

## This Week's Readings

### First Reading: Isaiah 5: 1-7.

Isaiah compares Israel to a vineyard which will be destroyed because it has not yielded the fruits of justice and integrity.

### Second Reading: Philippians 4: 6-9.

Paul encourages the converts at Philippi in their new lives as Christ's followers.

### Gospel: Matthew 21: 33-43.

Jesus gives an outline of salvation history using, like Isaiah, the image of the vineyard.



## Points for Reflection

One of the most incredible things in the life of Jesus is the fact that so many people rejected him.

Jesus, however, was disappointed by rejection, but not surprised. Rejection, in fact, was part of the long, sad history of his people, as testified by Isaiah in **today's First Reading**. Jesus of course knew this history very well.

Jesus knew that his rejection would be so complete that the leaders of the people would kill him, the Son of God. **The parable of the vineyard** was a clear warning which was to go un-heeded.

Why were the prophets and Jesus rejected by so many people? One reason is that the truth can hurt; even the truth preached and lived by Jesus. That truth demands that we accept suffering and self-denial, and that we abandon our selfishness to be generous in our love and service to God and our fellow men.

Let us not think about the Scribes and the Pharisees. They rejected the owner's Son and killed him, when they crucified him.

But we, too, reject Jesus and kill him, whenever we harm the other sons and daughters of God, who are our brothers and sisters. We reject Jesus whenever we kill each other. And we kill each other in many ways. Not only with guns, violence and war or by aborting helpless infants who are real people, sons and daughters of God; but also by simply ignoring each other, by our selfishness, by our unwillingness to forgive and forget.

Let us not look around at anyone else. Let us ask ourselves the question: "Am I rejecting Jesus now?"

--Fr Carlo Tei

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

### Kids' Corner

*Colour the picture based on today's Gospel reading below.*

