

Homily by Fr. Robin CRM for the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Readings: *Habakkuk 1:2–3; 2:2–4; 2 Timothy 1:6–8, 13–14; Luke 17:5–10*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today's readings invite us to rediscover the beauty of faith that waits, faith that perseveres, and faith that serves.

1. "How long, O Lord?" — Habakkuk's Cry and Ours

The prophet Habakkuk looks around his world and sees only injustice and suffering. He cries out:

"How long, O Lord, shall I cry for help and you will not listen?"

That could easily be our prayer today. When we read the news — about wars, divisions, and poverty — or when we face our own struggles: illness, loneliness, family worries, or uncertainty about the future — we, too, ask, "Lord, where are you?"

God's reply to Habakkuk is not an instant solution but a promise:

"The vision still has its time... wait for it, for it will surely come."

Faith, then, is not blind optimism; it is trusting God's timing. It means believing that God is at work even when we cannot see the results.

At St. Laurence, I've often seen this kind of faith — in parishioners who keep praying for loved ones, who care for family members patiently, or who volunteer quietly week after week. That is faith alive in daily life.

2. "Fan into flame the gift of God" — Paul's Advice to Timothy

In the second reading, St. Paul encourages Timothy:

"Fan into flame the gift of God that is in you."

Faith is not something static; it can grow weak if neglected. Paul reminds us that we have been given a spirit not of fear, but of power, love, and self-control.

Here in Cambridge, many of us live busy lives — studies, work, children, constant deadlines. It's easy for our faith to be pushed to the edges. But Paul says: *fan it into Flame!* That means praying regularly, coming to the Eucharist not just as a routine, but as a renewal. It means reading Scripture, forgiving when it's hard, and serving one another joyfully.

When we do that, we keep the flame of faith burning — and that flame can warm many hearts around us.

### 3. “Increase our faith!” — The Apostles’ Prayer

In the Gospel, the apostles make a humble request:

“Lord, increase our faith!”

They don’t ask for more success, comfort, or miracles — they ask for faith.

And Jesus answers with an image:

“If you had faith the size of a mustard seed...”

The mustard seed is tiny, but it holds enormous potential. Jesus reminds us that even a small, genuine faith can do great things.

Think of the small acts of faith in our parish — a kind word to a newcomer, a parent teaching a child to pray, someone who forgives after years of hurt, or the quiet generosity of those who give their time or means to help the poor. Each of these is a *mustard seed of faith*, and God can make it grow.

### 4. “We are unworthy servants...” — Faith in Humble Service

Jesus goes on to speak of the servant who simply does his duty. It sounds stern at first, but He is teaching us that faith expresses itself not in dramatic gestures but in humble, faithful service.

We live in a culture that often says, “What do I get out of this?” But the Gospel calls us to a different attitude: “Lord, what can I give?”

Many people in our parish serve quietly — from the musicians and catechists to those who clean the church, visit the sick, and prepare the altar each week. They don’t do it for praise but out of love. That is the heart of Christian faith: *love expressed in humble service*.

Mother Teresa once said,

“We may not be able to do great things, but we can do small things with great love.”

That’s what Jesus means by faith that serves.

So, my dear friends, today’s readings invite us to:

- Trust like Habakkuk — even when God seems silent.
- Rekindle our faith like Timothy — feeding it with prayer and love.
- Pray like the apostles — “Lord, increase our faith.”
- Serve like the humble servant — with gratitude, not seeking recognition.

Faith doesn’t remove our struggles, but it transforms them. It gives us the strength to keep going, the hope to keep loving, and the peace to keep trusting.

Conclusion

As we continue with this Eucharist, let us bring to the altar our own “How long, O Lord?” prayers — the questions, the worries, the hopes. And let us ask Jesus once more:

“Lord, increase our faith.”

May our faith, even if as small as a mustard seed, grow strong enough to move the mountains of fear, doubt, and weariness — and make our parish community a living witness of trust and love.

Amen.