

## This Week's Readings

### First Reading: Genesis 2: 7-9; 3:1-7.

Man and woman, created and cared for by God, disobeyed the Creator and were cut off from him. They then experienced disorder and helplessness.

### Second Reading: Romans 5: 12, 17-19.

Paul contrasts the disobedience of Adam with the humble obedience of Jesus.

### Gospel: Matthew 4: 1-11.

Jesus himself as a man underwent temptations, but, unlike all of us, he remained faithful to God the Father.



## Points for Reflection

Lent is a time of preparation for the celebration at Easter of the Paschal Mystery of the death and resurrection of Christ. It was this Mystery that marked the beginning of our Christian life at the moment of our baptism: *"We were baptized into the death of Jesus, and raised with him to the new life of the Spirit"*. In order to understand better the Paschal Mystery, the Scripture Readings of this Sunday invite us to go through the whole divine plan of salvation.

1. Out of his infinite love, God created us in his own image, entrusting us with the role of stewards of creation, so that we might show his beauty and love through our own intelligence and will. Sin, however, came to destroy the harmony of creation. We rebelled against God; creation rebelled against us and took its revenge, by causing disharmony, suffering and death (**First Reading**).
2. Out of this failure, however, God brings salvation to us sinners. St Paul in today's **Second Reading** contrasts the disobedience of Adam with the humble obedience of Jesus. The gift of salvation brought about by Jesus' death and resurrection is far more powerful than the grip of sin that enslaved us. Through Jesus our Saviour, in Jesus our Life, and with Jesus our Way, we can achieve again the purpose for which God created us: to serve him and spread his love.
3. Temptations from any side will try to make us rebel against God again and again. In becoming man, Jesus himself underwent

such temptations (**today's Gospel**), so that he knows what it is like being tempted. His temptations were those of all men and women of human history: the temptation to put the demands of material life before those of the life of the spirit; the temptation to try to use God and religion for fulfillment of our own needs and ambitions; the temptation to serve God only on our own terms.

Unlike all of us, Jesus remained faithful to God the Father when he was tempted. He entrusted himself only to him, devoting his life entirely to his service, accepting his will even in the way he served him --- *"becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross"*. Such obedience was rewarded when angels *"ministered to him"*, for he is now enthroned above the angels in the glory of his resurrection. And by Jesus' obedience God has redeemed the world: has manifested the saving power of his merciful love.

4. This is what the Paschal Mystery is all about: only obedience to God at all costs brings true life and peace (resurrection). The Spirit of the risen Lord is with us to help us to walk in the right direction on the road that, by leading us to the cross connected with our obedience to God, is also leading us to the glory and happiness of resurrection with his Beloved Son and our Lord.
5. Lent is meant to help us relive in us this Paschal Mystery which marked the beginning of our Christian life and which we celebrate in a very special way at every Easter.

## **SACRED HEART CURCH SAI KUNG** (E-mail: [sacredheart@netvigator.com](mailto:sacredheart@netvigator.com))

<b>Phone:</b> Office hours: <b>27922967</b> (with answering machine) Urgent after office hours: <b>27920181</b> Fax: <b>27922967</b>	<b>Eucharistic Celebrations:</b> Sundays: 9:00 am (English) 7.45 am (Chinese) 10.30 am (Chinese)
<b>Parish Priest:</b> Fr Carlo Tei (E-mail: <a href="mailto:carlotei@gmail.com">carlotei@gmail.com</a> ) Fr Sergio Ticozzi (helping on Sundays)	Anticipated Sunday Mass (Sat): 6:00 pm (English) 7.30 pm (Chinese) Public holidays: 8: 00 am (Chinese) Weekdays: 7.00 am (Chinese)
<b>Secretary:</b> Miss Apple Tse <b>Office hours:</b> Mon-Fridays: 9.00am–1.00pm; 2.00pm–6.00pm Saturdays: Closed Sundays: 8.45am – 12 noon	<b>Confessions:</b> Sundays before Mass Weekdays on call
<b>P. Council</b> <b>Chairperson:</b> Mr Joseph Ma Tel: 97891442	<b>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:</b> Thursdays: 2.30pm 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month: 8.00 pm

### **Announcement**



Why are we here?  
Does my life have meaning?  
Is there something more?  
Alpha ~ exploring the questions of life...



### **Course overview:**

The Alpha course is a 15-session opportunity to explore the validity and relevance of the Catholic faith to your life today. It is a practical introduction to the basics of Christianity centered around a meal, a DVD talk and a small-group discussion.

### **Anyone Welcome:**

- Catholics who wish to deepen their faith
- Non-Christians with life-searching issues



**Fee:** Free, only minimal donation to cover the meal  
**Date:** Every Tuesday, 7:30–9:30pm (began on 8 March)  
**Venue:** Behind **Sacred Heart Church, Sai Kung, N.T.**  
**Details:** Contact Carla 98610453 or Karyn 6904 0023  
**Email:** [rgclark@netvigator.com](mailto:rgclark@netvigator.com)