Calendar](#)

Readings: Amos 7:10-17; Mt 9:1-8

All of us are free people. Often we regard our brothers and sisters as our enemies. Consequently, it blocks us from becoming free persons. We enter ourselves into the prison of sins. We human beings have a tendency to fall into sin again and again. My sins are committed by me not by others, in the same manner, sicknesses are created by my mind. I have freedom and power to forgive my enemies and be cured of various sicknesses.

In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus forgiving the paralytic man who was brought by his friends. The sickness of the paralytic was curable, but only Jesus could do it. Most of our sicknesses are not from outside but from within us. When we are in the sin we are blinded by sins and we think that our sin cannot be forgiven. We need the courage to overcome the bondage of the sins. Today Jesus tells us, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." So let us become aware of our sins and source of our sicknesses and offer to the Lord so that we obtain forgiveness and graces from the Lord.

Prasanta Basumatary csc

[Back to Calendar](#)

Readings: Amos 8:4-6, 9-12; Mt 9:9-13

When we look into the readings we are called for a particular mission. Each one has got a vocation. Some are called to be teachers, preachers, mothers, fathers, etc. based on one's mission.

God has chosen each one to complete his mission according to one's on capacity. We know Jesus had come to this world to save all who are lost to the kingdom of God.

We all go to doctor only when we are sick. As we get well we do not bother about the doctor. Neither does a doctor go to a place where there are no sick people. Same way Jesus too had gone to the Matthew who was a tax collector and sinner. We are also called to serve each and every member of the society.

In many parishes we hear of caste, rich and poor division. Priests of today are also involved in these divisions. They tend to go only to rich people's houses.

When we look into our own congregation we see grouping based on language, place, like minded groups etc. We tend to neglect others. As Holy Cross members we are all called to live our life beyond boundaries. We need to follow what we are called for.

It is our duty to respond to the call. Do we recognise our vocation that is given by God? Do we create division in the parishes where we work? Do we go to people who are in need?

Joel Glan Mendonca csc

[Back to Calendar](#)

Readings: Amos 9:11-15; Mt 9:14-17

The readings of the day teach us that there is time for everything. In the first reading we see prophet Amos talking about the promise of God that he would plant his chosen people in the Promised Land from where they shall not be removed again. And in the gospel reading we see Jesus is teaching about fasting, that no one shall fast until the bridegroom is with them, also to put the new wine into new wineskins.

What does it mean to us? I understand by the words of Jesus when he says about new and old wine and wineskin that our life is filled with past and present experiences. We grow gradually and learn from the past and live in the present meaningfully. We can't do away with the past because we are not machines to just substitute the old with new. We need both past and present experiences. There is a famous saying, 'every saint has a past and every sinner has a future'. We hope that our future will be fruitful when we learn from our past life and live in present situations. So that one day the Lord will place us in his bosom and comfort us where we are one with him. As we remember this month as the month dedicated to Sacred Heart, we pray that we may be filled with his love and wait for him eagerly that we may experience his love and mercy in our life. Also we pray that he may grant us the grace to accept the past and learn from our mistakes to make our present fruitful.

Lawrence S. csc

[Back to Calendar](#)

Readings: Ez 2: 2 – 5; 2 Cor 12: 7 – 10; Mk 6: 1 – 6

“Be a Prophet” this is the message that I get from today’s Liturgy of the Word. One of the roles of a Prophet is to speak or announce what God wants or expects from his people. In the history of humanity we always find that human beings most of the time failed to meet the expectation of the Lord and therefore God sends the Prophets to remind them of his ways. For a Prophet this is the most difficult task to accomplish, mainly because it brings opposition from the people, need to face the criticism and the wrath of people.

For me it is easy to be on a safer side rather being an enemy of my neighbor by speaking the truth which does not please him or her. I believe this is the greatest temptation that today’s humanity is facing. The people are afraid of speaking the truth; for example, the Media. The people are afraid of losing their job, power and position in the society and in the eyes of the people. Therefore, people are leaning towards the ways which are unjust.

God promises to Ezekiel in the first reading ‘do what I tell you and don’t be afraid.’ Jesus is assuring us today “that my Grace is sufficient for you” to bear the struggles and challenges. How far are we ready to be a Prophet in our given context?

Rajashekhar Gundiga csc

[Back to Calendar](#)

Readings: Hos 2:16,17c-18,21-22; Mt 9:18-26

Faith plays a very significant role in everyone's life as believers. The Gospel of today gives us a clear picture of the outcome when we apply faith at certain levels. At some points, the number of rituals that I participate without faith, does not really give meaning to me. But I firmly believe that only faith can heal and redeem me from anything. The question that often arises within me is- do I have such faith? I have been praying all these years and most often, with my own initiative; I even knelt and prayed before the Lord. But I did not get answers for all my prayers. Then I asked to myself, why should I waste my time in praying, and that was the moment I stopped praying. After a few months, I attended the morning Mass as usual. This same gospel of today was read on that day. The faith of the woman disturbed my mind and made me to think of my faith in God. As I continued to think of my prayer life, I eventually realized that I made long petitions to Jesus without confidence and faith. It is very important to know as believers, that God alone is the source of all the blessings of our lives. From then on, whenever I sit and pray before the Lord, I am always in fear that God will certainly ask me, 'show me your faith.'

Stephen Langsianmunga csc

[Back to Calendar](#)

Readings: Hos 8:4-7, 11-13; Mt 9:32-38

In the gospel we hear Jesus attacking the power structure of the evil. We know that Jesus' birth was foretold by the prophets for the restoration of the humanity but no one had a clue of how Jesus would fulfill his divine plan. In the New Testament we hear Jesus proclaim the kingdom which was against the kingdom of the world. Jesus saw during his lifetime the struggles of the people and the gospel says that he felt sorry for the people because they were harassed and dejected. This is our experience too in our life. Jesus had a compassionate heart to see through the reality of people. We are called to heal the wounds of our own self as well as the people who are around us. Shepherding calls us to guard the flock and create more shepherds in the fold so as to protect the flock and meet the needs of every member of the society. After two thousand years the number of laborers have considerably increased, today we need to pray for the 'quality laborers' who die for the people while making a statement that injustice and violence are not part of the kingdom of God.

Wilfred Francis Dias csc

Readings: Hos 10: 1-3, 7-8, 12; Mt 10: 1- 7

The readings of the day convey to us the importance of human labor which is needed very much for a good harvest. Fertile land and healthy seeds alone will not produce a good harvest, rather the human labor that involves in the whole process makes the difference. This is what we see in the first reading which says that the chosen people of Israel fail to produce good fruits because of their independent way of functioning. They did whatever they thought was right, but it turned out to be useless, and therefore the Lord decided to weed out all the waste. Being a righteous God, he did not stop with that, rather he helped the Israelites to produce a good harvest. In the same way we too see in the gospel Jesus guiding his disciples to make sure that their hard work does not go in vain. Jesus also understands the needs of Israelites who are living like the lost sheep with an expectation to see the redeemer, and so he asks his disciples to announce the Good News to them. Today it is not only the people of Israel who are in need of God's assistance but the whole humanity. We should understand that no human can satisfy the needs of others on their own; but with the help of God people can help each other to meet the needs of one another. Therefore we pray for God's assistance in our labor so that we may produce a better harvest which can give life for all.

John Kennedy A csc

[Back to Calendar](#)

Readings: Hos 11:1-4, 8e-9; Mt 10:7-15

The readings of the day state that the God has called me out of his love to be with him and to be sent out. The gospel passage of the day is the mission commandment and the first reading of the day speaks of the unconditional love of my heavenly Father for his children.

God says that he loves me from the time of my childhood and has been protecting me all this while. The more the Lord loved me the more I went away from him. However, he held my hand and taught me to walk. He nourished me like my own father. His pity was stirred numerous times when I was away from his presence. He shed his Son's blood on the top of the mount Calvary to save me from all sins. This same heavenly Father is asking me to go out today to proclaim his Gospel. He is asking me to do everything that he had done, such as, cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, drive out demons and so on. He is sure that I would be able to do it, because, He has bestowed on me his Spirit.

What is my response to this invitation of God? In human relationship, I do have to repay what I receive from others in one way or the other. This is what the Lord expects today from me. He has been giving me everything that I wanted, and I want to pay back to that Love.

God is not assuring any smooth path as I take up this challenge from him. I will face non-acceptance and many more problems. However, God is promising me that he would not let the flames consume me (Hos 11:9).

Siju Pappachan csc

[Back to Calendar](#)

Readings: Hos 14:2-10; Mt 10: 16-23

In today's gospel reading we hear Jesus giving instructions to his disciples. He warns his disciples that in proclaiming his message they need to be careful. He says that "I am sending you out like sheep among wolves." So, one needs to be careful and be prudent. Jesus consoles them and gives them courage to do his mission. Jesus tells them do not be worried about what to say when authorities question you. He promises that "the Spirit of your Father speaks through you." We may not have heard the physical voice of Jesus but may have experienced the inner voice that speaks to us and take unexpected action or speak words which changed our hardest times or difficult situations. This inner voice is from God which is always doing good in our life. But sometimes we neglect hearing this voice of God. The reason may be lack of relationship with God and not following his words in our life. We need to follow Jesus in order to listen to him. Following Jesus means that every day we have to consciously choose to be and do what Jesus did to every one of us. If we live as Jesus lived, we become children of God.

Bharath Babu Putti csc

[Back to Calendar](#)

Readings: Is 6: 1-8; Mt 10:24-33

Today's gospel reading invites us to respond to the call with conviction, conviction to be another Christ. Pope Francis once said, 'our faith is not a laboratory faith, but our faith is a journey of faith'. In our journey of following our Lord we come across various moments, sometimes we feel we are lost without a ray of hope, sometimes we feel that we are not fit or meant to be the person who we are. Be it religious life, or married life or young people who are aspiring to be someone in their life we feel discouraged and disappointed being who we are. A momentum that still keeps us moving forward is our deep conviction to actualize our deep desire to be another Christ or a deep conviction that we are called not only to be the messenger of Christ but be the message of Christ. As Jesus said in the gospel we may be criticized or challenged for being who we are but our call is 'still move on in proclaiming Christ through our words, deeds and by our very lives'.

Joyson John Barboza csc

Readings: Amos 7:12-15; Eph 1:3-14; Mk 6:7-13

In the first reading we see prophet Amos is sent to preach the good news. He says that he was not a prophet, but God took him to preach. What God has decided he fulfils through his people. In the Gospel reading we can understand that Jesus sends his disciples to preach the good news to all the people. It is the initiative of Jesus to send his disciples and when they were sent they had nothing with them. They went empty handed and it was told to them that whatever they received they were to take. If people did not receive them, they were to leave the place and go to another village. Jesus took the initiative to send the disciples to people. It is a call for us to take the initiative. We need to accept Jesus and the people who speak about God and receive them. If we are not ready to receive them, we are the ones who are going to lose listening to the word of God which comes from God and we go away from God. So here is a call for us to accept the word of God and listen to it and be faithful to it so that we can be closer to God.

Vijith Joncy Mathias csc

Readings: Is 1: 10-17, Mt 10: 34-11:1

When we think of Jesus, the images that usually come to our mind are: Jesus as a man of peace who brings healing and forgiveness to people; the man who saved the life of the woman caught in the act of adultery and the man who raised the dead people back to life. In today's gospel, Jesus invites us to follow him, imbibe his values and imitate his way of life. Responding to this call entails from us a total change in our way of thinking, living and behaving to make a sincere decision to follow Jesus in all his ways and to give ourselves completely to him without turning back. It does not matter what consequences it might involve. He says that if we don't take up our cross each day and follow him we are not worthy of him. This call to extreme love for God as true and faithful followers of our Lord Jesus Christ invites us to be kind and generous like him. Let us therefore, pray earnestly for the grace of following Jesus happily and heartily in our day-to-day life.

Anthoni Reddy csc

Readings: Is 7:1-9; Mt 11:20-24

Today's gospel reading invites us to reflect upon change: change of heart and change of life. We see in the gospel Jesus was angry with those cities because Jesus had performed many miracles in the city, still people don't want to change. Let us see our own life, in our life we received so many blessings/ miracles but still we blame God. We see in our society many people go for charismatic retreats and they receive blessing and miracles in their lives, but the same people we see after a few months; they change. The reading invites us to live a new way of life, which is God's way of life which gives us new life and new hope. In the gospel we see Jesus' anger in the over our sinful life. He calls us to change sinful life and live a life of truth, freedom, love and holiness.

Boneventure Lobo csc

Readings: Is 10: 5-7, 13-16; Mt 11: 25-27

Today's Gospel reading presents to me God the Father and the Son as One. All things proceed from the Father to the Son. Then, the Son reveals himself to those whom he chooses to be with him. If I know the Son, then ultimately the Father too. For, they shared oneness in them. God chooses to send his Son to reveal himself to the whole humanity. For this act of God in my life, I need to feel blessed and give thanks to the Father for revealing and making known Jesus Christ. I wonder if God were to reveal all his wisdom to the learned and the clever how things would be. Looking at the present society and the world at large I see generally that most of the rich and intellectual people are running after money and accumulating wealth. Thus, for them there is a very little chance of feeling the need for God. Moreover, their attention would be on the worldly affairs and storing up treasures. On the other hand, out of my experience I can say, the little people felt the need for God sincerely in their lives. They are genuine in their expression of love for God. Once my companions and I were discussing where God's presence is more visible and evident. Then, the final remark was in the poor people we really felt God presence. For them everything is God and God is everything which is seen clearly in their conversation and sharing of life experiences. Often our human tendency is to feel proud of our achievements and success because of our capacity or our own merits. It is very evident from the first reading where the people of Assyria credited all their success to themselves, forgetting Yahweh from whom they got the strength to fight the battle and won. So, the message for me is to remember God in the first place for all my success and accomplishment rather than becoming indifferent to God who is operating in my life.

Ruwnglal Friny Peter csc

[Back to Calendar](#)

Readings: Is 26: 7 -9, 11, 16-19; Mt 11: 28 - 30

Jesus' invitation to us is to take rest in him. The rest is not free of cost, but a person has to take the burden and the yoke which Jesus gives and which is light, because Jesus himself had carried the yoke and burden on our behalf to put us right with God once and for all by carrying the cross and dying on it with total obedience. We should not try to put our efforts to put right with God with new ideas and views as Pharisees and people were doing; taking burdensome work to follow the long list of rules and regulations of Jewish tradition. Instead we should affirm our faith in Jesus and follow his virtues of love and forgiveness.

According to me, Jesus' yoke and burden are to stand for the love and forgiveness towards our neighbors as well as enemies. Those who do not love and forgive others, experience that they are taking yoke in their heart. In other words, s/he is carrying the yoke/burden of anger/hatred in his/ her body, which also affect him /her psychologically.

This gospel invites me to not wander or find new ways to put right with God, but to follow and to walk the way Jesus Christ travelled, which will lead us to God.

Peter Paul Dang csc

[Back to Calendar](#)

Readings: Is 38: 1-6, 21-22; Mt 12:1-8

Today through this reading Jesus makes us to understand the purpose of his life on this earth. In the first part of the gospel the Pharisees are questioning the disciples of Jesus. Pharisees are always criticized by the people but when we closely look at them they were the ones who followed all the rules of the Old Testament. Yet they failed to recognize and understand the Messiah in Jesus. When we compare ourselves with the Pharisees, as religious we try to closely follow all the rules and regulations of our congregation and the church yet fail to be merciful and companionate to our neighbors. At times our liturgy and practices of the church become more important and we fail to see the one who may be in need of my little help, be it may be in the form of spending a little time of mine with others listening to them or it may be in the form of sharing my knowledge with others etc... Today Jesus invites us to be the agent of mercy and companionship to this troubled world so that our life on this earth may become a meaningful one.

Jijo Philip csc

[Back to Calendar](#)

Readings: Mic 2:1-5; Mt 12:14-21

In today's Gospel we read, Pharisees were searching for a reason to put Jesus to death. And Jesus being aware of the plot, went away from them, and on his way, many people who are sick followed him. He was curing everyone, and he ordered them not to make him known. Why does Jesus tell these words to people whom he had cured? We observe here, the humility and self-denial of Jesus. In other words it is because of Pharisees who were searching a way to destroy him, by doing this Jesus does not want to give a chance for them. There is an invitation for you and me to humble oneself. But often we do not live our lives according to God's wish, rather boost oneself for everything that we do. One simple example could be, in communities or Ministry places, if we do something unique and/or we do something very well and it is being appreciated by everyone. What would be our response? 'Oh! Yes, I did this'. And we take personal pleasure for oneself. And without our notice, our ego will go higher, and we start feeling that only I can do such things, no one else. Jesus conveys the message to those who are of this kind: do not take any pleasure in what you have done and don't do anything for good name and fame. If we are in this kind let us seek God's grace to be changed in coming days.

Manoj K. Rathinam csc

[Back to Calendar](#)

Readings: Jer 23:1-6; Eph 2:13-18; Mk 6:30-34

Today's gospel reading inspires us to be compassionate and kind like Jesus. One of the deepest longings in human beings is the desire to be loved by others. We want to be loved by others but not ready to love others. When we are touched by love, it reaches into our deepest being. We read in the Gospel Jesus as the good shepherd of people, who loved and cared for the people. He is a great example of love. He spent the greater part of his public life in doing good works for the needy in society, so that the people could experience the joy of being loved. Mark 6:34 reads; "As Jesus went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd." Pope Francis beautifully said that pastors should have the smell of the sheep. It means that in our communities, we should know the needs of the people. And we need to accept others as they are because the sheep don't smell good. Today, Jesus invites each one of us to be compassionate like him. Compassion is the willingness to walk in the shoes of another person trying to understand the joys and sorrows of their lives and their hopes so that we can build God's Kingdom values on earth.

Jesu Manickam csc

[Back to Calendar](#)

Readings: Mic 6:1-4, 6-8; Mt 12: 38-42

In today's readings I identify myself with the teachers of the law who wants a sign from the Lord. The answer that Jesus gave makes me feel ashamed for being like the teachers of law testing my Lord and not trusting him. I used to ask the Lord for his grace when I am in need and I forget to seek him when I have what I want. I look for a sign whenever I want, and the sign will be given to me; yet I fail to see the sign thinking the sign will be something great, failing to see the sign in the simple things. One such example could be when some elders or some youngsters correct me I used to take in a negative sense failing or forgetting to see the good heart that they have for me in my growth.

Jesus says, "no sign will be given except the sign of Jonah." At the preaching of Jonah, the people of Nineveh repented. I have been given many signs such as these, yet I failed. And I seek the Lord's pardon for the time I have failed to see the sign that God gave me and for the time I have failed to look at the correction in a positive way and as growth. And I ask for the grace to be a sign for the people who are in need.

Arockiaraj G. csc

Readings: Mic 7:14-15, 18-20; Mt 12:46-50

God never fails and never lets us down nor disappoints us. His will always bind people together in mutual love and unity. The readings of the day present the theme: 'Faithfulness to God's Will'.

Micah is a pre-exilic prophet who prophesied the words of doom. Yet, we find the words of hope in the book because of later addition by the group of disciples at that time. Among the seven chapters in the book, the first six chapters emphasize the words of doom while the last chapter ends with glimpses of hope. The first reading of the day is an example of such hope of making a prayer to Yahweh for forgiveness. Israelites remember their covenantal fidelity with Yahweh their God, so that he may be benevolent and kind in his judgment. Yahweh is compassionate towards Israelites for all their iniquities. Micah 7:18 reads: "Who is like you whose anger does not last? For you delight in merciful forgiveness." Yahweh does not look at their wrongdoings rather delights in their willingness to remain faithful to him.

The gospel reading presents to us the true kinsfolk of Jesus. Jesus says only those who do the will of the Father are his mother, brothers and sisters. It is neither ignorance nor insult to Mother Mary but rather it is an honor to Mother Mary who always said 'YES' to God's will. She remained obedient and faithful to God's will until the end. She acted in perfect obedience throughout her life and fulfilled God's plan. The invitation for us is to imitate Mother Mary in our obedience to rectors, superiors and finally to God's will. Let us, therefore, surrender our lives to God and allow him to work in and through us so that, we may fulfill his will.

Saripudi Chinnaiah csc

[Back to Calendar](#)

Readings: Gal 2:19-20; Jn 15:1-8

Today's gospel reading calls us to be a servant leader. When the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to ask for a favor with Jesus, he tells the consequences of being with him. He lets them know the trouble that they would face, he makes known to them that to be a king is to die for God's people. Often in our daily life, we too are like the mother of the sons of Zebedee, we long for power, long for status, long for a recognition where we live. We fail to understand the depth of what Jesus is trying to tell us "what it means to be a king". He tells us clearly that to have chosen to follow him is to give our life completely to him. We need to question ourselves, 'are we ready to forgo our wants, desire, and our status for him?' Let this reading sink in our heart to be a servant leader for God's people.

Roshan M D'Souza csc

Readings: Jer 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13; Mt 13:10-17

The best childhood memory that I can recall is spending time with my grandparents. If today I know the value and importance of prayer it is simply because of my grandparents and parents. They play a great role in our life. Today the church remembers Joachim and Anne the parents of Mary. It is because of them we have Mary today. As we celebrate this feast of grandparents of Jesus we pray through their intercession we to may become like Mary the mother of Christ. In the gospel reading the catchy word that I found was “the heart of this people has grown dull.” Recently when I had chance to interview some of the youth they said nowadays priests have no time to listen to them, they don't have hearts. They simply meant that we don't feel in our hearts. As religious we need to be one with the people. We should have this quality and that's why Pope Francis said, “Shepherd should know the smell of the sheep.”

Pretham Joy Menezes csc

Readings: Jer 3: 14-17; Mt 13: 18-23

Who is the reason for the seeds to fall in the improper land? Whose mistake is it? If we are given the responsibility of bringing something up, will our action be lethargic in doing it? I am not blaming anyone now, instead I am going to discuss about the responsibilities of the seeds and the sower. The sower had the responsibility and also the conflict of four different kinds of the land. The lesson which gospel offers me to learn is that the sower didn't neglect any of the land instead he went on with his mission of sowing the seeds. In the same way we all will be disturbed by the socio-political cultural situation of the world and the present situation of people of mixed faith. We have faithful and non-faithful even among Catholics. Our mission should not be restricted within any particular area where we can reap hundredfold, for God wants his presence to be common for all. As the leaders of the future we all have the same responsibility. Therefore I urge you to carry God as the seeds to all human race, may the Lord do the rest.

Philosan S. csc

Readings: Jer 7: 1-11; Mt 13: 24-30

God is love. Because he loves us so much he is eagerly waiting for our return. For God our repentance is much more valid than his judgment, his mercy is greater than the eternal condemnation. This is what Jesus teaches us through the parable of the 'weeds among the wheat'. As the owner left the weeds to grow in order to rescue wheat, God gives us the opportunity to repent and come back to him. But this opportunity should not be taken for granted because the final judgment is in God's hand. Let us live our present life in a righteous way for it is the only thing we can do, and our future will be decided based on the present way of living. God knows what is best for the world because it is his creation. We should be so happy that even knowing what is best for us, he is not curtailing our freedom. So let us be aware of weeds within us that we may not be able to get rid of totally, but it is possible to control the growth of the evil within us through God's grace.

Arone Frederick Vas csc

[Back to Calendar](#)

Readings: 2Kgs 4:42-44; Eph 4:1-6; Jn 6:1-15

Today is the seventeenth Sunday in the Ordinary Time. Today's first reading and the gospel reading expresses the supremacy of God over his people with the love to nourish them physically and spiritually. In the first reading, Elisha multiplies the twenty barley loaves to feed a hundred men. In the gospel reading, Jesus multiplies the five barley loaves and two fish to feed as many as five thousand men. These two miracles point out the deep love of God for his own people. It is also an invitation for us to be prepared to help others especially those who are in need, the poor and the ones who have nothing to fill their stomach, etc.

As I was reflecting on the gospel passage where Jesus was offered by a small boy with five loaves and two fish, I was curious to know the motive behind the offering. Then I was reminded of four different categories of people who do offering. First, a kind of people who give for the sake of advertisement. These people just do because they want the others to think of them highly and for appreciation. Second, a group of people who do externally but not from their hearts. Thirdly, a group of people who give because feel it as their duty to give. And lastly, the people who give out of love and feel like helping out regardless of anything in return. These kinds of people really give from their hearts. Now, let us look into ourselves and examine to which kind we belong.

Vimal Wilbert csc

[Back to Calendar](#)

Readings: Jer 13:1-11; Mt 13:31-35

The desire of anyone who begins a new job is to do the best he/she can and make a difference. In spreading the Gospel and establishing the Kingdom of God, such grand dreams persist. As disciples fired by the zeal for the mission, we often imagine that if only we did work a little harder so many more can be brought to God. We often want big results for our grand plans. Because we put our best in what we do, we believe the result should also be grand. Not finding this in reality can be quite discouraging and burdensome, even disillusioning. However, Jesus today reminds us that the Kingdom of God is not something that can have a sudden grand appearance. It is something that grows slowly. Just as a seed takes time to grow from the smallest of seeds to a tree that birds can flock to; and just as yeast needs time to slowly ferment the whole dough, the kingdom of God needs to be given time to grow. Let us, even as we do our best in giving ourselves to our people, give time for the Kingdom of God to grow in them and among them.

Shiju Joseph csc

Readings: Jer 14:17-22; Mt 13:36-43

The first reading from the book of Jeremiah is a response of God to people of Israel and false prophets. This message comes from God to Israelites to turn away from untruthful prophecies and apostasy. People are happy with false prophecies of the false prophets. They do not want to accept the genuine message of God but find themselves comfortable with the false messages which comfort the Israelites. At the end of the reading, people request God to have mercy on them.

The gospel reading explicates the meaning of the parable of the weeds. Jesus as the word of God sows the good seeds and the kingdom of God is a result of good seed sown by Jesus. The weeds are sown by the evil one which builds the kingdom of the evil one. The gospel reading ends with the eschatological judgment which leads people who have good seeds to enjoy eternal life with the Father and people with weeds to destruction.

God sends his Word through the true prophets to Israel out of love and when they repent he forgives and loves them. Similarly, in the Gospel reading Jesus sows his seed in us so that we could bear much fruit, not the weeds. Accepting God's word and obeying it will lead us to eternal life.

Balaraj K. csc