

SHALOM: Friday 26 January 2001

Ss Timothy & Titus (Memorial)

1st reading: 2Tim1:1-8

In the fast-track world of e-mail, fax and phone, we seem to have little time these days for saying and writing the kind of personal sentiments that traditional letter-writing allowed. Look even at the personal letters included in the Bible, like those to St Paul's companions and disciples, Ss Timothy and Titus. Paul had given them responsibility for caring for some of the newly-founded Christian communities. But he followed up with encouragement and advice to his friends, giving praise to God for them and sharing his gratefulness for their faith and talents. Saying how their memory gives him joy in the Lord, he tells how he prays for them, and longs to see them soon again. And his special encouragement for Timothy is his prayer that Timothy's gifts, especially the Spirit he received through Paul's hands, might make him bold and strong in sharing his faith with others. These sentiments are also now addressed to each one of us, for our strengthening and encouragement. May we in our turn also learn to communicate with our sisters and brothers in Christ similar desires and feelings of joyful appreciation of their talents and gifts, with gratitude and encouragement the tone of our prayers for them.