

This Week's Readings

First Reading: Ezechiel 47: 1-2, 8-9, 12

"I saw water flowing from the temple, and all who were touched by it were saved."

Second Reading: Corinthians 3: 9c-11, 16-17.

St Paul teaches two spiritual lessons on the idea of a building. We are to build the structure of our life as a quality, unburnable building, constructed on Christ. And we are each a holy temple of God.



Gospel: John 2: 13-22.

Jesus speaks about the temple of his body.

Points for Reflection

In the Catholic tradition, special attention is due to the Basilica of St John Lateran in Rome. The Holy Father's own church, it is regarded as the "Head and Mother" of all churches in the world. One might think St Peter's Basilica is the head of all the churches, but in fact it is the Basilica of St John Lateran. Every bishop has a cathedral, and the cathedral of the bishop of Rome, the Pope, is the Basilica of St John Lateran, not the Basilica of St Peter, in spite of the fact that the Pope lives next to St Peter's Basilica.

Why? History gives us the answer. In the early centuries Christianity was outlawed in Rome, and many Christians in Rome suffered martyrdom. The Emperor Constantine converted to Christianity, and the famous Edict of Milan in 313 AD allowed Christians to practice their religion in public. Constantine had been given the palace in Rome that belonged to the Laterani, and, after his conversion to Christianity, he gave it to the Pope. The Lateran Palace was then adapted to become a church and was dedicated on 9th November 324.

The Pope lived in the Lateran Palace, as it was called, for the next 1000 years, and the Basilica was his cathedral. It was first called the Basilica of the Saviour, but later was also dedicated to St John the Baptist and St John the Evangelist, and so it acquired the name Basilica of St John Lateran. When the Papacy transferred to Avignon for about a century, the condition of the Lateran deteriorated so much that when the Papacy returned to Rome, the Pope lived in two other locations before finally settling adjacent to St Peter's Basilica where he now lives.

Celebrating the dedication of the Pope's cathedral today shows our unity with the Pope and our love and respect for him. Not only that, it shows that we are united with each other in the Church.

In our **First Reading** today, we hear Ezekiel's vision of a river flowing from the Temple in Jerusalem and bringing life everywhere it went. We could see it as a vision of the Church receiving life-giving grace from Jesus...

In our **Second Reading** today, we have a similar idea, *"You are God's building...the foundation...is Jesus Christ."* These passages from Scripture remind us to make Jesus the foundation stone and corner stone of our lives because there is a life-giving river flowing from him to fill us with his grace.

As we celebrate today the dedication of "the head and mother of all churches of Rome and the world", let us pray also for those who have become lost going through life, that they may find the Church as a true mother to them and that Jesus may become the foundation stone and corner stone of their lives.

Sacred Heart Church Sai Kung (E-mail: sacredheart@netvigator.com)	
Phone: Office hours: 27922967 (with answering machine) After office hours: 27920181 Fax: 27922967	Eucharistic Celebrations: Sundays: 9.00 am (English) 7.45 am (Chinese) 10.30 am (Chinese)
Parish Priest: Fr Carlo Tei carlotei@i-cable.com carlotei@gmail.com Fr Sergio Ticozzi, Sr Mary Leung (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)
Secretary: Miss Tse Choi Ping Office hours: Mon-Fridays: 9.00am – 1.00pm; 2.00pm – 5.30pm Sundays: 8.45am – 12 noon	Confessions: Sundays before Mass and during the 7.45 am 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

This is a photo of the Lateran Basilica in Rome. It is the cathedral of the Pope in Rome.



Announcement

**** Attention Parents ****

Registration for the Sacred Heart English-speaking Catechism class for children will be from Saturday 1st November to Sunday 16th November. The Catechism Class is for children of Primary School age or above who wish to learn about the Catholic Faith; Children wishing to receive a sacrament in the next two years must attend the classes, which will take place on Thursday evenings. Please, request a registration form at the back of the church and bring along a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate at registration.