

17. 2. 69 (Chinese New Year)

✓ 17. 2. 72 (3. 2. 72, NY)

✓ 5. 2. 73 (" " ")

Deus Ps 66 (Latin)

TAPE

Pater (Chinese from Xf King)

OUR FATHER

(ANGELUS)

'Your father who is in heaven makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.'

Hong Kong's on holiday today, celebrating the start of a new year.

Traditionally, it's very much a family and household affair. Each family comes together, visiting and paying respects to the head of the family. As far as I know, there hasn't been any general attempt by the Church to 'christianize' this festival - perhaps because, for those who are Christians, it so easily takes on a deeper meaning. Many Chinese Catholics make a point of going to Mass today; not that it's ever been a holy-day, but because it seems to be a good and right thing to do. For someone aware of what his baptism has made him, and knowing what the Mass is about, it's natural that a festival which makes so much of human fathers and families should also suggest special respect and worship of our Father in heaven, on this day: the family coming-together of God's children to share the gifts of God in the banquet of the Eucharist. [It's a happy coincidence this year that the scripture at Mass yesterday should be so appropriate for the festival] - (that) ^{instruction to my dear through his love} through Christ's ^{love} love, we've to become like our Father in heaven, holy, perfect, merciful, kind, with an all-embracing love, not just for ^{ourselves} our relatives and friends and compatriots but for all who are the children of God. And the extent of God's love is immeasurable - he sent his only Son to be with us, one of us, to show how much he cares. Christ accepted even suffering and death for us: and that's to be the pattern

Festive Extra ANC 068
Festive Deo (Pellegrina Church) R20

PRAYERS

for our love of others, a pattern we acknowledge and celebrate in the Eucharist at Mass. As we recite our ^{formal} prayers now, let's pray in our hearts to our Father, to worship him and acknowledge his goodness and kindness, and the attention and importance we should pay to him constantly, only we tend to take it for granted usually and need occasions like this as a reminder.

part of a ^{grand} Festival Entry
For a prayer in music today, (Ps 150, a psalm of praise - thanksgiving, in a setting) by Flor Peeters.

a psalm of praise to God or Father
I began today with (the Our Father sung in Chinese), and a quote from Jesus talking about His Father as ours. Many people who believe in God, accept the existence of God (whatever name they may call him) only know Him in an impersonal & distant kind of way. For a Christian, God is close: we know much more about Him than can be established by reasoning or philosophy alone ^{and} the difference is important, [and it's not being clearly made in a recent TV debate for instance, led to an unsatisfactory piece of talking at cross-purposes]. What God's revealing of himself has opened to us is his closeness, his care, his love. We couldn't dare call God 'our father' unless we'd been told to do so by Christ. It's a new idea of God, whose reality comes from the fact that Christ makes us his own brother, giving us to share his life: and that life is the family life of the Trinity - Christ's eternal Father becomes our eternal father. These are words, of course, ideas which we've got to work on from the

ordinary experience of human life. Unfortunately, not everyone is blessed by
 having or having had a human father whose goodness, kindness and other
 qualities could serve to give some idea of what the God who made us
 and cares for us is like. Our Lord spoke naturally of God as His father,
 and wants us to do the same. Talking about Him, Jesus also used simple
 illustrations: a father who's interested in every little thing about us, who gives
 us all we have and could want, who wants to give, who draws us
 towards himself if only we let ourselves be drawn. And he's father of all
 — regarding all with equal care: He makes his sun shine not only on
 the rich man (the middle-east sun is ^{often} a scorching, unpleasant thing) but on the
 good as well: His rain, cooling, refreshing, relief from the heat, is not just
 for those who are his particular friends, but for everyone. He gives us all we
 have. Today, then, can be a day of thanksgiving too — to recognize and
 say 'thank you': not just for the weather, our own joys & happiness, but for
 the greatest gift of His love, making us one of his family by sending us Christ as
 our saviour & brother