

JUNE 10 2025, FATHER FRANCIS SALASIAR

Many years ago, in a small coastal town, there was an old lighthouse that had guided sailors safely for generations.

One stormy night, a young sailor, lost in the fog, desperately searched for that beacon that would lead him to shore. But when he looked toward the lighthouse, he saw no light. Frantically, he radioed the coast guard, who contacted the lighthouse keeper.

The keeper was embarrassed and admitted, “I was so busy cleaning the lens and polishing the brass that I forgot to light the lamp.”

That night, a ship could have been lost—not because the lighthouse was broken, but because the keeper had neglected its most important function: to turn it on.

This story mirrors a painful spiritual reality. The Church has often failed to be the salt and light Christ calls us to be. We possess the power of the Gospel, but too often we hide it—whether from fear, complacency, or compromise.

Today's readings confront us with a sobering question: Have we, like the lighthouse, left the world in darkness when we were meant to shine?

In our first reading, Paul writes to a church struggling with credibility. Some accused him of being fickle, changing his plans—saying yes and no at once. His response cuts deep: “As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been ‘yes’ and ‘no.’”

He grounds his integrity in Christ—the ultimate “yes” to God’s promises. But too often, we suffer from inconsistency. We proclaim Christ on Sunday, but live like practical atheists on Monday. We sing of

God's faithfulness, yet panic in crisis as if God were absent. We post Bible verses online, but stay silent when coworkers mock the faith.

This duplicity robs the Gospel of its power. If the world sees us as no different—no more loving, no more hopeful, no more merciful—why should they believe our message?

Paul reminds us that we are anointed, sealed, and given the Spirit as a guarantee. God doesn't call us to perfection, but to authenticity—to live lives that align with the "yes" in Christ.

In the Gospel, Jesus is direct and convicting: "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything."

What happens when Christians become indistinguishable from the world around us? When we allow fear, comfort, and apathy to dull our witness? We become tasteless salt—present, but powerless; visible, but ineffective.

The truth is, many of us have lost our saltiness. We have diluted the radical call of the Gospel until it no longer changes anything—not us, not our communities. We blend in instead of standing out. We fear offending people more than we fear failing God. We give in to moral compromise. We let the world dictate our ethics rather than shaping culture with God's kingdom values.

We fall into gossip, greed, and injustice, and then wonder why society dismisses us as hypocrites. We want to be good Catholics but don't want to offend anyone. We aim to be politically correct—even when the truth of God is at stake. We've lost our distinctiveness. When our marriages, finances, and priorities look no different than unbelievers', we have lost our saltiness.

But salt is meant to preserve, to purify, to flavour. Salt is potent. Just a little makes a big difference. And the Church—you and I—are meant to be that difference in the world.

Similarly, many of us have hidden our light. We've placed it under the bowl of fear—afraid to speak the truth in love. We've hidden it under the bowl of comfort—more concerned with convenience than calling. And under the bowl of indifference—we walk past the hurting because we don't want to get involved.

Dear brothers and sisters, the world is drowning in darkness—political strife, addiction, despair, hatred, unforgiveness. They don't need more opinions. They need light. They don't need flavourless religion. They need salt.

This very day, this very moment, someone is watching your life and mine—wondering if God is real. Will we make a difference? Will they see a flicker of hope through our lives? Or will they crash because we left the light off?

The Gospel today challenges us: “Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

The time for half-hearted discipleship is over. Let us rise up and shine. The world is waiting for us. We are called to become the salt of the earth. We are called to become the light of the world.