**Homily – Closing Mass, Act Now, Change Forever**

**Fr. Charlie Chilufya, S.J.**
**Wednesday 9 July 2025 | Westminster, London**
**Readings: Genesis 41:55–57; 42:5–7, 17–24 | Matthew 10:1–7**
**Time: 4–5 minutes**

Dear friends,

Today, we break bread at the close of a remarkable day—one filled not only with noise and protest, but with *conviction, compassion,* and a cry from the depths of our shared humanity.

We have gathered here in Westminster not for spectacle, but for something sacred:
To call a nation, and indeed the world, back to its moral senses.

And the Word of God today meets us with perfect timing.

In the first reading, we find Joseph—not just a dreamer, but a leader who turned crisis into compassion.

When famine swept the land, Pharaoh told the people:
“Go to Joseph.”
Why? Because Joseph had vision. He foresaw the storm and prepared—not for profit, but for people.
He did not build walls of fear—he opened storehouses of mercy.

My brothers and sisters, *this is what moral leadership looks like.*

And I say this especially here in the United Kingdom:
You have done this before.
I remember Gleneagles.
I remember “Make Poverty History.”
I remember the day this country stood tall—when debts were cancelled, schools were opened, medicines flowed again into African hospitals, and millions of lives were saved.
That was not just aid. That was *justice*. That was *leadership* rooted in love.

And so I say again to Britain: You can do it again.
You can lead again—for climate. For nature. For the hungry. For the forgotten.

But the Gospel does not let us remain in memory.
In Matthew 10, Jesus summons the Twelve and sends them out—two by two, with authority to heal, to raise, to cleanse, to liberate.

And what does he say?
“Go to the lost sheep.”

Jesus does not send them to the safe places.
He sends them to the edges, to the forgotten corners, to those bruised by life and broken by systems.

Today, he sends *us* the same way.

To the mother walking miles for clean water.
To the farmer whose fields have dried up.
To the child choking on smoke from climate-induced fires.
To nations shackled by debt they did not create, yet must repay with lives and futures.

He sends us to them. Now.

Because the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor are not two cries—they are one.

Friends, this Eucharist is not the end of the day. It is the fire that sends us out.

Like Joseph, store up mercy.
Like the disciples, walk with courage.
Like Jesus, *go to the lost*, with healing in your hands and justice in your voice.

And let this be our prayer as we go forth:

That when history remembers this moment,
It will not say we were overwhelmed.
It will say we were faithful.
It will say we acted.
It will say we *loved loudly.*

Act now. Change forever.
Go. Be sent. Be fire. Amen.