

13 nov.1977

33rd Sunday of YearCatholic Centre
Broadcast

From the chapel at the Catholic Centre, good morning and welcome to join with us here in the celebration of Mass for today which is the 33rd ordinary Sunday of this year. In the Catholic diocese of Hong Kong, today is being observed also as Youth Sunday. This chapel, however, is not a parish church; and the Mass beginning in a few moments now is an ordinary Sunday celebration. The readings of scripture reflect the coming ending of the Church year, with St Luke's gospel account of Jesus talking about the ending of things, the O.T. prophet Malachias on the coming day of the Lord, and an extract from St Paul's 2nd letter to the Thessalonians reminding us that nevertheless we've got to go on living and working in this present world. But before the scripture service, the Mass begins with a rite of preparation to dispose us for listening to the Word of God: prayer, repentance, and praise to God. And now, as the celebrant as his assistants come to the altar, an Entry Song is sung by the choir for today, a group of young people who are members of the Legion of Mary.

CHOIR

Intro:Kyrie:Gloria:ORATIO

The formal Opening Prayer for today's celebration. All now sit down to listen to the first of the scripture readings, which is followed by a responsory from Ps 98.

CREED:

After the readings of scripture, and the homily given by Fr *Joseph Shields* Sean O'Cearbhallain, celebrant of this Mass, the Creed is recited, a profession of faith in God who reveals Himself. *Harold Naylor*

OFFERTORY: The Prayers of General Intercession, which conclude the first part of the Mass. Beginning the second part now, the preparation rite of the Offertory, when the assistants bring to the priest at the altar the gifts of bread and wine which both symbolise our offering of our life and livelihood, and ~~which~~ in the power of Christ will become our Eucharist, sacrament and sacrifice of Christ.

CHOIR

PREFACE: The formal Prayer over the Gifts that have been offered and prepared. Now begins the central prayer and action of the Eucharist, with the priest inviting our participation and beginning the prayer with a special Sunday preface.

Per Ipsum: In preparation now for the sacrament of the Eucharist, we begin by praying together the community prayer of all Christians, the words taught us by Christ, 'Our Father'.

COMMUNION: Now it's communion time; and at the altar the priest first himself receives Holy Communion, taking the sacred Host and drinking from the consecrated chalice. And as he does so, people in the congregation here who wish also to share in this sacrament of communion with Christ and with one another in Him begin to go up to the altar (rail) at the front of the ^{church} chapel. After a moment of two, for his own personal prayer, the priest will bring Holy Communion to the people here. And during the time now, while Holy Communion is being given and people come and go to their places (in the chapel), there is an opportunity for one's private prayer and reflection, a time of silence for communion with God. You may like, at this point, to pray in your own way, with your own words, while the choir here sings

a hymn for the communion time.

CHOIR

As the giving of Holy Communion continues, and until the priest is ready to recite the final Thanksgiving Prayer and give the Blessing, a short reflection on this Eucharist and on the gospel we were listening to earlier. Because the Eucharist is a sign of faith, it has for us a depth and wealth of meaning that a simple on-looker would not be so easily able to see or to understand. Even we ourselves who believe do not by any means grasp all there is of God's life and love in this mystery and gift He gives us to share in. What we do share is a beginning of a life that has its fulness in the vision of God face to face, in the company of Christ. We pray that each time we join in this celebration and communion with Christ we may indeed grow a little more, learn a little more, become a little more the grace-ful people God wants us to be. So, the Eucharist should be each time an invitation to look beyond the surface of what we're doing, how we're living; and not only for this sacrament itself, for for everything in our lives and in our world. Like Christ took people's admiration of the Temple and all its beauty as a starting point to show them something beyond the facade they were looking at. And what He had to say on that occasion concerned a lot of the perplexities of life, and of being a Christian.... things we can't understand, about human behaviour, about natural phenomena, about why things happen, why (as we say) God allows such and such to happen, why His coming seems so long delayed. And yet, what we see is the surface, the facade, even in suffering and persecution.

The Day of the Lord is coming: and yet in the Eucharist we know He is already here --- everything we do and suffer, everything in the world around us is already somehow charged with the presence and action of Christ, if only we could see it. But for that (as the really holy people among us know), we have to be in tune with Christ, in communion with Him.

At the altar now, the priest has finishing giving Holy Communion and, after putting away the sacred vessels used during this celebration, he ~~is~~ now about to recite the Thanksgiving Prayer.

END

The blessing and Dismissal bring the Mass to a close. And as the people here now begin to leave the chapel, we end also this broadcast which you've been listening to direct from the chapel at the Catholic Centre in Connaught Rd. Central.