

HOMILY SERIES FOR THE EPARCHIAL ASSEMBLY

Dear Fathers

Since the Lineamenta is intended to prepare the faithful for the Eparchial Assembly, preaching on its five themes over five consecutive Sundays would help parishioners reflect prayerfully before participating in the discussions.

The following homily points are intended to help parish priests create awareness among the faithful about the vision, purpose, and importance of the Eparchial Assembly. Each homily should help the faithful understand why these themes matter, invite them to reflect honestly on the life of their families and parish community, and encourage them to participate actively in the process of renewal. The homilies should foster a sense of shared responsibility, inspiring the faithful to identify the pastoral challenges facing our Eparchy and to contribute prayerfully and constructively towards finding practical pastoral responses.

These points are offered as homily outlines rather than complete homilies, allowing each priest to develop them in harmony with the Sunday Gospel and the pastoral context of the parish.

FIRST SUNDAY

Theme: The Eucharist: Where My Life Meets Christ

The Eucharist is not something we attend—it is Someone we encounter.

Many Catholics attend Mass every Sunday. Few truly meet Christ.

The tragedy today is not empty churches alone.

It is hearts that remain untouched after receiving Jesus.

Every Sunday Jesus waits for us.

Why Jesus Instituted the Eucharist? CCC 1337 says: He became Eucharist to be with us always and to make us sharers in his Passover.

Jesus wants to be with us. He waits for us in the Tabernacle.

The Eucharist is not our gift to God.

It is God's gift to us.

People prepare for weddings, birthdays, business meetings.

But how many prepare to meet Jesus in the Eucharist.

The altar changes ordinary people.

Every Eucharist tells one story:

Broken Bread...

Poured-out Blood...

Broken people transformed into disciples.

The saints were not changed by attending many meetings.

They were changed because they allowed Christ to change them in the Eucharist.

Families should gather around one table.

Many families eat together less than once a week.

Sunday Qurbana is the one meal that should never be missed.

If children see parents choosing sport, shopping or entertainment over Sunday worship, they learn what is truly important.

Children and young people learn faith by watching us live it.

We must understand what we celebrate.

Many know every football rule or cricket rule

Few understand the meaning of:

- the incense; the altar; the processions; the prayers; silence

People love what they understand.

Explain the meaning of signs and symbols in the Holy Qurbana. For example: The altar is the symbol of the resurrected Lord (CCC 1383). When the priest kisses the altar, he kisses the risen Lord.

Explain to the people the importance of altar, the sanctuary etc.

Importance of celebrating Holy Qurbana in English.

Children need to understand the meaning of the prayers of the Holy Qurbana if they need to participate experientially and meaningfully,

Practical Challenge

- Try to come to the church 10 minutes early.
- Read the Gospel before Sunday.

- Explain one symbol of the Holy Qurbana to your children.

Dignity of Eucharistic Celebration

In chapter five of *Ecclesia de Eucharistia* Pope John Paul II emphasizes that the Eucharist must be celebrated with the utmost reverence and beauty.

The woman who anointed Jesus with costly perfume teaches the Church that no expense of love or devotion is too great when honoring His Body.

The disciples' careful preparation for the Last Supper illustrates the meticulous care required for the Holy Qurbana

Are we really aware of this when we celebrate Holy Qurbana in our parish?

Conclusion

The renewal of the Church begins when hearts return to the altar. Fr. Joseph Jungmann SJ reminds us that *the best Eucharistic catechesis is the Sunday Holy Qurbana*. Let us therefore celebrate every Sunday Holy Qurbana with dignity, reverence, and faithful observance of the Church's liturgical norms. *Never forget: Time given to Christ is never time lost; it is time gained.*

SECOND SUNDAY

Chapter II: Strengthening the Domestic Church

"Healing the Domestic Church"

Many families live under one roof.

Few truly live together.

We share Wi-Fi.

But not always our hearts.

Marriage is a sacrament, not merely a relationship.

The wedding day is not the finish. It is the beginning.

Jesus remains the third person in every Christian marriage.

Without Him, love becomes fragile.

Small words save marriages.

"I'm sorry." "Thank you." "I forgive you." "I need you."

Families rarely collapse overnight.

They slowly stop speaking from the heart.

Children learn faith by watching.

Not from catechism alone.

They remember:

Dad praying.

Mother forgiving.

Parents receiving Communion.

Faith begins in the living room before it reaches the classroom.

Family prayer changes homes.

No family has ever become weaker because they prayed together.

Practical Challenge

Hold one family prayer.

Read one Gospel passage.

Pray the Rosary.

Bless one another.

Conclusion

If every home becomes a little church,

the whole Church becomes alive.

THIRD SUNDAY

Chapter III: Catechesis: Handing on the Faith and Forming Disciples for Christ

Catechism is the Mission of the Church

- Jesus' final command was not simply to baptize but to **teach**.
- Every generation has the responsibility to hand on the faith to the next.
- Catechism is one of the most important ministries of every parish because it forms future disciples and future leaders of the Church.
- A parish with vibrant catechism is a parish with hope for the future.

Faith Begins at Home

- Parents are the first teachers of faith.
- Children learn faith more from what they see than from what they hear.
- Family prayer, Sunday Holy Qurbana, forgiveness, charity, and Christian values become the first catechism.
- Catechism classes strengthen what begins in the family—they can never replace it.

The Parish is a Family that Educates in Faith

- Catechesis belongs to the whole parish.
- Priests, teachers, parents, youth leaders, choir members, and every parishioner contribute to forming children.
- Every child should feel welcomed, loved, and encouraged in the parish community.
- Encourage parishioners to see every child as "our child," not merely someone else's.

The Beauty of Our Syro-Malabar Heritage

- Our Church has received a rich spiritual and liturgical tradition from the Apostolic Church.
- Catechism helps children appreciate the beauty of the Syro-Malabar liturgy, prayers, traditions, and spirituality.
- Preserving our heritage is not about preserving customs alone but preserving faith.

Catechism Forms the Whole Person

Catechism is much more than learning lessons.

It helps children:

- know Jesus personally,
- understand Church teaching,
- love Sacred Scripture,
- participate in the sacraments,
- develop Christian values,

Faith formation should touch the heart, mind, and daily life.

Sunday Holy Qurbana is the Heart of Catechesis

- The most important catechism lesson is celebrated every Sunday at the altar.
- Classroom learning reaches its fullness in worship.
- Encourage families never to separate catechism from Sunday Holy Qurbana.

Recognising Today's Challenges

Our families face many genuine difficulties:

- busy work schedules,
- long travel,
- sporting commitments,
- language barriers,
- competing priorities,
- digital distractions.

Rather than judging families, the Church walks with them and supports them in keeping Christ at the centre.

What message do we give our children when every activity becomes more important than Sunday worship?

Catechists: Silent Missionaries of Faith

- Catechists generously dedicate their Sundays to forming children.
- They share not only knowledge but also their faith and witness.
- They deserve gratitude, encouragement, and continuous formation.
- Pray regularly for catechists and support their ministry.

Faith Must Continue Beyond School Years

One of the greatest pastoral concerns is that many young people drift away after finishing catechism.

Faith should not end with graduation.

The goal of catechism is:

- lifelong friendship with Christ,

- active participation in parish life,
- faithful celebration of the sacraments,
- missionary discipleship.

Encourage young people to remain involved in youth ministry, parish service, and Sunday worship.

A Call to Parents

Parents often make great sacrifices for their children's education, sports, and future careers.

The greatest gift parents can give is a living faith.

The parish should renew its commitment to faith formation.

Encourage everyone:

- pray daily as a family,
- attend Sunday Holy Qurbana faithfully,
- support the catechism ministry,
- appreciate catechists,
- help children encounter Jesus personally.

Conclusion

"Faith is not simply taught in the classroom; it is lived in the family, celebrated in the Holy Qurbana, and witnessed in the parish community. Together, let us hand on to our children not merely religious knowledge, but a living relationship with Jesus Christ."

FOURTH SUNDAY

Chapter IV: Young People at the Heart of the Renewal

"Our Young People Are Not Leaving Jesus—They Are Looking for Him"

Dear parents: when was the last time your son or daughter asked you a question about faith?

If they no longer ask us,
they may be asking Google.

If they no longer ask the Church,
they will ask social media.

Someone will answer their questions.

Young people need witnesses, not lecturers.

They listen less to sermons.

They watch our lives.

Do they see: parents praying? priests joyful? families forgiving? faith lived daily?

The Church must become home.

Young people stay where they are known.

Not where they are merely welcomed.

Every young person should know:

Someone notices me.

Someone misses me.

Someone believes in me.

We accompany before we correct.

Jesus walked with the disciples to Emmaus.

He listened first. Explained later.

The Church must do the same.

Practical Challenge

Parents:

Have one uninterrupted family conversation this week.

No phones.

Just listening.

The greatest gift we can give young people is not success. It is Christ.

FIFTH SUNDAY

Chapter V: Syro-Malabar Community Empowerment in the Australian Context

We Are Blessed to Become a Blessing

God did not bring us to Australia merely to have better jobs.

He brought us here for mission.

Migration is not an accident. It can become God's mission.

We carry a treasure.

Our Syro-Malabar tradition is not nostalgia. It is a gift for Australia.

The Church needs our spirituality, our families, our Eucharistic faith.

Preserve identity without building walls.

We remain proudly Syro-Malabar. But we also serve the wider Church. Identity and mission belong together.

Every Catholic is a missionary.

Mission is not only overseas. It begins: at work, at school, among neighbours, online. People first meet Christ through us.

Build leaders for tomorrow.

Young people must not only inherit the Church. They must help lead it. Leadership begins with service.

Practical Challenge

Invite one family, one neighbour, or one friend to Holy Qurbana. Become someone's bridge to Christ.

Conclusion

The future of Christianity in Australia may depend upon ordinary families who live extraordinary faith. May our Syro-Malabar community become **rooted in the Eucharist, strengthened as the domestic Church, and renewed for mission.**