

Dear Friends,

As a member of the Family of Jesus Christ I observe that this is a period in which Christians may not be certain about so many things around us. Please allow me to mention a few. Whilst enjoying the sunny weather over the past few days, I was reminded that fine dust and sand was brought all the way from the Sahara Desert, to be deposited on my car and garden furniture last week. Next, the COVID pandemic is leading us to expect another jab amidst increased numbers of people testing positive for COVID. Thirdly, for three weeks now, we continue to pray for peace in Ukraine and for a cessation of hostilities between Ukraine and its neighbour Russia.

In Mark 13: Jesus teaches his followers about the signs before the end of the age: citing freak weather conditions, hearing about wars, rumours of wars and other anguishes, which may include, personal, international, or geological distresses. In the midst of all this, Jesus taught us that the Gospel must be preached to all nations (Mark 13:10). This is where the invitation of Jesus may play a good part: Come unto me all who have laboured and are tired of carrying heavy loads and I will give you 'rest'. (Matthew 11 25-30). Thus, we go to Jesus Christ especially in our minds, in order to gain rest from our heavy challenges.

For me, this calls for resilience to stand on our guards, in faith and to know spiritually that, God our Lord of heaven and earth is in truth the author of every life span. From God Christians may find comfort because of Jesus Christ through whom we have eternal life. I also encourage us to keep our faith in Jesus from whom we would find rest and vitality for our weary minds, heart, soul and sometimes "strengthless" or "weakened" bodies.

As this period of 'Lent' reminds us of experiencing temptations in the midst of lack may we remember that Jesus displayed the act of his own-resurrection and then promised believers that he would ask the Father to send us another comforter, that may abide with us forever. Consequently, we go on towards Easter in hope for resurrection, new-growth or Springtime. Afterwards, with every celebration of Pentecost we reaffirm the truth that God's Holy Spirit the comforter, is available and will be with us till the end of time.

Finally, to find hope, rest and peace which surpasses all understanding for today and tomorrow, I pray that we may find solace by focussing on Jesus Christ, whilst we continue to love God and love our neighbours as ourselves. May we see this sort of dedication as the wisdom for our times. This is a wisdom that God has kept from the wise and learned but revealed it to people who have childlike minds. May God take control of our heavy yoke and make our burdens light. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Loving regards

Revd Sydney Samuel Lake