

## **SUNDAY HOMILY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME JANUARY 31<sup>st</sup> 2021.**

Dear Friends, welcome to the celebration of the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary time and the day that ends the month of January 2021. Let us be thankful to God for all the graces and blessings received in this month. May God continue to bless us with his love and providence. Monday is the first day in February and on Tuesday is the feast of the Presentation of Jesus into the Temple. It's a feast known as Candle Mass. It is also a world day Feast of the Consecrated Life. Let us pray for all committed to the Lord in this calling. Mass will be celebrated at 10.00 am at Holy Infant. You are very welcome to join in the celebration.

Last Sunday, we heard Jesus proclaiming the Good news as he called upon the people to repent and believe in the Good news. We also heard Jesus calling his disciples- a pair of brothers Andrew and Peter, James and John. He promised them to be fishers of men. What is very special is the immediate response of the fishermen; they left their livelihood and followed Jesus. One encountering Jesus means making a lifetime decision and keeping the relationship with Jesus alive.

Moses commanded the people of the people of his own time to keep and maintain their relationship with God by listening to his successor.

The Gospel Reading for us today gives us an account of exorcism of Jesus driving out the devil that had taken control of the man. Jesus rebukes the devil with authority; "Be quiet, come out of him."

The devil obeys, gets out of the man and leaves him in convulsions. All the people who see this are amazed with his teaching in a spirit of authority; "He gives orders to the unclean spirits and they obey."

Jesus still teaches us with authority. His word in the Sacrament of Baptism cleanses us of the original sin and makes us children of God.

In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Jesus forgives us our sins. At the Consecration, bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus at the authority of Jesus.

At the Ordination, one becomes a deacon, priest and bishop at the authoritative words of Jesus.

At exorcism people are delivered from the power of Satan and claimed back to God.

Jesus still teaches us with authority through our leaders; the pope, bishops and priests on the Religious virtues and Values. These are basically faith, hope, love and the values of social justice as well as human dignity.

Satanic forces may be present in the Assembly of God's people. God's people should also have the ability to recognize them or the enemy within. This can be resistance to divine authority when the good news is proclaimed with power.

Let us have the ability to discern what belongs to the Holy Spirit as it leads us to true relationship with God and at peace.

Let us also pray for all people in position of Leadership to guard against selfish interest. That their leadership is exercised with love and justice.