

NATIONAL YOUTH COMMISSION
CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF INDIA

NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY

14TH AUGUST 2022

*Theme: "Mary rose up and went with haste."
Lk. 1:39*



LITURGY

Collect

O God, who have prepared for those who love you good things which no eye can see, fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love, so that, loving you in all things and above all things, we may attain your promises, which surpass every human desire. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.



FIRST READING

A reading from the first book of Jeremiah (38:4-6,8-10)

In those days:

The officials said to the king,
“Let this man be put to death, for he is weakening the hands of the soldiers who are left in this city, and the hands of all the people, by speaking such words to them. For this man is not seeking the welfare of this people, but their harm.”

King Zedekiah said, “Behold, he is in your hands, for the king can do nothing against you.”

So they took Jeremiah and cast him into the cistern of Malchiah, the king’s son, which was in the court of the guard, letting Jeremiah down by ropes.

And there was no water in the cistern, but only mud, and Jeremiah sank in the mud.

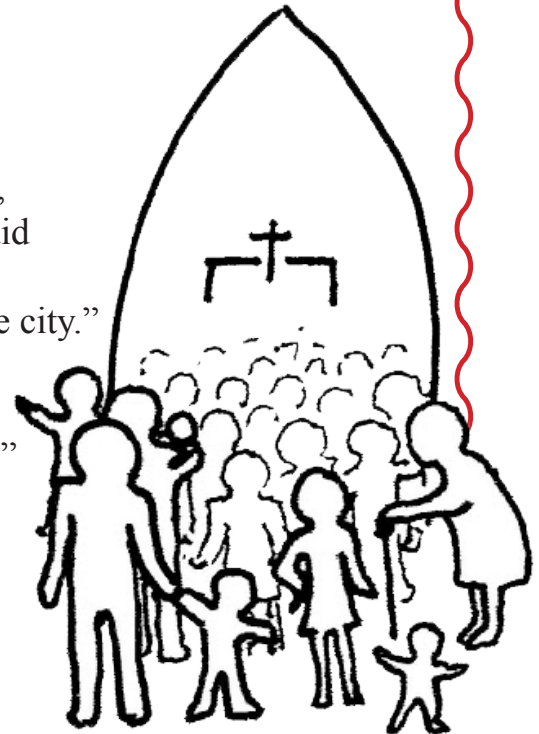
Ebed-melech went from the king’s house and said to the king,
“My lord the king, those men have done evil in all that they did to Jeremiah the prophet by casting him into the cistern, and he will die there of hunger, for there is no bread left in the city.”

Then the king commanded Ebed-melech the Ethiopian,
“Take thirty men with you from here, and lift Jeremiah the prophet out of the cistern before he dies.”

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (40:2-3, 4,18)

Response: Lord make haste to help me!



I waited, I waited for the Lord,
and he stopped down to me;
he heard my cry. R/

He drew me from the deadly pit
from the miry clay.
He set my feet upon a rock,
made my footsteps firm. R/

He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God.
Many shall see and fear
and shall trust in the Lord. R/

Wretched and poor though I am
the Lord is mindful of me.
You are my rescuer, my help;
O my God, do not delay. R/

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews (12:1:4)

Brethren:

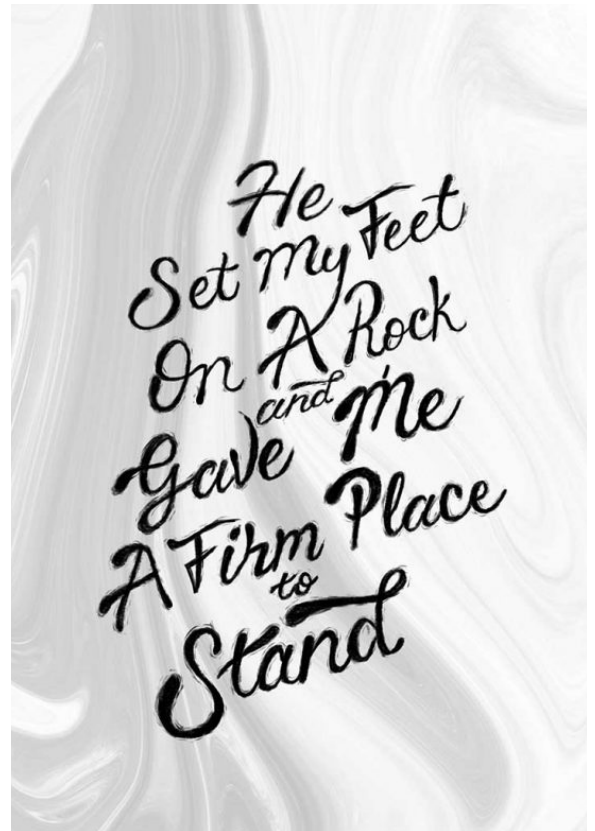
Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
let us also lay aside every weight,
and sin which clings so closely,
and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus,
the founder and perfecter of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross,
despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.
Consider him who endured from sinners
such hostility against himself,
so that you may not grow weary or faint-hearted.
In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted
to the point of shedding your blood.

The word of the Lord.

ACCLAMATION (John 6:51)

Alleluia, Alleluia!

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me. Alleluia!



live your message with joy, which is the message of the beatitudes, the message of love for God and for one's neighbor, the message of moral commitment to the genuine transformation of society. We pray

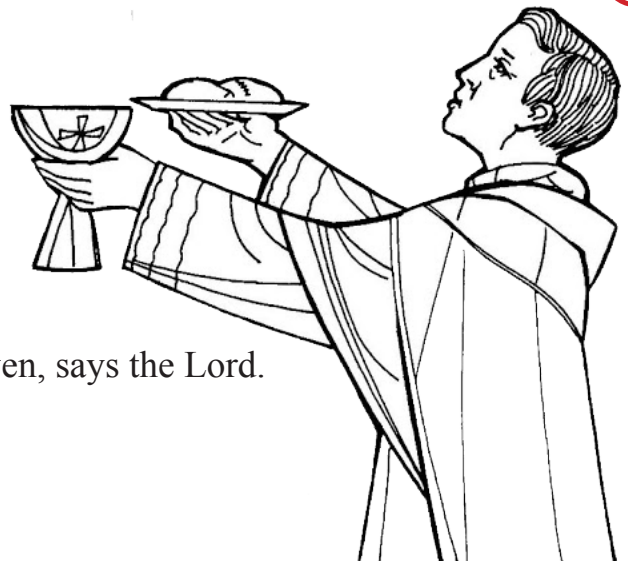
5. Loving God, please protect our youth from the dangers present in our world today. Be with them through sickness and health, sorrow and joy, loneliness and friendship, success and failure. Give them the courage and strength to make the right decisions. We pray
6. Dear Lord, we pray for the new generation, the young men and women of today. Shine your truth into their hearts as they hear you in music, see you in art, and experience you through the love and care of family, friends and teachers. Build your hope into their lives as they encounter the power of nature, the majesty of the oceans, and the beauty in creation. We pray
7. Come Holy Spirit of Vocation, Stir within young people an awareness of God's call; reveal to us the graces of young people; guide them all, in finding their place and raising their voices to build a civilization of love. We pray
8. Jesus, Son of the Living God, let the young people of our parish feel the abundance of your redemption, which is manifested in the remission of sins which weigh on souls. Help us to overcome our indifference and our sloth! Give us the consciousness of sin. Create in us, O Lord, a pure heart, and renew a strong spirit in our conscience. We pray
9. Holy Spirit of Love, as we celebrate the National Youth Day 2022 we pray, that we may be inspired to lead a holy and loving life of service to you. Fill their hearts with the certainty that you have chosen them to lead, to serve, and to shine! Give them the courage to face the challenges of our time and the joy of living in friendship with our Savior Jesus Christ. We pray
10. Loving Father, you look with compassion on all your children, especially those who are vulnerable. May we work to create a world in which every child has access to food, clean water, shelter, education, health care, and all other basic rights. May we act together to ensure that the lives and dignity of children everywhere can be respected. We pray

Let us pause and pray for all our personal and community needs. (pause)

God our Father, turn your loving gaze upon young people. They carry in their hearts a great hope: make them strong and pure, so that they can build their tomorrow with confidence. Let them receive freely the gift of the faith, accept it with gratitude, and develop it with generosity. Mother of Christ, and our Mother, help them to be now and forever faithful to Christ and the Church. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

Prayer over the offerings

Receive our oblation, O Lord,
By which is brought about a glorious exchange,
That, by offering what you have given,
We may merit to receive your very self.
Through Christ our Lord.



Prayer after communion

I am the living bread that came down from heaven, says the Lord.
Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever.

Homily points

1. On the day's gospel/readings

Listen carefully to the second alleluia verse from today's Mass: "Alleluia, alleluia! The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice, says the Lord, I know them and they follow me. Alleluia!"

In biblical times sheep from a number of flocks would be gathered in a single sheepfold for protection during the night. In the morning each shepherd would open the gate of the sheepfold and call his sheep. The sheep which belong to the shepherd listened to his voice and followed him out to pasture. Delightful image, isn't it? Lovely to imagine. We, of course, are the sheep. God enters the sheepfold by becoming man in Jesus, the good Shepherd. He comes into the world and calls us. Those of us who belong to him listen to his voice. He knows us and we follow him. Again, a beautiful thought, a lovely image which, as the Opening Prayer of the Mass says fills our hearts with the 'warmth of your love.'

But the rest of the sheep, what about them? It's ok for us luxuriate in the sunshine of God's love as we follow him along the path to heaven but what about the rest? They are left behind. They do not belong to him – they do not listen to his voice – he does not know them – they do not follow him. I know we resist the thought but – they are doomed! The Scriptures speak of them in clear and unmistakable terms: they are doomed because they do not belong to Jesus.

Are you getting uncomfortable? Are you beginning to feel the division in these words? You should be, and so should I. So what is it that has divided the sheep? What is it that has determined who belongs to Jesus' flock and who doesn't? Paradoxically, it is Jesus himself! Jesus, the Saviour, the Shepherd, the Lord who prayed: May they all be one; he is himself the cause of division!

This is for two reasons. Firstly, Jesus did not come just to 'be with' the sheep, he wanted them to be with him and, of course, we know that to be with Jesus is to be like Jesus. Secondly, he came to lead out those who were his, to bring them to the Father with whom he was one: Father, may they be one in us, as you are in me and I in you... I want those you have given me to be with me where I am... .

And so it is the call of Jesus which divides us: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law. Do you get the message? There is nothing more divisive than the truth. And before the truth which Jesus claims to be - we must all choose.

2. Meet Chiara Badano, an average teenager who loved to play tennis and listen to pop music (model for teenagers & young adults)

Feast Day: October 29

When we think about saints, we don't usually think about teenagers who failed math class, stayed out late drinking coffee with friends, and loved listening to the latest pop music sensations. Yet, that describes Chiara Badano, an 18-year old soon-to-be canonized saint.

Badano was born on October 29, 1971, in a small village in Italy. She had a loving family and clung to her Catholic faith from an early age. Her generosity toward the less fortunate was already evident at age 4 when Badano would give away her toys to poor children and eagerly visited the nursing home to comfort the elderly.



At 9, she joined a youth group associated with the Catholic lay Focolare movement and was an avid disciple of their spirituality. She frequently played sports, sang, danced and stayed out late with friends. From the outside, she was just an ordinary teenager who loved to have fun.

Then at age 17 Badano felt a sharp pain in her shoulder that was eventually diagnosed as an aggressive bone cancer called osteosarcoma. It spread quickly and she was soon paralyzed, with the likely chance that she would die. In the midst of the pain Badano possessed a supernatural joy and instead of seeing it as a curse, offered it all as a sacrifice to God. She continually said, "For you, Jesus, if you want it, I want it too!" Badano refused morphine, saying, "It reduces my lucidity, and there's only one thing I can do now: to offer my suffering to Jesus because I want to share as much as possible in his suffering on the cross."

Near the end of her short life she said to her mother, "Don't shed any tears for me. I'm going to Jesus. At my funeral, I don't want people crying, but singing with all their hearts." She also asked to be buried wearing a wedding gown, symbolizing how she would be forever united with Jesus in heaven. Chiara Badano left this world on October 7, 1990, just short of her 19th birthday. She departed to meet Jesus with the words, "Goodbye. Be happy because I'm happy."

She was declared "venerable" in 2008. Shortly thereafter Pope Benedict XVI recognized a miracle attributed to her intercession and she was beatified on September 25, 2010. One additional miracle is necessary to pave the way for her to be canonized as a "saint."

(Above reflections are taken from various resources)

Also read about - *St. John Paul II, St. John Bosco; St. Vincent of Saragossa; St. Anthony of Lisbon; St. Bartholomew of the Martyrs; St. John de Brito; Bl. Joana of Portugal; Bl. João Fernandes; Bl. Maria Clara of the Child Jesus; Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati; Bl. Marcel Callo; Bl. Carlo Acutis*



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Some points on the theme:

«**Mary arose and went with haste**» (Lk 1:39) is the Bible quote chosen by Pope Francis as the motto of the World Youth Day. The biblical phrase opens the account of the Visitation (Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth), a biblical episode following the Annunciation (the angel's announcement to Mary that she would be the mother of the Son of God, and the theme of the last WYD, in Panama).

During their conversation of the Annunciation, the angel also tells Mary that her older cousin, thought to be sterile, is pregnant. After affirming to the angel "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word" (Lk 1:38), it is then that Mary sets out for Ain Karim, a village near Jerusalem where Elizabeth lived and was awaiting the birth of John, who would become Saint John the Baptist.

Mary of Nazareth is the great figure of the Christian journey. She teaches us to say yes to God. She was the protagonist of the last edition of WYD and will be so once again in Lisbon.

In the biblical episode of the Visitation, the action of standing up presents Mary as both a woman of charity and a missionary woman. Leaving in haste represents the attitude depicted in Pope Francis' indications for WYD Lisbon 2023: «may young people's evangelization be active and missionary, for this is how they will recognize and witness the presence of the living Christ».

Addressing young people in particular, and challenging them to be courageous missionaries, the following was written by the Pope in the Apostolic Exhortation *Christus Vivit*: «Where does Jesus send us? There are no borders, no limits: he sends us everywhere. The Gospel is for everyone, not just for some» (CV 177).

"Mary rose up and went into the hill country with haste," and we are at once arrested by this last phrase, "with haste." It is the one occasion in the whole of Our Lady's life in which such a word or idea is anywhere connected with her. It stands out in striking contrast with the habitual reserve, self-possession, and perfect calm of her life and character. In the Annunciation and the Crucifixion, those two most solemn moments when, if ever, her whole moral being was tried to its very inmost depths of what spirit it was, nothing is more remarkable than the total absence of any manifestation of feeling. What then is the meaning of this announcement, that "She rose up and went with haste"? The mystery of the Incarnation has now been accomplished in her womb; the Holy Spirit has come upon her, and the power of the Most High has overshadowed her; and it is impossible not to attribute this haste to a divine impulse given by Him whom she now bears within her.

Mary was sent to Elizabeth. they exchanged their joy. "Where does Jesus send us? There are no borders, no limits: he sends us everywhere. The Gospel is for everyone, not just for some. It is not only for those who seem closer to us, more receptive, more welcoming. It is for everyone. Do not be afraid to go and bring Christ into every area of life, to the fringes of society, even to those who seem farthest away and most indifferent. The Lord seeks all; he wants everyone to feel the warmth of his mercy and his love". He invites us to be fearless missionaries wherever we are and in whatever company we find ourselves: in our neighbourhoods, in school or sports or social life, in volunteer service or in the workplace. He loves you, dear young people, for you are the means by which he can spread his light and hope. He is counting on your courage, your boldness and your enthusiasm.

Don't think that this mission is soft and easy. Some young people have given their lives for the sake of missionary outreach. As the Korean bishops put it: "we hope that we can be grains of wheat and instruments for the salvation of humanity, following upon the example of the martyrs. Though our faith is as small as a mustard seed, God will give it growth and use it as an instrument for his work of salvation". Young friends, don't wait until tomorrow to contribute your energy, your audacity and your creativity to changing our world. Your youth is not an "in-between time". You are the now of God, and he wants you to bear fruit. For "it is in giving that we receive". The best way to prepare a bright future is to experience the present as best we can, with commitment and generosity. (*Christus Vivit* #177,178)

Let us not waste time. Like our heavenly mother, let's go in haste to spread the message of the gospel.

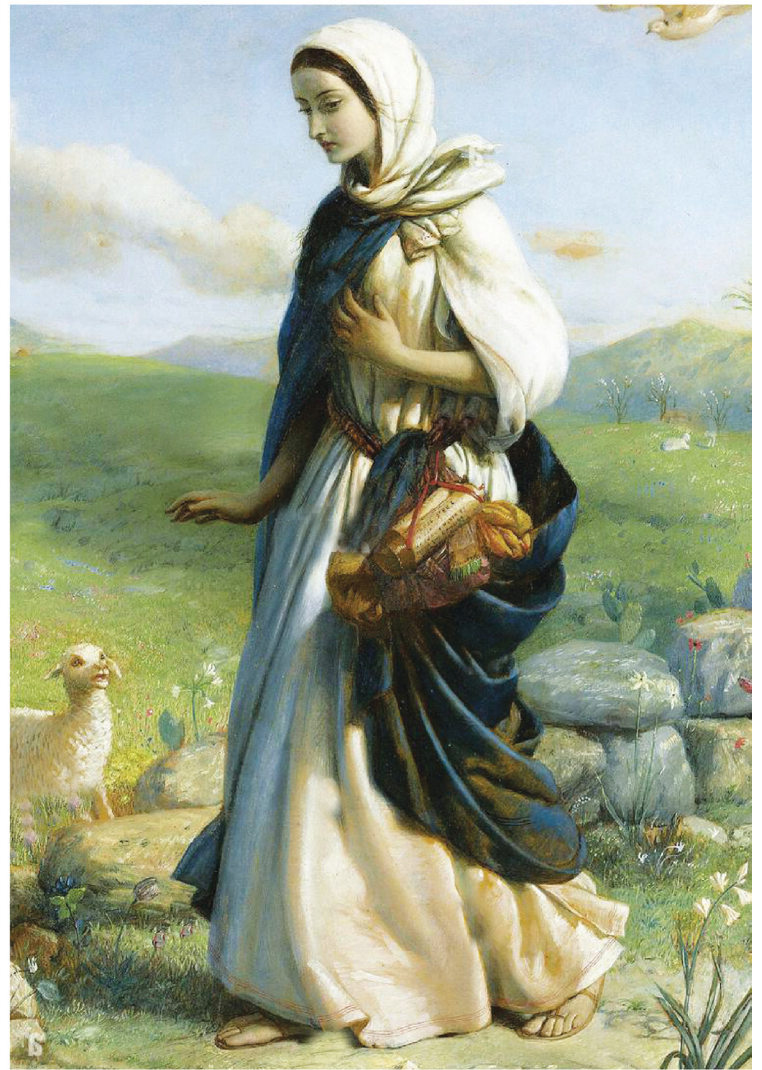
Alternative reading: 1st Reading Revelation 11:19A; 12:1-6A, 10AB; Psalm 45:10, 11, 12, 16; 2nd Reading 1 Corinthians 15:20-27; Gospel Luke 1:39-56)

★ Let's
Celebrate!
★

National Youth SUNDAY



**14
AUG
2022**



**‘Mary rose up
and went
with haste ‘**

Lk1:39

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