

This Week's Readings

First Reading: Acts 13: 14, 43-52.

Paul was sent to preach to the gentiles so that God's salvation might reach to the ends of the earth.

Second Reading: Revelation 7: 9, 14-17.

John's vision shows Christ, the Lamb of God, sharing the Father's glory.

Gospel: John 10: 27-30.

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, cares for his flock and will give it eternal life.



Points for Reflection

1. The **First Reading** from the Acts dwells on the vocation of the gentiles to the faith. St Paul preached the Gospel to the Jews, his own kith and kin. However, the majority of them refused to listen. Then Paul turned to the pagans and became the great apostle to the gentiles. Paul explained that this is part of God's plan, that God remained faithful to his promises to Israel, but that the Gospel must also reach the gentiles. He quoted a passage from Isaiah (49, 6) revealing that the servant Israel is also to be the light of nations.

Even today the large majority of humanity does not know Christ. Hence, following the command of Jesus, we are duty-bound to work so that the divine message of salvation may be known and accepted by all.

2. In the **Second Reading** from the Revelation, John describes another vision he had of heaven. A multitude from every race and nation pay adoration to God and the "Lamb" (Christ). Having survived the "great distress" of persecution, they now enjoy the glory of God. No one knows exactly what heaven will be like, but God's word today assures us that they will no more have to suffer from hunger and thirst, heat and sadness. They will enjoy life forever. One day, we too will be among the countless

number of saints if we make good use of our "free will".

3. In today's **Gospel**, Jesus compares himself to a caretaker of sheep. His audience would have immediately understood the analogy. A good shepherd translated into a strong, courageous and compassionate guide for those who would be lost without him. The original listeners would also have known that a shepherd gave his sheep names and had a distinctive call for his flock, to which only his own flock would respond.

Jesus said: "*I know my sheep*". We know some people just as a face or a name. Others we know as acquaintances and others as friends. However, the knowledge we have of these persons, in many instances, is superficial and not deep enough to know their inner feelings and thoughts. We may know quite a lot *about* a person, but seldom do we know the person. Jesus, on the contrary, knows even our most intimate and hidden feelings and ideas, and, because he loves us, he is ready to accept us as we are.

Jesus further declared that the sheep that belong to him will be safe with him, because the Father's power is with him. "*No one can*

take them out of my hand." The feeling of belonging to Jesus and of being known and loved by him is enormously comforting and reassuring. However, it entails essentially three requirements:

- a) **To believe in him.** We entered the flock by becoming believers. But to believe is only the beginning.
- b) **To listen to his voice.** "My sheep

hear my voice", that is, they heed his teachings.

- c) **To follow him.** "And they follow me", that is, they are ready and prepared to walk on the same road as Jesus did by practising his instructions.

This is a wonderful programme of life for every Christian.

Sacred Heart Church Sai Kung (E-mail: sacredheart@netvigator.com)	
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Parish Priest: Fr Carlo Tei (E-mail: carlotei@gmail.com) Fr Sergio Ticozzi, Fr Augustine Zaw, Sr Mary Leung (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 – 6.00pm 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

Kids' Corner

Colour the picture below.

