

This Week's Readings

First Reading: Genesis 12: 1-4.

God calls Abram away from the security of his land and home to form from him the chosen people. The call of Abram symbolizes our pilgrimage of faith.

Second Reading: Timothy 1: 8b-10.

Jesus gave his life for us not because we merited it, but because it was the Father's gracious design. Paul invites us to be thankful by bearing our share of the hardships for the sake of the Gospel.

Gospel: Matthew 17: 1-9.

The Apostles are fortified by a vision of Christ in glory.



Points for Reflection

The message of today's Scripture Readings can be summed up in the words of today's Preface: "*The promised Christ had first to suffer and so come to the glory of his resurrection*". And this is what the Paschal Mystery is all about. The Lenten season is meant to help us deepen our knowledge of this Mystery, which is at the center of God's plan of salvation and the very foundation of our Christian life.

1. God revealed his will to save mankind immediately after our first parents had sinned. And he started fulfilling his plan when he called Abram to go into the unknown and promised him that he would make him a great nation, the father of his chosen people (**First Reading**).
2. By sending Jesus to us as the New Leader and Saviour of mankind (**today's Gospel**), God brought his plan of salvation to its final stage: the era of the Church.
3. As St Paul puts it in his Letter to Timothy (**Second Reading**), "*God saved us... according to his own design and the grace bestowed on us in Christ Jesus, who destroyed death and brought life and immortality to life through the Gospel*". God made Jesus the Lord of mankind and of all creation and, therefore, made it possible for all of us to be saved, as long as we follow the Father's beloved Son.

"*the grace bestowed on us in Christ Jesus*" bear its fruits, is beautifully summed up in the words Peter, James and John heard on the mountain when Jesus was transfigured: "*This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; **listen to him.***" We are called to listen to Christ, to be led by the light that comes from his transfiguration. Called to "*bear our share of hardship for the Gospel*", we should always keep alive in our minds and hearts the hope of salvation which is based on God's promise that all will be assembled into his family.

The Second Sunday of Lent reminds us that for us to follow Christ means dying to ourselves every moment of our lives in order to become signs and instruments of God's infinite love for mankind. So many times we are tempted to follow our own worldly standards of living instead of moulding our thoughts and behaviour upon our faith in Jesus Christ and in his Paschal Mystery. It is hard indeed for us, as it was for the Apostles, to follow a Messiah "*obedient to death --- even death on a cross*" out of love for us. But it is the only way for us "*and all the communities of the earth*" to share in his blessedness.

What God wants and expects of us, in order to let

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Eucharistic Celebrations:

Sundays: 9:00 am (English)
7.45 am (Chinese)
10.30 am (Chinese)

Parish Priest: Fr Carlo Tei (E-mail: carlotei@gmail.com)
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)

Secretary: Miss Apple Tse
Office hours: Mon-Fridays: 9.00am-1.00pm; 2.00pm-6.00pm
Saturdays: Closed
Sundays: 8.45am - 12 noon

Confessions:

Sundays before Mass
Weekdays on call

P. Council
Chairperson: Mr Joseph Ma Tel: **97891442**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Thursdays: 2.30pm
1stThursday of the month: 8.00 pm

Kids' Corner

Colour the picture of Jesus' transfiguration below.

