SCRIPTURE QUOTE TO MEMORISE:

No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' unless he is under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

(1 Corinthians 12:3)

They could understand the proclamations of the mighty acts of God by Jesus' followers. How is this gift significant to us? We must realise that salvation was not for the Jews only but is for all who believe. This gift is a gift for evangelization, to continue Christ's mission on earth, to which we are all called for. The Word of God is meant to be heard by everyone, be it in the language of men or in the language of angels (1 Cor 13:1).

The second reading proclaims all of us as children of God. How profound! We, who are weak and sinful, are heirs of God and co-heirs in Christ for we have received His Spirit and His Spirit lives in us. We are enabled by the Holy Spirit to call out to God 'Abba, Father'.

The Gospel speaks what Jesus taught his disciples: anyone who loves Him will keep His commandments. In His discourse, he proclaims the communion of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. He also proclaims our communion with Him and the Father, their dwelling within us. It is made possible by the Spirit in us, the Paraclete whom Jesus promised that God, the Father will send in His name to teach and guide us to keep His commandments.

Today is the birthday of the Church. Alleluia! It is the 50th day after Jesus' resurrection and the 10th after His ascension into heaven. It marks the beginning of the Church's mission to the world. The Spirit that He sent constantly brings about the Church's apostolic renewal, religious awakening and dynamism. The Church is alive!

As we welcome the Holy Spirit in our lives, we welcome all His charisms, His special graces. We pray that we will let the Holy Spirit guide us, open our hearts and minds and with the psalmist exclaim, 'Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.' Renew us!

SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Acts 2:1-11;

Psalms 103: 1, 24, 29-31, 34;

Romans 8: 8-17;

John 14: 15-16, 23-26.

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The readings today pack a punch. The first speaks of the gift of tongues when the Holy Spirit rested upon the apostles. Everyone heard them speaking in their own native language and were amazed.