

11 Jan 1976
15 Jan 1978
14 Jan 1979

WORLD PEACE MASS

Catholic Centre
Broadcast

Good morning, ¹⁹⁷⁸ and welcome to the Catholic Centre chapel for this first ¹⁹⁷⁸ 1976 broadcast of Sunday Mass. We welcome you to join in spirit with the people here in their prayer and worship today; and if you're ill yourself, then especially for you we hope this chance of being present here now, in a way, through your radio-set, will be a help and strength and comfort to you. In the diocese of Hong Kong, this first Sunday following the celebration of Epiphany is kept as ^{the} a day of special prayer for world peace; and in the Mass which is about to begin, the prayers and readings of scripture have been chosen on this theme of peace in the world, the peace that Christ's coming on earth which we've just celebrated in Christmastime has brought and made possible. But it is also something we've to work for and pray for, in our world and in our own hearts; and we begin the Mass by acknowledging our own failure and fault and sin, asking the mercy and pardon of God. And now as the celebrant and his assistants come to the altar, an Entry Song is sung, ^{by the choir} ~~by members~~ of the Youth Choir of St Joseph's church. ^{which today is from St Jude's parish church in N. Point.}

CHOIR

Intro.: Kyrie: Gloria: ORATIO

The Assembly prayer for today's celebration.

Now all sit down to listen to the first, O.T., reading of scripture, which is followed by a responsory prayer from Ps ^{the Psalms} 85

CREED: After listening to the word of God in Scripture and in the homily given by the celebrant of this Mass, Fr ^{Joseph Garland} Alfred Deignan, ^{Cyril Barrett} the Creed, a profession of faith in God, is recited.

Offert.: The Prayers of general intercession conclude the first part of the Mass. And now the priest goes to the altar to prepare for the liturgy of the Eucharist. He receives from the assistants the gifts of bread and wine, offered in the name of us all, and prepares them for the action and prayer of the Eucharist, when they become for us the Body & Blood of Christ to be given as God's gift in Holy Communion.

CHOIR

PREFACE: The formal Prayer over the Gifts in this Mass for Peace. Now the central prayer and action of the Mass begins, with an invitation to participation, the Preface prayer and the singing of the Sanctus

PER IPSUM: The concluding prayer of praise to God, ending the Eucharist Prayer. Now, in preparation for the sacrament of the Eucharist the Lord's prayer.

COMMUNION: At the altar now, the priest receives in Holy Communion the Body and Blood of Christ. Then after a few moments he will go to the altar-rail to give Communion to the people of the congregation who are now filing up towards the front of the chapel to share together in this gift of God's love for us, Christ's life and love given for the saving and the peace of all mankind. We pray that He who is the Lamb of God and by His own sacrifice has taken away the sin of the world would grant us peace: peace and reconciliation with God our Father and with each other. While the people here are receiving the sacrament of Holy Communion, you who are listening on

your radio may like to make your own personal prayer in communion with Christ during these minutes before we listen and join in a communion-time hymn sung by the choir. Or you may wish to reflect with me a little on this sacrament received today when we pray together for peace in the world. For the Eucharist is a sign of peace — a sign, not only in the usual meaning we give that word (of something promised or just beginning to happen) but also as a proof that it's here already, as we speak of a heart-beat as a sign of life. And it's more than that too, for it's the cause of the peace we have.... But what peace do we have? Well, peace with God which brings us to share in this sacrament, unworthy as we are; and peace with our fellowmen with whom we share this one Eucharist together..... at least, that is what we profess, what we pray is true; and in the moment of our communion in & with Christ is true (if we mean at all what we do)... but the living of it, after Mass, throughout the day and everyday? Our communion is a sign, of the power of God at work, of His power to bring all of us together in His love....but not without our free collaboration with Him, since in His mystery our love is our own free choice,...love of Him and of each other. And there's where we fail to see and to live out the implications of what we do in Holy Communion; our own peace with God does involve all our brothers and sisters who share with us the gift He gives each and all of us. The peace of the world for which we pray today isn't in a different category from what is now happening here: it just isn't possible without God our Father.... there are so many real and artificial divisions and disputes and differences between us all. We can only start with ourselves, our own hearts, our own real love

for both God and the people around us. To legislate peace, command, order, sign a treaty of peace is like trying to legislate, order, command love: without accepting Christ's invitation, and with Him, there won't be real peace among men, true reconciliation. The Eucharist is the sign of where we meet God most intimately, and where His peace begins in the world: on the cross of Calvary and in the hearts of all who receive Him, of all people of good-will.

(PRAYER)

CHOIR

END: The giving of Holy Communion now over, the celebrant will shortly recite the final Thanksgiving Prayer of today's Mass and then give the Blessing.

The Blessing and Dismissal bring the Mass for today to an end. And as the congregation here begins to disperse, we end also this broadcast which you've been listening to direct from the chapel at the Catholic Centre, in Connaught Rd. Central.