

## This Week's Readings

### First Reading: Isaiah 55: 1-11.

*"Come to the water. Listen, that you may have life".*

### Second Reading: 1 John 5: 1-9.

*"There are three witnesses: the Spirit, the water and the blood".*

### Gospel: Mark 1: 1-9.

Mark describes for us the baptism of Jesus. We are reminded of our own baptism.



## Points for Reflection

1. John the Baptist, on announcing the imminent coming of the Messiah, called people to be baptized: to be plunged into the waters of the River Jordan. That would be a sign of their repentance and determination to rise to a new life, in order to be ready to welcome Jesus of Nazareth as their awaited Messiah.
2. Jesus, too, at the start of his ministry, wanted to be baptized by John. That was a sign of his willingness to identify himself with us, all in need of salvation. When he rose from the water, the heavens parted, he was filled with the Holy Spirit and was greeted by God the Father as *"my beloved Son"*. So Jesus was revealed to us as the One sent by God to free us from the loneliness and helplessness of our human situation. But, in order to bring to completion God's plan of salvation, Jesus would have to undergo the baptism of his passion and death.
3. At the moment of our baptism, heaven, indeed, opened for us too. And we, too, were filled with the Holy Spirit and recognized by God as his sons and daughters, and, like Jesus, were sent to spread the Good News of God's love for mankind to the people around us. A mission which, like that of Jesus, entails a lot of self-giving. This, however, is the only way chosen by God to bring to completion his plan of salvation. Unfortunately, we are so often tempted to forget all about this. When it happens, we should recall the words from today's **First Reading**: *"My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord."* We will find the light and strength we need to be true brothers and sisters of God's beloved Son.

**Sacred Heart Church Sai Kung (E-mail: [sacredheart@netvigator.com](mailto:sacredheart@netvigator.com))**

<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: Fr Carlo Tei</b> <a href="mailto:carlotei@gmail.com">carlotei@gmail.com</a>  <b>Fr Sergio Ticozzi, Sr Mary Leung</b> (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: Miss Tse Choi Ping</b> <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 Chairlady: Miss Candy Chan</b> 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 of the John the Baptist and Jesus below.*



<http://littlelambsministry.freeservers.com/coloringpagejesusisbaptized.htm>