

## Pentecost 3 Year B (11 Ordinary Sunday) 14 June 2015

Readings Ezekiel 17:22-24, 2 Corinthians 5:6-17, Mark 4:26-34,  
Ps.92:1-4, 11-14

**Theme: Seeds of life**

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away, see, everything has become new".  
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Dear friends, over the past few weeks we have moved on from celebrating the death and resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ to his returning to the Father and the sending of the Holy Spirit. The colour of the vestments now tells you that we are now in the ordinary Sundays of the year.

Today, we as the people of God meditate on the seeds of life. We see the readings of today as a springboard of our reflection. In the first reading, the prophet Ezekiel foretold that God would take a twig from the top of cedar and plant it in Zion. Under God's protective power, that twig will grow into a mighty cedar and will become the meeting point of all nations. This promise he fulfilled in Jesus who ushers in the kingdom of God.

In the second reading, Paul writing to the Christians in Corinth encourages them to be confident about their faith in God. They should not be unduly worried about the slow beginning or lack of progress. He describes the present state of the believer as an exile and that the Lord God will improve matters. They should not regard their minority spot in the community as something to worry about but something to be grateful for. He is of the view that the growth of that kingdom is in the hands of God.

In the Gospel, Jesus narrates parables about the kingdom of God. The parable is short but full of meaning. In the parable, this parable could be called of the contrast between the inactivity of the sower and the certainty of harvest. The sower goes his way and the seed sprouts and grows without his taking anxious thought. It is God who brings about the growth of the kingdom.

What are we to take away from the lessons of today? What does it tell us about our humanity? It tells us about the helplessness of man. The farmer does not make the seed grow. In the last analysis he does not understand **how it grows**. It has the secret of life and growth in itself. No man ever possessed the secrets of life. All in all, it is God who makes things happen.

It tells us something about the Kingdom of God and his kingdom on earth is the assembly of the people of God, the church.

It tells us that there will be a consummation of events when there will be judgement for harvest and judgement go hand in hand.

What is the message saying to us? It is a summons to patience. Like the early disciples we all want quick results in any thing we do. How often do you see people panic and worry about things that they have no power to influence?

Is it any wonder in our society today, we have so many people suffering from one stress or another?

How often do you hear in adverts in demonstrations, "We want this", "When do we want it?" Comes the answer: "NOW"? We forget that certain things cannot be rushed.

It takes a bit of a time to get to know and do things. The church today calls us to the virtues of patience, humility and hope.

It also tells us today not to be daunted by small beginnings. To us, the message is particularly heart warming. We should not be unduly worried about the number on our roll. God is working and He will in His time produce the harvest.

Once more today, the church asks us to review our lives and try to worry less about things which are God's to handle.

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: Amen.