

## This Week's Readings

### First Reading: Exodus 20: 1-17.

The Ten Commandments give a blueprint of our duties to God and to one another.

### Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 22-25.

To some, the idea of a crucified Saviour makes no sense whatsoever and it even verges on the scandalous. But to those who can grasp it, it is a sign of the wisdom of God.

### Gospel: John 2: 13-25.

The Temple, in which we find and worship God in Spirit and Truth, is the body of Jesus Christ, destroyed and raised up again for us.



## Points for Reflection

Those who are familiar with the Church's history are aware of how people during the twenty centuries of Christianity have reacted to their knowledge of Jesus Christ. Along with people whose expectations have not been disappointed by him, there have certainly been many who have not found in him the Messiah they have been looking for.

As St Paul puts it in today's **Second Reading**, *"Jews demand <signs>, Greeks look for <wisdom>, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews, and foolishness to Gentiles"*.

Jesus' reply to the expectations and demands of the people of all times and places is always the same: his body destroyed on the Cross and raised up by the Father, his death and resurrection – **the Paschal Mystery**. And this is, indeed, a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to the Gentiles; but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike, Christ crucified and risen is the power and the wisdom of God.

What is our reaction to the Paschal Mystery? We are so used to the sight of the Cross that we may have lost the sense of what it meant to Jesus and of what it should mean to us. But, no matter what our human "wisdom" is, the message of today's Scripture Readings is that **we cannot have a personal relationship with God other than in the Temple of the humanity of Christ**. God cannot be found through philosophy (our human thinking) or through "signs" and miracles (through extraordinary events) or through the law (although the observance of the law can help us to be faithful to God). **God can be found only through the "foolishness" of the Cross, because God abides in the crucified and risen Christ.**

It is only by accepting the crucified Christ; it is only by believing in the crucified Christ (that is: it is only by spending and offering our lives for our brethren, after the example of Jesus and in union with him), that we will be able to rise with him, which means having access to a life of communion with God.

Nothing can help us have a personal relationship with God and enter his Kingdom unless we relive in ourselves the Paschal Mystery and are moved and led by his Spirit of Love in whatever we say and do.

Let us always keep in mind the words of St John in his First Letter: *“We Know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers”* (1 John 3: 14).

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### Kids' Corner

*Colour the picture of Moses and the Ten Commandments below.*

