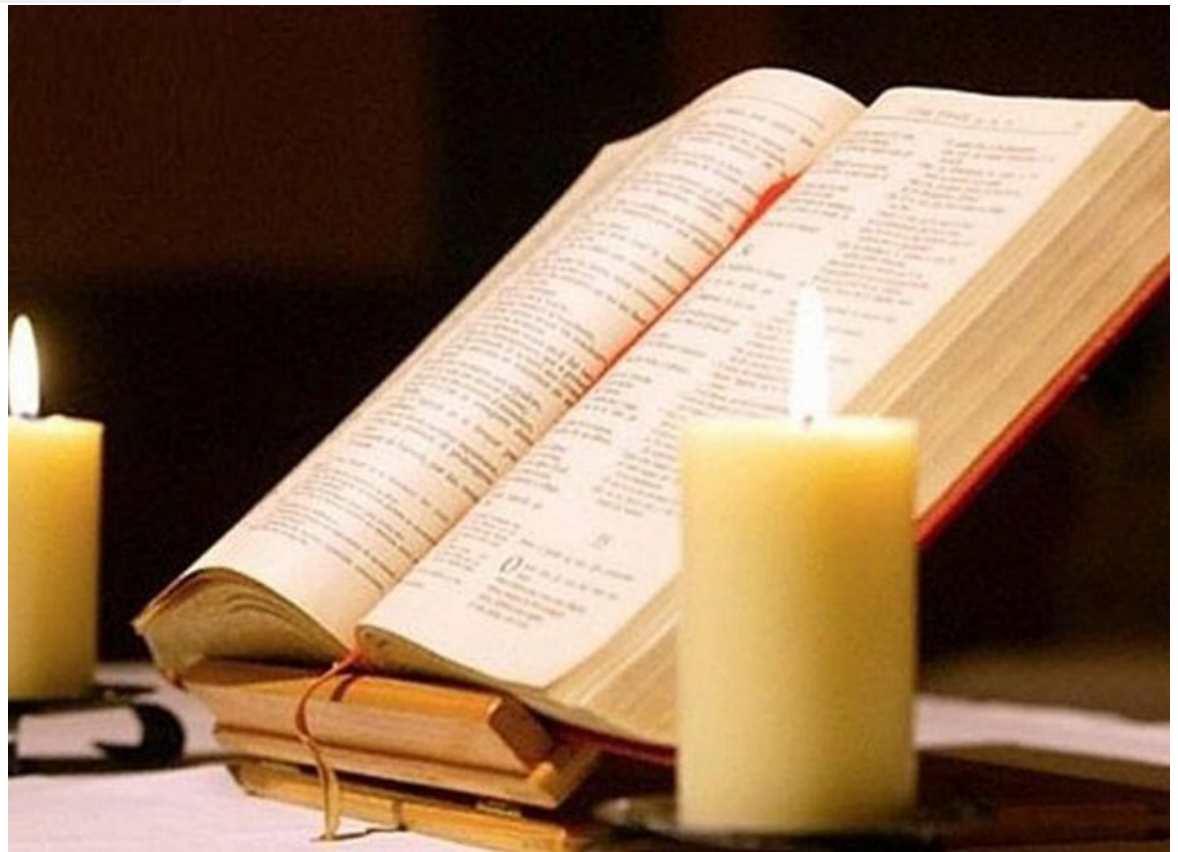GOSPEL PEARLS

Jesus, the sole good

| GOSPEL PEARLS | 09_09_2021 |

Jesus said to his disciples: "But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to

you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you." (Luke 6: 27-38)

Apostles and disciples must walk in the Master's exemplary footsteps: just as the Lord first loved them even when initially they were unlovable, likewise the Apostles must love those who cross their paths. Loving one's enemies almost never means suffering in silence. Sometimes in order to bring them to Jesus, the sole good for each and every one of us, it is more effective to persistently affirm the truth, even if this irritates others. Praying for our neighbour, on the other hand, knows no exceptions. Let us remember to do so in our daily prayers.