

21 October 1979

MISSION SUNDAYCatholic Centre  
Broadcast

Good morning, from the small chapel at the Catholic Centre. And welcome to join with us here in our prayer and worship of God our Father on this Sunday morning. Today is observed in Catholic churches round the world as 'Mission Sunday'; and this year, in Hong Kong at least, we are also linking the Mission Sunday theme with the United Nations theme of the Year of the Child. This afternoon, at the government stadium there'll be the HK diocese's annual open-air celebration of Mass presided by Bishop Wu, which some 30,000 people are expected to attend. For the past two years, this long-standing annual gathering has been celebrated on Mission Sunday, a bit earlier in the autumn than the occasion of Christ the King which was for many years was the focal theme of this large yearly Catholic assembly. There too, of course, the theme will be the Mission of the church today, and especially for children. As here this morning, the readings of scripture specially chosen, are taken from the O.T. First Bk of Samuel, from St Paul's letter to the Romans, and from St Matthew's gospel of Jesus talking about children. Mass is now about to begin, as the priest and assistants come to the altar, and an Entry Song is sung by the choir from St Paul's Causeway Bay

## CHOIR

Intro.: Kyrie: Gloria: ORATIO The Assembly Prayer for this Mission Sunday celebration. Readings from scripture follow next; first from the O.T., with a responsory from Ps 40

CREED: Following the scriptures and the homily given by today's celebrant here, Fr Patrick O'Rourke, the Creed.

OFFERTORY: After the Prayer of the Faithful, the second part of the Mass liturgy begins now. The preparation for the Eucharist starts with the assistants bringing to the priest at the altar, the gifts and offering of bread, wine and water. These (as Christ did at His last supper) the priest takes, as gifts that will become His offering who gives and shares His life and His love with us all. During this preparation-rite, the choir sings

## CHOIR

SECRET: The formal Prayer over this Gifts, for this celebration of Mission Sunday. The blessing-prayer and action of the Eucharist follow now.

PER IPSUM: We come now to the Communion-rite of the Eucharist, beginning with prayer for our unity together, in the words of the Lord's own prayer, Our Father.

COMMUNION: Now the Breaking of the Bread — giving and sharing of the Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Christ. At the altar, the priest himself first takes the sacred host and drinks from the consecrated chalice. From the body of the chapel, people now begin to file up to the altar-rail where, in a few moments, the priest and one of the special ministers of the Eucharist will begin to give Holy Communion to those wishing to share together in this sacrament. At this point of the Mass liturgy the Order allows for some time of silence, time for the communicants to return to their places and give thanks to God in their own personal prayer; time for each of us to reflect pray and praise God in our own particular way. During these minutes that the giving of Holy Communion will take, you may

perhaps like to recall the gospel reading, or the O.T. one that we listened to earlier, thinking of the call of God to each one of us, His word to us that He means us to take to others in the mission He calls us to share in Christ Jesus & with Him. The Eucharist itself is a sign of this receiving and sharing the Word of God, of nourishment and strength for the life of Christ that should be growing within all of us who call ourselves Christian, called to be children of God together and to help, not hinder, others in their responses to God's word in them.

One of the very earliest Christian prayers, written by St Clement of Rome shortly before the year 100, is a prayer for all needs : **QQQ ECP #37 (p.25)**

The giving of Holy Communion is now over, and the priest has returned to the altar, to put away in the tabernacle the Hosts that remain over. ~~After~~ a few moments for his own recollectn and private prayer, he ~~next~~ will recite the Thanksgiving Prayer for today's Mission Sunday eucharist, and then give the blessing.

**END**

The Blessing and Dismissal conclude the celebration of the Mass. And as the priest leaves the altar, the people here begin to disperse. And here too we end this live broadcast which you've been listening to direct from the chapel at the Catholic Centre in Connaught Rd. Central.