

## This Week's Readings

### First Reading: Jeremiah 31: 7-9.

God will lead his people home from exile.

### Second Reading: Hebrews 5: 1-6

Jesus can sympathize with all our limitations and weaknesses.

### Gospel: Mark 10: 46-52.

Jesus frees a man from his blindness.



## Points for Reflection

Many Christians nowadays do not seem to take their faith seriously enough. Nothing, therefore, is more important for all of us than to re-discover the meaning of our Christian faith and all its implications. **Today's Gospel** episode can help us find out the steps one has to go through in order to live by faith in Christ. Such steps are exactly the same as those which the blind man took before he could *"follow Jesus on the road"*.

1. A blind beggar is sitting at the side of the road. He cannot see Jesus who passes by. Others can only tell him about his coming. But, as soon as he knows that it is Jesus, he expresses his faith in him, by trusting in his healing power. Those who scold him do not scare him. He keeps on asking Jesus to have pity on him. Then some people help him to get ready for the call by Jesus. He throws off the cloak, jumps up and goes to Jesus and tells him that he wants to see. His sight is returned and, along with it, a total faith in Jesus is granted to him, so much so that he chooses to follow him.
2. The process of faith matches the above description.
  - It starts with a manifestation of Christ in a man or a woman's life: it is necessary that Christ should pass by first. And, indeed, Christ *"passes by"* every man and every woman of the world. This passage, however, is never visible. In order to recognize Jesus, who passes us by invisibly in the daily happenings of life, we need someone to tell us that it is Jesus.
    - Someone told us about Jesus. And since then we were able to believe in him.

- So many of our brothers and sisters still have not had the opportunity to hear that Jesus is close to them. Is it not our duty to tell them? Is it not our mission as Christians to bring to others the *"good news"*, to manifest Jesus to others, to unveil his invisible presence?

- As soon as someone comes to know Jesus, he has to trust him completely, otherwise his encounter with Him will not bring healing and salvation. Anyone who knows Jesus and wants to be saved by him has to make an act of faith in Him, which means a complete trust in and surrender to him. He needs to stand firm, fearless of all difficulties and obstacles or of all worldly temptations which he may find on his way to Christ.
- If he stands firm, others around him (i.e. the Church) will help him get ready for the call by Jesus, they will help him to know Jesus better and better, and make the final decision, which is called *"conversion"*. One is *"converted"*, when he gets rid of his old self, symbolized by the cloak, when he gets rid of his old sinful life, centred on selfishness and self-sufficiency, and he is ready to get up: to start a new life, centred upon faith in Christ and love for God and his children. This life gives us a new sight: a new way of seeing things. We see things from Jesus' point of view, and, as a result of this, we follow Jesus. We live, taking Jesus as our only model; we walk, in the world, very close to those who walk with us. We care for them, take their difficulties at heart, and share their sorrows and aspirations. We let the Spirit of Christ and his Gospel guide us and turn us into the witnesses of His Kingdom of justice and love. And we strongly hope and pray that all men and women of the world will soon recognize God as their Father.

Is this what we are doing in our daily lives? May Jesus help us to cure our blindness, so that we may follow him steadfastly and courageously along the road of life

and thus contribute to the spreading of His Kingdom of justice, peace and love.

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| <b>Sacred Heart Church Sai Kung (E-mail: <a href="mailto:sacredheart@netvigator.com">sacredheart@netvigator.com</a>)</b> |   |  |
| <b>Phone:</b>  | Office hours: 27922967<br>(with answering machine)<br>After office hours: 27920181<br>Fax: 27922967   | <b>Eucharistic Celebrations:</b><br>Sundays: 9.00 am (English)<br>7.45 am (Chinese)<br>10.30 am (Chinese)<br>Anticipated Sunday Masses<br>Saturdays: 6.00 pm (English)<br>7.30 pm (Chinese)<br>Public holidays: 8.00 am (Chinese)<br>Weekdays: 7.00 am (Chinese) |
| <b>Parish Priest:</b>  | <b>Fr Carlo Tei</b> <a href="mailto:carlotei@gmail.com">carlotei@gmail.com</a><br><br><b>Fr Sergio Ticozzi, Sr Mary Leung</b><br>(helping on Sundays) | <b>Confessions:</b><br>Sundays before Mass and during the 7.45 am Mass<br>Weekdays on call   |
| <b>Secretary:</b>  | <b>Miss Tse Choi Ping</b><br><b>Office hours:</b> Mon-Fridays: 9.00am – 1.00pm; 2.00pm – 5.30pm<br>Sundays: 8.45am – 12 noon                          | <b>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:</b><br>Thursdays: 2.30 pm<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month: 8.00 pm   |
| <b>Parish Council Chairlady:</b>   | <b>Miss Candy Chan</b> Tel: 23265322  |  |



## Fourth Week of Mission Month THANKSGIVING



1. This is the week in which we thank God for the GIFT OF FAITH.
2. The celebration of Mission Sunday is a good occasion that God gives us to become aware that we have been "CHOSEN among others", and we have to show our gratitude to God.
3. The celebration of Mission Sunday is also a good occasion to remind us that we have been "CHOSEN to be SENT " to others, to make known the Love of God for everyone.
4. Every Gift from God is not intended for us alone; it is intended to be shared with others. As our friends and relatives brought us to Jesus, it is now our turn to invite others to Jesus.



*Our Faith will grow stronger if we share it with others.*



### A few hints for practice during the week

1. Make an effort to participate in Holy Mass at least one day during the week to show our gratitude to God for the Gift of Faith.
2. Say at least one decade of the Missionary Rosary every day, OR say every day the "Magnificat" ("My soul glorifies the Lord") to thank God with the words of the Blessed Virgin.