

## This Week's Readings

### First Reading: Jeremiah 31: 31-34.

God promises his shattered people that he will not forsake them. The day is coming when he will make a new and more intimate covenant with them.

### Second reading: Hebrews 5: 7-9.

In enduring pain and anguish during his life and especially during his passion, Christ shows us that he is not only an example for us, but also the source of eternal life.

### Gospel: John 12: 20-33.

Jesus talks about how he fears his imminent death, yet he desires it, for the hour of his shame will also be the hour of his glory.



## Points for Reflection

Some people see Christianity as a very harsh, impractical way of life, because it apparently asks for the impossible:

If you love your life, you will lose it.

If you hate your life in this world, you will preserve it to life eternal.

Give your things to the poor and follow Jesus.

Sell everything you own and follow Jesus.

Leave your family behind and follow Jesus.

Die in order to live.

Suffer in order to find joy.

To be filled, first empty yourself.

To find yourself, you have to lose it.

For these people, Christianity is too masochistic to be fulfilling. All that self-denial is hard to take. They can't understand why one must be so self-sacrificing in order to find happiness. They can't accept a Saviour who must die in order that others may live, who must shed blood as reparation for the sins of others.

At the risk of sounding simplistic, I dare say that it's all a matter of perception. Remember the two men who looked out of the prison window? One saw mud, the other saw stars. In following Jesus, one could get scared away by the sight of blood and therefore quit before one beholds the empty tomb.

Come to think of it – all his life, all Jesus was trying to tell us was: love God first and he'll take care of the rest. Believe in him, trust him. He will never let down all who do. See the lilies of the field? And the sparrows so dear to the Father's heart? How could he forsake you whom he has created in his image? The bottom line is: align yourself to the Source of everything – all power, all riches, all glory– and nevermore in your life will you want for anything. Jesus was simply teaching us to take first things first. One before Two. A before B. What could be more practical than that?

Those who choose to follow the example of Jesus, to take first things first, experience joy and get a foretaste of heaven, even while still in the flesh.

--Teresa Tunay, OCDS

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

## Announcements

1. There will be no English Anticipated Sunday Mass on Saturday 11 April. (Easter Vigil)
2. Below is the schedule of English Masses during Lent, Holy Week and Easter:

<b>Lent / Holy Week / Easter / Eucharistic Celebrations (Masses) in English</b>		
29 March (Sun)	9:00 am	Liturgy of Reconciliation during Mass
5 April (Sun)	9:00 am	Palm Sunday
9 April (Thur)	8:00 pm	Holy Thursday – The Lord's Supper ( <i>Bilingual</i> )
10 April (Fri)	5:00 pm	Good Friday – The Lord's Passion
12 April (Sun)	9:00 am	Easter Sunday