
This Week's Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 8: 23-9:3.

God will send light and joy to oppressed peoples.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 10-13, 17.

Paul assures the quarrelling Corinthians that he was sent above all to spread the Good News.

Gospel: Matthew 4: 12-23.

Jesus invites people to conversion, "*for the kingdom of heaven is at hand*"; and calls the fishermen Simon (Peter) and Andrew, James and John to follow him and be "**fishers of men**".

Points for Reflection

Today's Gospel tells us of Jesus' first ministry in Galilee.

1. Jesus, on the one hand, like St John the Baptist, starts his ministry by urging people to conversion, but, on the other hand, he brings this message to those Jews who are so involved with the darkness of the pagan world, that they are no longer more than Israelites by name. St Matthew thus wants to emphasize that **Jesus' Gospel is for all men and women, irrespective of their race, religion and culture.** Jesus, unlike John, does not want to gather around him only the "pure" that John assembles, or docile disciples. His message will be extended to the whole world. He decides to leave Judea and goes to the lost sheep of Galilee and to the North, even so far as the Gentiles of Syria, in order to be sure of meeting as many people and situations as possible, and to make one point clear: God is the Father of all. His love is for all.

By urging people to conversion, **Jesus wants his message to become light and source of renewal of life. Jesus' disciples, like their Teacher, must open their hearts to a brotherly love without frontiers:** a love that is not partial, a love that demands a radical self-renunciation. Jesus invites us to be actively engaged with him in the work of making his vision of life, his universal brotherhood a reality among all peoples.

In a world of widespread poverty, hunger, racial and religious hatreds, there is still a lot of work to be done.

2. In today's Gospel we are also told of **the call of the first followers who are invited by Jesus to join him in his work for the kingdom**, in his work of gathering all men and women into God's family. The call is extremely simple and meaningful: the initiative comes from Jesus, not from them; but it means a radical break: it involves putting a total trust in Jesus, not having the idea where it will lead. The four fishermen, immediately, without hesitation, abandon their nets (the means of livelihood and the source of their material security) and leave their families. Their security will now be with Jesus as they enter on a new way of relating to people and finding a new Father and new brothers and sisters.

Probably, most of us have not yet fully experienced that "conversion" that requires us to **share fully the vision of Jesus and of those early disciples** with regard to material security and the sense of belonging to a new family. Like the rich man we want to have our conventional security and somehow fit Jesus into it.

3. Today is **Christian Unity Sunday**: we are invited to pray for Christian Unity. If our "conversion" to Jesus is radical, if we welcome Jesus into our hearts and lives without reservations, we will become people who live in unity of mind and heart with all Christ's disciples, indeed with all people loved by God.

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Parish Priest: Fr Carlo Tei (E-mail: carlotei@gmail.com) Fr Sergio Ticozzi (helping on Sundays)	Anticipated Sunday Mass 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 – 6.00 Sundays: 8.45am – 12 noon	Confessions: Sundays before 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