

## This Week's Readings

### First Reading: Genesis 9: 8-15.

After the flood God makes a new friendship-covenant with Noah and his descendants.

### Second Reading: 1 Peter 3: 18-22.

As God saved Noah in the waters of the flood so are we saved in the waters of baptism.

### Gospel: Mark 1: 12-15.

After remaining forty days in the desert, Jesus begins his preaching, calling on people to change their hearts and to believe in the good news of the Kingdom of God he was proclaiming.



## Points for Reflection

Last Wednesday we entered the Season of Lent.

- **Lent is a time of preparation for the celebration of the Paschal Mystery of the Death and Resurrection of Christ.** It was this Mystery that marked the beginning of our Christian life at the moment of our baptism.
- **As our catechumens prepare to be baptized and introduced into our parish life at Easter,** let us intensify our prayers for them and help them feel at home in our community, so that they, too, will become active and generous witnesses of the Risen Lord.
- Lent is also a **wonderful opportunity for all of us baptized people to reflect on our Christian vocation and mission and to renew ourselves in Christ, our Model, Teacher and Saviour.**

We are helped to understand better the meaning of Lent by the brief passage from the **Gospel** according to **Mark**.

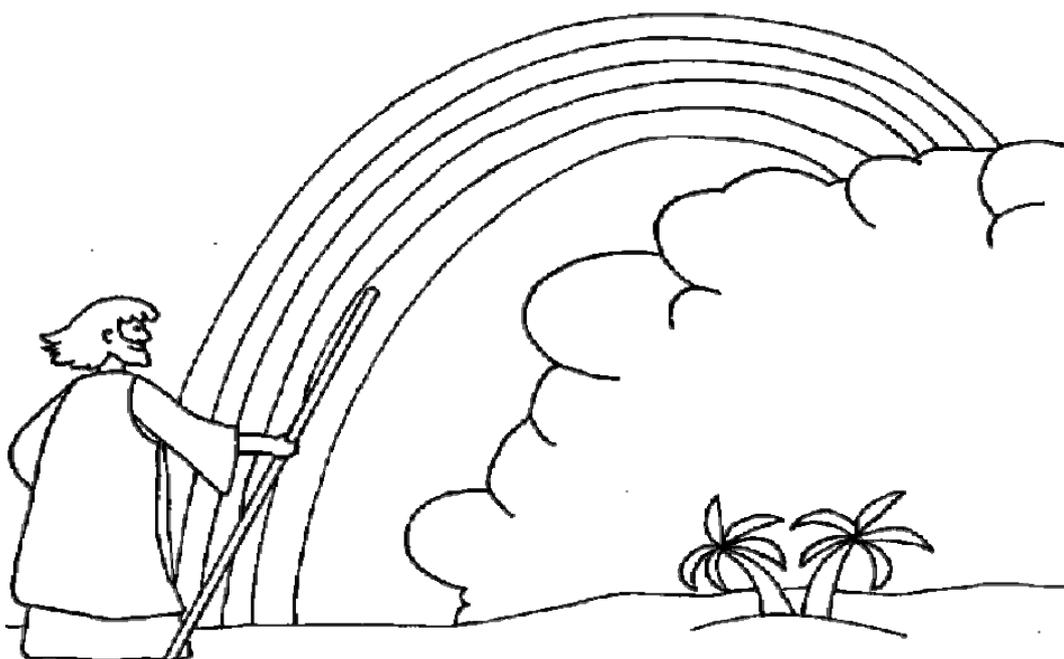
- John the Baptist has just baptized Jesus in the waters of the Jordan. In that scene, which marked the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus made manifest his incorporation into suffering humanity, and the Father publicly affirmed Jesus' mission and proclaimed him as his beloved Son. Now Mark tells us: **"The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert"**. The desert is a desolate place where human insecurity is experienced to the fullest. There Jesus can rely only on the Father. But his confident surrender to the will of the Father will enable him to triumph over all hostile forces symbolized by the presence of the tempter, Satan.

- **“He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to Him”.** By these words Mark alludes to a renewal of cosmic dimensions, in which the hostile forces in the universe are reduced to subjection, transformed and reconciled in Jesus. Thanks to Jesus’ absolute and unreserved obedience to the Father, in the solitude of the desert a whole New World is born, the Kingdom of God, to enter which, Jesus tells us: **“Repent, and believe in the gospel.”** In other words: “Turn away from your way of living and your human set of values; take notice of the fact that a new and unheard of reality has begun in your universe: pay heed to it, believe, and live accordingly. And by so doing, you, too, will share in my triumph over all forces of evil and will enjoy and spread true peace”.

<b>Sacred Heart Church Sai Kung (E-mail: <a href="mailto:sacredheart@netvigator.com">sacredheart@netvigator.com</a>)</b>	
<b>Phone:</b> Office hours: 27922967 (with answering machine) After office hours: 27920181 Fax: 27922967	<b>Eucharistic Celebrations:</b> Sundays: 9.00 am (English) 7.45 am (Chinese) 10.30 am (Chinese)
<b>Parish Priest:</b> Fr Carlo Tei <a href="mailto:carlotei@gmail.com">carlotei@gmail.com</a>  Fr Sergio Ticozzi, Sr Mary Leung (helping on Sundays)	Anticipated Sunday Masses Saturdays: 6.00 pm (English) 7.30 pm (Chinese) Public holidays: 8.00 am (Chinese) Weekdays: 7.00 am (Chinese)
<b>Secretary:</b> Miss Tse Choi Ping <b>Office hours:</b> Mon-Fridays: 9.00am – 1.00pm; 2.00pm – 5.30pm Sundays: 8.45am – 12 noon	<b>Confessions:</b> Sundays before Mass and during the 7.45 am Mass Weekdays on call
<b>Parish Council</b> <b>Chairlady:</b> Miss Candy Chan Tel: 23265322	<b>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:</b> Thursdays: 2.30 pm 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month: 8.00 pm

## Kids' Corner

*Colour the picture below based on today's readings*



[http://www.bijbelspel.nl/php/4\\_frameset\\_bib\\_en.php](http://www.bijbelspel.nl/php/4_frameset_bib_en.php)