

24 october 1976

30th Sunday of Year
(MISSION SUNDAY)Catholic Centre
Broadcast

Good morning again, after some weeks' absence, from the chapel at the Catholic Centre. And welcome to join in spirit with the people here in our celebration of the Mass which will be beginning in just a few moments now. A special word of welcome for you if you're listening from a sick-bed, or you cannot for some reason join with your fellow-Christians in community prayer and worship this Sunday morning. Being able to 'listen-in' here will, hopefully, be for you more than just a substitute for not being able to participate here personally.

Today is the 30th ordinary Sunday of this year; and it's also a world-wide day of prayer in Catholic churches for the missions of the Church. In Hong Kong, we've been asked to pray specially for the growth of an outgoing, missionary outlook in our local Christian community; and the prayers of the Mass today are those for the Mission of the Church. In the readings of scripture you'll hear, we continue the consecutive reading of St Mark's Gospel, in Ch. 10; and there's a comparable passage from the Old Testament, and a reading from the N.T. Letter to the Hebrews. But we begin now, with an Entry Song as the priest and his assistants come to the altar.

CHOIR

Intro. Kyrie: Gloria: ORATIO

The Assembly Prayer for today's celebration.

Now all sit down to listen to the first of the scripture readings, which is followed by the recitation of a psalm.

CREDO: After the Gospel reading and homily given by today's celebrant Fr Fergus Cronin, the Creed is said.

OFFERTORY: The first part of the Mass is now over, with the prayers of general intercession. Going to the altar now, the priest begins the preparatory rite for the Eucharist — he receives from the assistant the gifts of bread and wine which are given in the name of us all, and are to become the Eucharist we celebrate and share together.

CHOIR

SECRET: The formal Prayer over the Gifts for today. Now comes the central prayer and action of the Eucharist, ~~with~~ and you'll be hearing this morning the 3rd Eucharistic Prayer.

PER SIPUM: Now, in preparation for the sacrament of the Eucharist, the Lord's Prayer is said, Our Father.

COMMUNION: At the altar now, the priest first receives in Holy Communion the Body and Blood of Christ. He pauses for a moment of private prayer, before beginning to give Holy Communion to the people here, who are now filing up to the altar-rail at the front of the chapel. During the giving of Holy Communion, the order of the Mass provides for some time of silence for private and personal prayer. And during this time, perhaps you as you listen to your radio may like to make your own prayer in private, in communion with Christ our Lord and with those here now making their sacramental communion. Christ is present with us, with you. Let us pray together and with Him to our Father in heaven, the Father of all, from whom we've come and to whom through Christ's saving sacrifice we celebrate now, we are all called to return: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those that trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. While Holy Communion continues, the choir now sings a communion time song.

CHOIR

In the remaining few minutes of communion time, a short reflection on the Eucharist and the prayer of today. The Eucharist is a sign: a sign of sharing and of brotherhood between us all; and a sharing and brotherhood in the love of God and the life of Christ. We pray that our receiving of Him in this sacrament may help us and teach us to grow in community together, in His grace; that we may truly receive and welcome His presence and power into our lives. And we pray specially today that this sharing may make all of us more generous and sharing with the gifts God has given us, the faith we have received and the love of God given to us, the brotherhood and community we've been made part of in our baptism. It's not that we think ourselves perfect or models for imitation; but Christ died and rose for everyman, to make all of us His brothers and sisters in the family of God. This is what we celebrate; and the faith and hope and love that we have from Him, we thank Him for — not as something for each of us alone, but to be shared with those who do not yet know Him, whom He loves and wants to be one family with Christ. The mission of the church in the world is the mission of each Christian, in their own way and place and time, bringing the presence of Christ to others, sharing the gifts and grace they have received. It is in consciousness of our need of His help and of our own weaknesses and failure that we come together to pray in this way and at this time.