
This Week's Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 7: 10-14.

The people may be faithless, but God remains faithful: he will be with us. A child is the sign of this.

Second Reading: Romans 1: 1-7.

Paul reiterates the call of the prophet. By accepting Christ in faith we find grace and peace.

Gospel: Matthew 1: 18-25.

The Emmanuel promised of old will be born of Mary.



Points for Reflection

From the **First Reading** and the **Gospel**, we know that God's name is "*Emmanuel*": "*God-with-us*".

Isaiah gives Ahaz, the king of Judah, a sign of God's continued protection and guidance by promising that a young woman would bring forth a Saviour, and his name would be "*Emmanuel*": "*God-with-us*".

The Evangelist **Matthew** sees in the birth of Jesus from the Virgin Mary the perfect fulfillment of this prophecy. Through the Incarnation of his Son, God keeps his promise; he really becomes one of us. And by the power of his Resurrection, and through the Sacrament of the Eucharist, Jesus remains "God-with-us" for ever, till the end of time. He is with us now through his Word, through his Spirit, whom we receive in a special and abundant way in the Sacrament of Confirmation; he is present in the assembly of believers, and in the Eucharist, especially when we receive him through Holy Communion. He is present in every human being, particularly in the suffering and the needy, both spiritually and materially.

If we believe that the Risen Christ is alive among us, guiding each one of us and moving human

history, slowly, yet gradually, according to God's plan, our being Christians is very meaningful to us and to others; our lives take a new orientation indeed.

In the **Gospel**, it is also said that the name of the boy promised by God is "*Jesus*", that is: "*God-saves*". This indicates what kind of Messiah Jesus was to be. God is God-with-us in order to save – in order to save us from our sins. The Risen Christ is among us in order to save us from our sins and from the roots of evil. If we believe this, then we accept that what matters most in life is to let the Spirit of Christ carry out his salvation in us, his work of liberation from our sins.

Human history, therefore, progresses only as long as we are gradually freed from our sins, both the sins which are rooted in our hearts and the sins which are embodied in all unjust institutions of our present world.

A Blessed and Happy Christmas to all and each one of you!

Fr Carlo Tei

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 am (English) 7.45 am (Chinese) 10.30 am (Chinese) |
| Parish Priest: Fr Carlo Tei (E-mail: carlotei@gmail.com) Fr Sergio Ticozzi (helping on Sundays) | Anticipated Sunday Mass Saturdays: 6.00 pm (English) 7.30 pm (Chinese) Public holidays: 8 00 am (Chinese) Weekdays: 7.00 am (Chinese) |
| Secretary: Miss Tse Choi Ping Office hours: Mon-Fridays: 9.00am – 1.00pm; 2.00pm – 6.00 Sundays: 8.45am – 12 noon | Confessions: Sundays before Mass; Weekdays on call |
| Parish Council Chairlady: Miss Candy Chan Tel: 23265322 | Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Thursdays: 2.30 pm 1 st Thursday of the month 8.00 pm |

Schedule for Christmas

| Date | Activities | Time | Venue |
|--|--|---|--------|
| 24 December 2010 Christmas Eve | Prayer and Praise (English) Mass (English) Prayer and Praise (Chinese) Mass (Chinese) | 9:30 pm 10:00 pm 11:30 pm 12:00 midnight | Church |
| 25 December 2010 Christmas Day | Mass (Chinese) Mass (English) Mass (Chinese) | 7:45 am 9:00am 10:30 am | Church |
| Anticipated Sunday Mass (Saturday) Feast of the Holy Family | (English) (Chinese) | 6:00 pm 7:30 pm | |
| 26 December 2010 | Mass (Chinese) Mass (English) Mass (Chinese) | 7:45 am 9:00 am 10:30 am | Church |
| 27 December 2010 | Mass (Chinese) | 8:00 am | Church |
| 1 January 2011 New Year's Day | Mary, Mother of God Solemnity Mass (Chinese) Mary, Mother of God Solemnity Mass (English) | 8:00 am 9:00am | Church |
| Anticipated Sunday Mass (Saturday) Epiphany of Our Lord | (English) (Chinese) | 6:00 pm 7:30 pm | |

Fr Carlo Tei wishes all parishioners Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!!

