

Second Sunday after the Nativity
First Sunday in New Year 2021.

(Fr. Antony Chundelikkat)

*(Readings: Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2,8-12, Ephesians 1:3-6,15-18,
John 1:1-18)*

Today's Gospel reading is from St. John. The gospel of John has no account of the birth of Jesus, rather the evangelist chooses to begin his story with a poem and that is the gospel for this Mass. This passage is separated into five sections each related to the Word - the Word and God (verses 1-2), the Word and creation (verses 3-5), the Word and John (verses 6-8), the Word and the world (verses 9-13), the Word and the community (verses 14-18).

The centre of today's Gospel is 'Jesus the Word'. Jesus 'The Word' gives light and life to all people. This is a true light as opposed to "false," the Light illumines each one. Jesus is the light who brightens our days, life and the New Year. God allows everything into our lives for one of two purposes-either to bring us into a relationship with himself or, if we already know him, to make us more like His Son." Whatever the circumstances that come to us, we can rely on God's promise. I wish to concentrate on how Jesus is Light in the New Year.

After the death of Moses, the Lord said to Joshua, 'Moses my servant is dead. I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and courageous' (Joshua 1:3-9).

The death of Moses was a big loss to the people of Israel. Even in our lives when situations appear desperate and confused, we lose heart and think the promises of God are not going to be fulfilled. But we must realise that God is faithful to his promises. Even though the situation appears impossible, God is still able to fulfil his promises.

We must be faithful in small things before God can trust us with great responsibilities. The Lord reminded Joshua to be careful to observe all the laws that He had given them through Moses. The Kingdom of God is governed by divine laws. Just as we have the laws of nature, we have laws in the spiritual world. Laws do not have partiality. The Law of gravity will work for everybody.

Dear Friends, do not worry about the loss and pain you have experienced and the opportunities you have missed. The resurrected Lord Jesus Christ is alive. The Lord promised Joshua that He will be with Him just as he was with Moses. Joshua was not alone. But he was a partner with God. When we are linked with the almighty God victory is assured. We will not drown in the storm if the Lord is with us in the boat. We must always live with this realisation that we are in league with God and we form an unbeatable team.

In this new year Make the Word our Constant Practice. Allow God's Word to Complete Its Purpose. Then Receive God's Promise. That is what in Romans 8:28 we read, "***And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.***" This Scripture brings comfort, direction, and hope to us every day in this year. Keep always in mind that I will never leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and courageous. The resurrected Lord Jesus Christ is alive. Amen