

*Celebrating Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019...*

**17 October 2019**

**Memorial of St Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and Martyr**

Rom 3:21-30; Ps 130:1b-6b; Lk 11:47-54

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In the first reading St Paul tells us that we are justified by the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ and not by mere observance of the law. Keeping the Laws are important but if they are not done from a faith-driven desire then they are worthless and brings no fruits to our life. Faith is all important if our actions are to be seen as Christian and Christ-like and so bring us to eternal life. St.Paul also tells us that we do not earn faith because of our good works and so should never use our good deeds as a way of showing off our faith. We are all sinners and have gone away from the Glory of God. But the Grace of God has opened the path to heaven for all of us. Because the blood shed by the Lord is expiation for our sins. It is through the faith we regain this lost Glory of God.

In the Gospel passage for today we again see Jesus admonishing the Pharisees for their lack of honesty before the Lord. These people simply followed the laws just to satisfy the teachings of the prophets. They failed to see the inner meaning of the law. It was meant to see the Love of God and love of the neighbour. But they gave more importance to the outward observances of the law. They build the tombs for the prophets who their own forefathers had killed and so their generation will now pay for the slaughter of the prophets. The Pharisees then begin a '*furious attack on him to try to catch him out*'. Often we too pretend to be holy before others. Instead of correcting ourselves we show more enthusiasm to correct the other in our day today life. Let us examine ourselves before the Lord how genuine we are before the Lord. We cannot hide ourselves from the sight of the Lord. He sees everything and everyone in secret. His watchful eyes are upon us.

Today the Church remembers also the Memorial of St Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & Martyr. He said 'A Christian does not live for himself alone. He belongs to God". This realization is what we also need in our life.

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