



*St Peter of Alcantara* was the confessor and Spiritual Director of St. Teresa of Avila. At 16, he joined the discalced Franciscans. In 1554, he founded the Franciscan order with greater rigour, known as Alcantarines. Later they joined with other Observant friars to form the Order of Friars Minor.

**First Reading:** (Rom 8:18-25) I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in travail together until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For

who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

**Ps 125**

**R./ What marvels the Lord worked for us!**

**Gospel:** (Lk 13:18-21) Jesus said, "What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it? It is like a grain of mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his garden; and it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches." And again he said, "To what shall I compare the kingdom of God? It is like leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened."

### REFLECTION

Jesus explains the mysteries of the kingdom of God with two parables; of the mustard seed and leaven. Mustard seed and leaven, although small in quantity contain in themselves the great potency to influence the surrounding. In the same way the kingdom of God is small in its appearance or insignificant in sight, but possesses a great potency to transform the society. **Each of us as Christians, as believers are the active channels of that mysterious spreading of the kingdom of God in this world.** As Christians we have that great capacity to be channels of positive change in the society, to be the mustard seed that can shelter very many, being the leaven in the society to bring transformation in the society.