

This Week's Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 53: 10-11.

By his sufferings, the Servant of the Lord will bring men salvation.

Second Reading: Hebrews 4: 14-16.

Jesus has experienced all the weaknesses and difficulties of human conditions.

Gospel: Mark 10: 35-45.

Anyone who wants to be leader must first of all a servant.



Points for Reflection

World Mission Sunday, which we celebrate today, comes every year to remind us that **the Church's most important duty is the preaching of the Gospel.**

We read in **today's Gospel**, *"The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."* The same truth is proclaimed in the Creed when we say of Jesus: *"For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven."*

Most people of the world are still waiting for someone to announce to them the news of salvation. After two thousand years since the coming of the Son of God into the world, only about one person in five is Christian. Yet, Jesus Christ is their only Saviour, and he commissioned his disciples to the service of revealing him to the world: *"Go and teach all nations."*

Most of the people to whom we are called to reveal Jesus Christ are not atheists, because for some good reason they already believe in God. Yet their knowledge of God is weak and incomplete, sometimes mixed with error and darkened by sin.

God, in his mercy, has given mankind a surer knowledge of himself through the history of the People of Israel, and above all, through his Son Jesus Christ, who came into the world and gave us the New and Eternal Covenant, which unveils God's plan of salvation. It is the news of the Crucified and Risen Son of God, the only Saviour and Lord of mankind, that his disciples have the mission to spread.

St Paul used to ask prayers for all people, saying that God "wills everyone to be saved and come to the knowledge of the Gospel." To this plea he added his own wonderful missionary work, which remains an inspiration and example for us all.

All of us, whether priests, religious or lay people, are called to do all we can to spread the Gospel: to tell everyone that there is no salvation but in "The Son of Man who did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."

How can and should we fulfill our missionary obligation?

1. First of all, we should **pray every day for more missionary vocations**, always keeping in mind Jesus' words: "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. *Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into the harvest field.*" (Mt 9: 37).
2. Besides praying everyday for more missionary vocations, we should **create in our families an atmosphere conducive to the flourishing of missionary vocations among our children**. How, in fact, would children develop any interest in and be attracted to the missionary work unless their parents were exemplary Christians, interested and somehow involved in spreading the Gospel in their daily lives?
3. Those who feel they are called to devote themselves to missionary work should **respond to Jesus' call without hesitation**, after the example of the first missionaries, the Apostles, who, when called by Jesus, "*left everything and followed him.*" (Lk 5: 11)
4. If we feel we are not called to be full time missionaries, we owe our love, our prayers, our spiritual and material help and **support to the missionaries** who are close to us, and also to the missionaries who are spread all over the world. They cannot do their work without us.
5. But, of course, there is also the **home mission where we live**.
 - If at all possible, we should be **active members of our parish** community and join the work of the Catechists either in the Sunday school for children or in the Catechumenate.
 - We should **grow in our religious knowledge**, in order to be able to give reasons for our Christian faith to anyone interested in it.
 - We should talk **with people about what we believe**.
 - We should **pray for people without faith or hope**.
 - And, above all, we should **preach the Gospel by witnessing to it by our Christ-like daily lives**. "*You are to be my witnesses*" (Acts 1: 8), Jesus told his disciples, before his Ascension.

Wherever we are and whatever we do in our daily private, family or social lives, we are called to be witnesses to the Crucified and Risen Lord. By the way we think, speak and behave, by the way we relate to people and care for them, we should become the living signs of the presence of Jesus in the world, so that those who are still outside the Church may come to us asking: "We want to come with you, because we have come to realize that God is with you!" If and when that happens, they will also have recognized that God, in whom we believe, is the God and Father of Jesus Christ.

Sacred Heart Church Sai Kung (E-mail: sacredheart@netvigator.com)	
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Parish Priest: Fr Carlo Tei carlotei@gmail.com Fr Sergio Ticozzi, 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

Third Week of Mission Month MONEY OFFERING

In Mission Countries, the building and maintenance of hospitals, schools and dispensaries have always been the best way to show God's Love for others, especially the poor. Let us, therefore, be generous in giving what we can afford.

St Paul asked for this kind of generosity to help the poor of his time (1 Cor: 8 & 9). And the Pope reminds us: "Cooperating in missionary activity means not just giving but also receiving."

All the particular churches, both young and old, are called to give and to receive in the context of the universal mission, and none should be closed to the needs of others.

The Council states: "By virtue of... catholicity, the individual parts bring their own gifts to the other parts and to the whole Church, in such a way that the whole and individual parts grow greater through the mutual communication of all and their united efforts toward fullness in unity... Between the different parts of the Church there are bonds of intimate communion with regard to spiritual riches, apostolic workers and temporal assistance... *it is by giving generously of what we have that we will receive*". (Redemptoris Missio, No.85)

A few ideas for practice during the week:

- (1) Spend less on leisure items and donate the equivalent to the missions.
- (2) Encourage school children to donate part of the weekly allowance for the missions.

