

This Week's Readings

First Reading: 1 Kings 19: 9, 11-13.

The imperceptible presence of God in our lives makes us doubt. At times, we need to see His power in order to believe. Elijah teaches us that God is as much in the breeze as in the thunderstorm. Have we searched for Him in silence?

Second Reading: Romans 9: 1-5.

St Paul reminds the Romans of what he would willingly do to help his Israelite brothers understand how much God loves them. In fact, Christ came from their flesh and blood.

Gospel: Matthew 14: 22-33.

Jesus' words to Peter could so easily be spoken to us, "Why did you doubt?" How often do we raise our hands in despair when challenges come? If we look closely, we will find Jesus present. It just takes an extra effort in faith.

Points for Reflection

"When problems begin"

If we look back at all those times we felt our burdens to be the heaviest, we discover those are times we were also afraid.

Problems seem insurmountable when we are too afraid to trust ourselves and others, when we are suspicious, too skeptical or paranoid. To get by in life we need to be able to trust, no matter how untrustworthy this world may seem to be at times. Most of all we need to trust in God, to know in our guts that He has called each of us by name; that He already knew us long before we were formed in our mother's womb; that we belong to Him; that we are His children; and that He will never, never forsake us. When we forget this truth, we become afraid and insecure, and we put our faith in the wrong people: in the lotto, our dreams and desires, sweet-talking swindlers, manipulative managers, etc.

When we have great faith in everything but Divine Providence, our problems begin. We become blind to the redeeming value of work. We dull our conscience in our hurry to become millionaires. People we can't use, we discard. We get exploited; we exploit in return. We become addicted to lovers who are emotional vampires in disguise. We live our lives apart from the Giver of Life.

If we will but cast aside our worries to listen to the message in our own breath, we will hear once more the empowering voice of the Lord: "Come on, don't be afraid...take a little step closer to Me...you will not thirst in the desert, nor will you drown as you walk upon the water...Just believe in Me, please".

--- Teresa Tunay, OCDS

Sacred Heart Church Sai Kung (<i>E-mail: sacredheart@netvigator.com</i>)	
Phone: Office hours: 27922967 (with answering machine) After office hours: 27920181 Fax: 27922967	Eucharistic Celebrations: Sundays: 9.00 am (English) 7.45 am (Chinese) 10.30 am (Chinese)
Parish Priest: Fr Carlo Tei (<i>E-mail: carlottei@i-cable.com; carlottei@gmail.com</i>) Fr Sergio Ticozzi, Fr Raja, Sr Mary Leung (helping on Sundays)	Anticipated Sunday Masses Saturdays: 6.00 pm (English) 7.30 pm (Chinese) Public holidays: 8.00 am (Chinese) Weekdays: 7.00 am (Chinese)
Secretary: Miss Tse Choi Ping Office hours: Mon-Fridays: 9.00am – 1.00pm; 2.00pm – 5.30pm Sundays: 8.45am – 12 noon	Confessions: Sundays before Mass and during the 7.45 am Mass Weekdays on call
Parish Council Chairlady: Miss Candy Chan Tel: 23265322	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Thursdays: 2.30 pm 1 st Thursday of the month: 8.00 pm

Prayer for the Olympic Games

Almighty God and Father, you created men and women with the nobility of human nature and the physical ability to accomplish many things. It is your wish that human beings grow and develop physical skill, as your son, Jesus, did, gaining favour before you and before humankind. In this Olympic Games, we will be witnesses to the strength, potential and skill that you have bestowed upon the human body. Help us to appreciate the wonder of your creation through the wonder of the excellence of athletic performance. Father, protect all the athletes during the Games. Make them aware of their dignity as a competitor; help them to compete in the true spirit of the Olympics; the love of sport and the spirit of fairness. Help them to value the personal fulfillment in their performance, beyond what can be measured by the winning of medals.

Father, during the Games, you gather people of all nations as a single Olympic community. Foster the spirit of mutual appreciation among them; help them to learn from one another. May amazing exchanges take place across the boundaries of culture, language and social systems.

Help us to see sport as a common language, competition as a means of mutual encouragement and communication, and to appreciate the value of a medal as a collective human achievement. Father, help us to understand that the shared dream of our world is for the crooked to stand straight, the weak to be strengthened, the oppressed freed and the poor have a share in the common wealth.

Father, we believe that the sports stadium is not the battlefield. Sport is not a place to vent hatred or play out political agendas. Sport is an instinct, engraved in the human imagination by you, our creator, to remind us that struggle is part of our lives and that the ultimate race is the one to eternal glory.

Father, we join together as your children, as a people of good will to await the manifestation of your justice in the equality of the Olympic spirit. May all the athletes and citizens of the world engage in this great event with your blessing, with a freedom of spirit, full of peace and joy.

You are the almighty Father, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

