

This Week's Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 43: 18-19, 21-22, 24-25.

God helps the people of Israel to yet another fresh start.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 1: 18-22.

Jesus Christ was never anything but "yes". He gave himself totally to the Father and to us. We, too, should strive to be faithful to the Lord and to one another.

Gospel: Mark 2: 1-12.

The Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.



Points for Reflection

"Faith and Intercession"

"In Capernaum, the reputation of Jesus as a healer spread fast. News traveled rapidly through the "gossip network". So, when it became known that he was at home (probably in Simon's house), people flocked to the house, some bringing with them their sick. People then believed that only God could heal; they would see Jesus as God's "broker", the dispenser of God's favour.

Mark mentions the "mat" and the "roof", harping back to the original Palestinian setting, where many people were poor. The paralytic is carried by a group of friends. Comradeship is customary then. What gets our attention, however, is the note of the evangelist: ***"When Jesus saw their faith..."*** The four friends show confidence and loyalty to Jesus (the basic meaning of "faith"). They trust that Jesus will heal their friend.

Often enough, **before healing, Jesus asks for faith**. The person requests for healing or a miracle as an act of faith in the power of Jesus. Or Jesus himself inquires about the person's faith as a condition for the requested miracle. In these cases, consideration is made of the faith of the petitioner.

But in today's Gospel, faith is shown by the four companions of the paralytic. We are not even sure if the paralytic had faith in Jesus or simply played along with his friends so as not to offend them by belittling their concern for his welfare. At any rate, Jesus takes into account not just the faith of the paralytic (if he had any), but also the faith of his friends.

This tells us that the power of intercession is real and decisive!"

Sacred Heart Church Sai Kung (E-mail: sacredheart@netvigator.com)

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 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

Kids' Corner

Colour the picture below based on today's Gospel reading, Mark 2: 1-12

