

This Week's Readings

First Reading: Numbers 21: 4-9.

The bronze serpent on a pole is an obvious reminder of Christ hanging and saving us on the Cross.

Second Reading: Philippians 2: 6-11.

It is the classic summary of the role of Jesus Christ. Today we note especially his acceptance of death for us even on a cross.

Gospel: John 3: 13-17.

The Gospel selection is from Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus. The reference is to the Son of Man, Jesus himself, being lifted up on a cross so that we might believe and have eternal life.



Points for Reflection

Today's feast goes back to the Year 335. On the 13th of September that year, the Basilica of the Resurrection, built in Jerusalem by King Constantine, was consecrated. And on the following day, people began to worship the Cross of Jesus, which gave origin to the yearly celebration of the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross on the 14th of September.

The message that today's feast is meant to convey to us is that the greatest loving act of God for us was the surrender of his only Son for our salvation. And the greatest proof of Jesus' love for us was when he readily laid down his life by accepting death on the Cross. Jesus removed the shame and humiliation of the cross by his redeeming death, and made the cross a symbol of redemption and glory.

"Glory" in the biblical language, particularly in the 4th Gospel, means "revelation of identity". Therefore, when St John hints at the Cross of Jesus being an instrument of his divine glory, he means that Jesus, by his death on the Cross, has revealed to the world his true face and the true face of God the Father.

Actually, the whole life of Jesus, according to John, was a revelation of God the Father's true face. Jesus, in fact, in all he said and did revealed to the world the true identity of God the Father. We know what Jesus once told Philip: *"He, who sees me, sees the Father"*. Yet, it was when he was lifted up on the Cross that Jesus' revelation of the Father reached its highest point. In Jesus, who dies on the Cross, God reveals all his gratuitous and infinite love, and unveils his plan of salvation. He reveals that he is the Father of all humankind. In Jesus, who opens his arms on the Cross, God appears as the father who welcomes all into his family and invites us to destroy all barriers between us and him, and among ourselves.

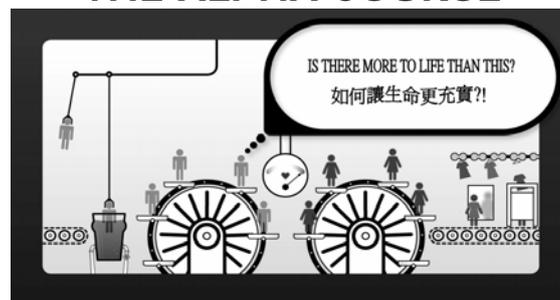
The Cross has become the symbol of every Christian, exactly because it embodies God's infinite love for us and outlines Christian life. A cross is made up of two lines: vertical and horizontal --- the perfect symbol to illustrate Jesus' commandment to love God and neighbour. The vertical line reminds us of our

relationship with God --- connecting heaven and earth. The horizontal line links us with our neighbour, who is equal, not above nor below. Since the moment of our baptism we started with Jesus to die to our old selves in order to live a life of love for God and our brothers and sisters. We, too, have to take up our cross daily, like Jesus and with Jesus. But our cross, if carried as a means and symbol of our love for God and for one another, will as well become the instrument of our glory.

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

Announcement

Sacred Heart Catholic Church is sponsoring **THE ALPHA COURSE**



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At "In Sai" Café & Bar

Waterfront Park, near the Pier, Sai Kung

Please Contact: sacredheart.hk@gmail.com

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

To register, speak to Anna Boon at the back of the Church after mass, or ring...

Anna: 6492-0590 or Carla: 9861-0453 or Tel: 2792 2967 (for Cantonese)

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