



### First Reading

**Ez 9:5-9**

A reading from the book of Ezra

*Our God has not forgotten us in our slavery.*

At the evening sacrifice I, Ezra, came out of my stupor and falling on my knees, with my garment and cloak torn, I stretched out my hands to the Lord my God, and said:

'My God, I am ashamed, I blush to lift my face to you, my God. For our crimes have increased, until they are higher than our heads, and our sin has piled up to heaven. From the days of our ancestors until now our guilt has been great; on account of our crimes we, our kings and our priests, were given into the power of the kings of other countries, given to the sword, to captivity, to pillage and to shame, as is the case today. But now, suddenly, the Lord our God by his favour has left us a remnant and granted us a refuge in his holy place; this is how our God has cheered our eyes and given us a little respite in our slavery. For we are slaves: but God has not forgotten us in our slavery; he has shown us kindness in the eyes of the kings of Persia, obtaining permission for us to rebuild the Temple of our God and restore its ruins, and he has found us safety and shelter in Judah and in Jerusalem.'

### Responsorial Psalm

**Tb 13:2. 4. 6-8. R. v.1**

**(R.)** Blessed be God who lives for ever.

1. God punishes, he also has mercy,  
he leads men to the depths of the grave,  
he restores them from the great destruction.  
No man can escape his hand. **(R.)**
2. It is he who scattered us among the nations.  
Among them must we show forth his greatness  
and exalt him in the presence of all living;  
for he is our Lord and our God,  
our Father and our God for ever. **(R.)**
3. Now think what he has done for you,  
give thanks to him with all your voice.  
give praise to the Lord for his justice  
and exalt the kings of all ages. **(R.)**
4. In this land of exile I will thank him,  
and show forth his greatness and might  
to the race of sinful men. **(R.)**
5. Sinners, come back to him,  
do what is right before him.  
Who knows but he will receive you with pity? **(R.)**

### Gospel

**Lk 9:1-6**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*He sent them to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.*

Jesus called the Twelve together and gave them power and authority over all devils and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. He said to them, 'Take nothing for the journey: neither staff, nor haversack, nor bread, nor money, and let none of you take a spare tunic. Whatever house you enter, stay there; and when you leave, let it be from there. As for those who do not welcome you, when you leave their town shake the dust from your feet as a sign to them.' So they set out and went from village to village proclaiming the Good News and healing everywhere.

## Homily Fr Graham Fullick

Do you remember as a parent or as a child yourself watching your parents, usually dad “pack the car boot for the annual holidays”? Everyone brings out what they think they will need for a good time. The cases of cosmetics, the bicycles, the electronic devices, lap tops, smart phones, games consoles, stuffed toys, skateboards, Esky, gas bottle and barbecue, folding picnic table and chairs, beach umbrella, canopy, surf boards, motor bikes, tent, fishing rods and gear, three swimsuits, six outfits, accessories, hair curler, wand and dryer, case/s of beer--and food... . And then you watch as it is packed and re-packed and rationalised, justified and weeded-out. As the vehicle goes from a car to a S.U.V. to a people mover, to a ute, to vehicle and trailer, or caravan, or boat all fully loaded—the contents just get more and more?! There is some law of unlimited wants and limited space that eventually fills to the vehicle packer’s back teeth!

Life is our Holy Days—“holidays”. Notice how “holidays” are around the Holy Days of Easter and ChristMass? This is a microcosm of the space we have been given, our life’s time to live a life of becoming and being holy. Our life’s journey is not our own. We are called to sanctification in daily life. The time for the vacation from heaven is our time on earth when we are indeed vacant from heaven. Somehow we forget that our destination on the trip of our life-time is not our time, but the time God has given us and that our destination is back to the judgment of heaven or hell or purgation. We do not know whether we have a bicycle for the short journey or the big ute and trailer for the long and eventful journey.

With what do we need to travel? What is the essential baggage we need for life’s journey? The Latin name for baggage is “impedimentia”. That word “impediment” should give us a clue as to what we do not need to take! Nothing that weighs us down. Jesus has come to lighten the load. The only thing we need for our mission in life is our body which God has given us Himself. We are temples of the Holy Spirit. The only thing we carry is not outside us but inside us, the Eternal soul given to us by God at our conception. We are to conceive ourselves as God has conceived ourselves. Most of us spend our whole lives running from who we are in order to “find ourselves”. Just look at the wellness, new age, travel, diversion, hobbies, escapism sections of the news agent’s or what the web invites us to. It is all at a price whether monetary or false salvation catering to temporal passing wants and false needs and passions that do not fulfill eternally. If they are attractive to our soul, the world’s travel inclusions are stolen away or lost by the evil baggage handler, the devil, the spirit of evil. On life’s journey, so much of what we think we need for the trip of a life time is about what we think we need to bring or take. We have nothing in and of ourselves that is good that God has not already given us for the missionary journey.

The divinely given soul is the one Eternal thing God has given us. Everything else is a useless accessory, or if useable it is to be used according to God’s Eternal purpose and destination. The world is our cruise ship. It already has storms, tides, reefs, rocks, cyclones, hurricanes and crashing waves. We cannot prevent these or succumbing to these at some point. Every temporal journey of human life ends. The human law of impediment of sin does not exist in Christ. If we pack Him in our soul more and more, the divine law of lightness operates. In all these surges of life we rise with the lightness of a cork—even while experiencing them all at sea. What useless things have you jettisoned? What have you prayed to take on your journey? A humble, contrite soul the Lord will not spurn?

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