



Second Sunday of Luke 6:31-36

“But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish.

“Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.”

Is it not the Father who loves first? And His love is first shared with His Son through the Holy Spirit. We see by the cross the heart of the mother pierced by the sword and we cannot comprehend the pain and the sorrow. We hide our faces together with the angels. Yet, it is visible to us. A mother cannot hide her pain.

The love of the Father is witnessed by the Son, and through the Holy Spirit, those who are called to become the sons of God, give witness to this love too. (See St Silouan at the end).

Prokeimenon. Psalm 28.

The Lord will give strength to his people.

Verse: Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord honor and glory.

What we do not hear and see by the cross is His “pain and sorrow”. At times the prophets reflect that. The love of the Father who loves first, before the time begins, becomes sorrowful after the fall of man. It is not visible by the Cross when everything is revealed, only His silence witnessed by His **Son: “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?”** (Mt 27:46)

It is the silence of His sorrow which is not visible for man. The sorrow which does not hide but only clothes itself with silence. It is the sorrow we do not speak and the pain we cannot comprehend, the sorrow unknown to us. It is the silence that calls the sinners to repentance. The silence that gives voice to the innocent to forgive his enemies.

The voice of the Father is heard in the gospel, but when He speaks it is to witness the obedience of His Son who responds to His love. (Mt 3:17) What breaks the silence of the Father is the obedience of the Son who, through His obedience, manifests the Father’s love. It gives voice to the love that glorifies His Son.

God is silent when the innocents are perishing today because His sorrow cannot be spoken and His pain cannot be shared. But so He is also when the enemies are perishing. That’s what the gospel tells us today. Because He loves His enemies as He loves those who love Him and He is merciful to them without measure.

The gospel tells us today that there is something that is touching the enemy's heart. The enemy always has the power to crucify the innocents or not. They are without hearing and without comprehension. They are assembled together against the Lord and against His Christ (Ps 2). There is nothing that changes their course, that’s why “they cannot stand up in judgement”. They judge because they cannot be judged. That’s why their way is perishing. They are clothed within their own mortality and no desire to love life can penetrate their dark armour. And yet, today the gospel reveals to us that mercy and genuine love is seen by their heart. God would not ask His sons to do something without hope. To love the enemies is not a moral exercise, it is the reality

that even death cannot escape.

So it is for the enemy to be pierced with mercy and for the sons of men to come closer to the silence of the Father, who gives His love and His mercy to all, but brings closer within His silence the innocents, to share with them what cannot be shared and what cannot be spoken. This is because the enemies still struggle within their heart with the love they receive, whereas the sons of men, being touched by it, are moved within the silence of the Father.

Community life - Volunteer appreciation night and the book of Ezra, both one and two

"I issued a decree that all those of the people of Israel and the priests and Levites in my realm who volunteer to go to Jerusalem may go with you" (2 Ezra 7:13)

The normality of sin and the circle of indifference is well known within today's world. So much so that the church proclaims the gospel without hope and the people go on with their lives caught within the system of despair. In Ezra, the reconstruction of the temple starts with the remembrance of Truth. The recognition of Truth that touches even the heart of the king. It reminds us today about the evil king who let people work and volunteer at the mission because somehow this is recognized yet by all as being the Truth. The church is still allowed to feed the people and live the gospel around her saints. It was not always like that. There were times which did not allow this to happen. During communism, which I still remember, the government was in charge of being kind. They were the only ones allowed by the law and they were controlling the process. Therefore the saints rather found themselves in prison, in chains, proclaiming the gospel to the oppressed. Today, even though there are more restrictions than in the past, volunteers are legally encouraged to come and help build a place of beauty, hope and compassion for all. In the book of Ezra, the building process happened in stages and it was undermined. However, within the process, the volunteers played an important role. King Darius proclaimed that all those who wanted to volunteer for the reconstruction of the temple were free to go. This reminds me also about the freedom we have today to volunteer our time to the rebuilding of the church. This is the freedom that breaks the circle of indifference and the heavy iron yoke of the system. Through this freedom we learn to breathe fresh air. Through this freedom hope is regained. Through this freedom we are not again indifferent to each other. This freedom of volunteering our time for rebuilding the place where hope dwells and beauty is revealed is rooted in the scriptures. It is the universal call of God for compassion to which some of the hearts respond. We see in the book of Ezra that those hearts are not few but many. They are numbered in the book of Ezra and we saw last night at the mission that the same number would be close to what the work of the mission experiences. There are a multitude of souls who witness the reality of kindness in every single heart. They need to act on that and to share it, to find a witness in the other. The volunteers are many, and they come because there is a love of those who are chosen, there is a real and sincere love for Christ of those who are appointed. So it was with Ezra, who prepared himself by reading the scriptures and found a radicality of love for God and did not compromise with the system or with the sins of men.

'For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel' (2 Ezra 7:10)

This radical love is rooted in the obedience of the Son to His Father unto the cross that made known to us the joy of the resurrection and opened a path to all. This obedience, that comes out of love, brings the community together and warms the hearts of the volunteers. We people have a problem with endurance in doing good. We get tired easily. All of us at times are touched and respond to the grace of God within our limits. The apostle Paul tells us today that these limits can be broken and they are broken by those who are appointed. Those who resist until the end are those who bring the community together because they find their innocence when being persecuted. They were moved by the love that they knew and experienced and entered within the silence of the Father that they discover now. A silence that slowly reveals to them how to find innocence when being rejected and persecuted, ignored and ridiculed because they were foolish enough to believe and to act on it. There is a price when they enter within the silence of the Father, and that price is to regain their innocence. The love of the Father is for all to know, His silence is just for the elect.

Please remember Zatia who died of cancer last week, at the age of 55. Zatia was a member of our community in Scarborough at St Zoticus.

Memory Eternal to Zatia. !

Reflection from the community on today's gospel:

"The Sunday Gospel made me think that if we emulate the Lord's mercy, we are better able to lead others to God by our example."

A doubter who sees God's love and mercy in His faithful servants is more likely to believe.(Elisha)

St Silouan - concerning Shepherds Souls

"The Lord knows what joy He gave them: and their souls experience this joy.

That they had known the True Lord Jesus Christ was their first joy.

Their second joy - that they loved Him.

Their third joy - that they had known life eternal in heaven.

And their fourth joy - that they desired salvation for the world, as for themselves.

And later on they rejoice because they came to know the Holy Spirit, and witnessed the working of the Holy Spirit in themselves.

Mission church collections of 1 Sunday : Sept 25 2022 Donations \$460, candle box \$12.05

Prayer list for the sick and those who have recovered:

Richard; Bernadette, Elisha; Kayla; Harley, Maria and Carlos; Omar; Elisabeth; Ben, Kim; George; Bernadette, Maria Becatam ;Seena; Ocean ,Tony, Nikitha;
Dianne; Joy; Susie; Alex; Maurice; Lynn; Molly; Thomas; Varghese; Delia; Leela; Mary; Tanya; Basma; Aditi; Larry; Darius; Lori; Lisa; Cindy; Césare; Fatima; Debbie; Donald; Hermina; Raúl; EK Thomas; Nebu; Evangelia; Sarah; Shelley; Bill; Ruth, Kristian and Frank; Maria; Binja ; Mike; Luke; Anusia; Lavalin's son; Sana; Father George Patrick, and Father Michael Miklos/Pani Karen Miklos; Dominique and her daughter; Mike; Luke; Arjuna; Joy; Susie; Alex; Lynn; Molly'; Thomas; Alex; Fathima; Frank; Chris; Evlokia; Mikayla and Luca; Karunawathi, Gloria, Vijekumari, Ronda, and Regina; Delia; Valerie; Tom; Traian; Peter; Marco; Kim; Tihomir; Kate; Payton Clark; Sana, and her family in Egypt; Isaiah; Mary; Sydney; Peter; Christine; Stephanie; Iulia; Jason; Sophia; Alexander; Charles; Tom; Paul; Phillip and his wife Juliet; Cristeena; Ann brown's daughter; Silvia; Jincy; Shiron Crisreen; Allain; Seena and her husband; Waheeda and children; Faizah; Shirin and her family; Cristina; Daniela, Jerry; Delia ; Ragaie; Victoria; Mike; Farida; Roselyne and family ; Ana; Cornelia; Leon; Jerry; Ocean; Gloria; Anne; Marina; Marie; Edemene; Joanna and family; Rejoice; Romana, Coline, Michael, Peter, Henry, George, Kelly; Tom; Marina; Kumari; Susan; child James; Aaron; Sylvia; Fr Jonathan; Tharshini and her two children; Ann Tyron and her family; Sandra Gomaz's children; Sameen; Sophia; Amy; Swetha and children; Charitha; Jitesh's parents; Demene; Carol; Gloria; Hawa Bibi; Vimaladevi; Fr. John and Pani Marie; Lynn; Michelle; Emanuel(Mani); Stefanie; Geoff; Joey; Evangelia; Sophia; Melanie; Tanya; Piper; Darius; Zamalk; Nelly; Nahla; Mira; Sandral; Brenda; Vol; Gomaz; ; Helen; Paul; Wafaa.

Please pray for the deceased: Zatia; Tom; Fred; Shrin; Andre; Andree; Akhir; Arjuna; Dillon; Elena; Pani Mary; Rejoice`s mother; Edmund; Pani Eleanor; Fr John; Alexandru; Constantin; Robert; Fr Aurel; Georgi; Rada; Petre; Stela; William; Samuel; Debbie; John; Amy, Willie; Dave`s wife; Ana; Shirin`s cousin in Jordan; Father Lawrence; Dave; Anne Tyran`s father; Edith, Sr. Mary Magdalene; Joice; BettyAnn; James; Pauanasuy Kamthasang; Maria; Andrei; Agostina; Carminda; Vimaladevi's sister; Sri's mother; Carol's Mother and 23 year old nephew; Demene`s mother, Dalalzaki.

October 3 - 9

Tuesday	8:30 am 7:30pm	Morning Prayer Psalms Study – via Zoom	Wednesday	8:30 am 12:30 pm 4:00 pm 6:30 pm	Morning Prayer Noon Hours Vespers/Dinner Bridges/Compline 8pm
Thursday	8:30 am 12:30 pm 2:00 pm	Morning Prayer Noon Hours Jesus Prayer	Friday	7:00 am 12:30 pm 2:00 pm	Orthros Noon Hours Jesus Prayer
Saturday	9:00 am	Morning Prayer	Sunday	6:00 am 8:00 am 8:30 am	Jesus Prayer Orthros Divine Liturgy



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We are an apostolate of the ecumenical patriarchate "Mother Church of Christ's poor" under the Omophorion of Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa

St. Silouan Chapel, October 2, 2022

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