

## Reading

1 Corinthians 12:31–13:8

*If I am without love, it will do me no good whatever.*

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

<sup>31</sup> Be ambitious for the higher gifts.

And I am going to show you a way that is better than any of them.

<sup>13:1</sup> If I have all the eloquence of men or of angels, but speak without love, I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing.

<sup>2</sup> If I have the gift of prophecy, understanding all the mysteries there are, and knowing everything, and if I have faith in all its fullness, to move mountains, but without love, then I am nothing at all.

<sup>3</sup> If I give away all that I possess, piece by piece, and if I even let them take my body to burn it, but am without love, it will do me no good whatever.

<sup>4</sup> Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous;  
<sup>5</sup> love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful.

<sup>6</sup> Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth;  
<sup>7</sup> it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes.

<sup>8</sup> Love does not come to an end.

The word of the Lord.