

This Week's Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 61: 1-2, 10-11.

The prophet has been anointed by God and sent to bring good news to the poor.

Jesus himself used this passage to announce his own mission.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24.

Rejoice! St Paul tells the Thessalonians how they ought to live as they wait for the second coming of Christ.

Gospel: John 1: 6-8, 19-28.

John is a witness who speaks for the light; he is not the light. His task is to prepare the way for the Saviour who is already among the people.



Points for Reflection

On the third Sunday of Advent, the Church presents us again with the most prestigious witness to the Lord's coming, with the man chosen by God to be the voice crying in the desert that Isaiah foretold. John tells his listeners that "the one who is to come" is already among them, although they do not recognize him.

This is also true for many of us today. We do not recognize God's presence among us. What are we supposed to do in order to be able to recognize the Lord in our midst?

John the Baptist does not give us any neat formulas for recognizing our Lord. But his example of humility and faithfulness to his mission points to the conditions we must meet if the eyes of our faith are to be opened. **Humility and purity of heart:** we need these very same qualities to recognize God in our midst and witness to his presence.

- If we were humble and pure of heart, how many things would remind us of God's presence: the gifts of creation, the gifts of salvation and our own individual gifts! These are all from God.
- And, as John the Baptist reminds us, they are also for God. They should be used as a means to him and to the success of his plan of salvation for us and for the world. They are meant to be the very ways by which we remain always united to God and are faithful to our mission as Christians and witness to God's wisdom, goodness, love and mercy.

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

Announcements:

Registrations for the Catholic Catechism Class will end this week. The classes are on Thursday evenings from 6-7pm, and cost HK\$200 per child, to cover the course materials for the year. Please contact Carla Basto Clark on rgclark@netvigator.com if you wish to register your child/children before Monday 15th Dec.

Christmas and New Year's Day Eucharistic Celebrations (Masses) in English:

- 24 December 10.00 pm Christmas Night Mass
(9.30 pm: *Introduction to the Mass*)
- 25 December 9.00 am Christmas Day Mass
- 1 January 9.00 am New Year's Day Mass

