

16 feb. 1975
12 feb. 1978
11 mar. 1984

1st Sunday in Lent

Catholic Centre
Broadcast

Good morning to you, from the little chapel at the Catholic Centre in Connaught Rd. In a few moments now, the Mass for today will be beginning here; and we'd like to invite you to join in spirit with the people here in their prayer and worship of God on this Day of the Lord. To those of you who are sick, especially, or who for some reason cannot this morning take part with your fellow-Christians in their community celebration and worship, we hope this broadcast of the Mass will be a help and encouragement; the people gathered here will be thinking of you in their prayers. [Though HK is still celebrating the first week of a new lunar year,] today marks, in the Church's year, the first Sunday of the season of Lent; and the readings and prayers you'll hear carry the theme of this preparation-time for Easter, [even though in HK this year we have postponed the observance of the traditional start of Lent, Ash Wednesday.] The Gospel reading, as always for the beginning of Lent, is the account of Jesus' fasting and temptation for 40 days in the desert; the other two scripture passages, from Genesis and St Paul's Letter to Rome, are about creation, sin and Christ's redemption of ~~the~~ sinful mankind. We begin now as the priest comes to the altar, with an Entry Song and a penitential rite.

CHOIR

Intro.: Kyrie: ORATIO

The formal Prayer for this Sunday's Assembly. And now, the first of the scripture readings, to be followed by a responsory from Ps 50.

CREED:

After the scriptures and the homily given by the celebrant of this Mass, ^{Fr Patrick O'Rourke} Fr Joseph Foley, ^{Fr Sean Coghlan} all now stand to recite together a profession of faith, the Nicene Creed.

OFFERT.:

The first part of the Mass, centred on the Word of God and our prayerful response to Him, is concluded by those prayers of general intercession. Now comes the liturgy of the Eucharist, which is meant to be a life response to the Word of God, to Christ with whom we offer and join ourselves and our lives in His offering of Himself, His life, for the salvation of all. In the preparation-rite of the Offertory now, the priest at the altar takes the bread and wine brought to him on behalf of us all so that we can share the Paschal sacrifice and supper of Xt

CHOIR

PREFACE:

The formal Prayer over the Gifts, for today's celebration. Now comes the central prayer and action of the Eucharist, with the special Preface for the ^{1st Sun. of Lent} Sundays of Lent beginning the Eucharistic Prayer.

PER IPSUM:

That scriptural praise and offering to the Father concludes the Eucharistic Prayer; and we go on now to prepare for the sacrament of the Eucharist by joining together in praying the Lord's Prayer.

COMMUNION:

At the altar now, the celebrant of this Mass takes the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion, receiving first the consecrated Host and then drinking from the chalice. As he does so, prayerfully and quietly, people in the congregation here who wish to share in this Eucharistic communion begin to approach the altar-rail. Then in a moment or two the priest will go to give them Holy Communion. The giving of Holy Communion will take some minutes, and during this time while the people come and go and return to their places for some moments of personal, private thanksgiving and reflection, we have a short period of quiet which is meant for personal prayer.

You might like to use this time, until the final prayers of the Mass, to unite yourself more closely with Christ in prayer in communion with the people here as they receive Him in the Eucharist. [Before the choir's communion time song, this 5th century Lenten prayer may help you too:

ECP 210
QQ PYC Lent

While the giving of Holy Communion still continues and until the priest is ready for the final Thanksgiving Prayer and the Blessing, let's think back briefly to the scriptures we listened to earlier, in the context of this Eucharist for the beginning of Lent. God's creation which He made good: it's what we thank Him for and rejoice in at this time of New Year celebration: Man's greed and pride, in which we all share, brings the disruption and discord of sin and evil which are so evident in our world: Christ who comes, sharing our human situation, to reconcile us with ourselves, with each other, and with God our Father through His own life and suffering, death and resurrection. We go with Him on our journey through life, in our time in the desert place, in our repentance and renewal of Lent. → Sharing in this Eucharist, we share Christ's life, and learn that His power and presence is with us in our testing-times, in our struggle to be faithful to the dedication we make of ourselves to the service of God in the Baptism we have received: Christ's temptations in the desert is our story too, though we know (if only we would remember it) that now we are not alone in our solitudes, whether it's personal loneliness or the helplessness or hopelessness of the world that leaves us vulnerable. In Lent, through the reading of scripture, we

recall the whole story of God's purpose for us in Christ, the new creation and brotherhood which He wants for us...something we have to choose and make, for it's based on love and self-giving on the pattern of Christ; and love is a choice to make. The Eucharist we celebrate and share is this whole story and a sign of its fulfillment: Christ's giving of Himself for us and to us to be the life of our lives, the bond of brotherhood among ourselves and with Him who is Son of God. The full implications of this we'll never be able to grasp wholly: only we can learn little by little, in each Communion and Lenten reflection, how to change our lives, our concerns for others, so as to truly love and be for others a presence of Christ's life in theirs.