

This Week's Readings

1st Reading: Micah 5: 1-4. The one who is to come will give peace to mankind.

2nd Reading: Hebrews 10: 5-10. God does not want outward observances unless they are accompanied by inward conversion.

Gospel: Luke 1: 39-44. Mary, most blessed because of her faith, brings the joy of Jesus' presence to Elizabeth and to her not yet born son, John.



Points for Reflection

- This Sunday's Scripture Readings focus on the birth of Jesus and tell us how to prepare for the celebration of Christmas.** The prophet Micah in the **First Reading** foretells the birth of the King-Messiah. The **Second Reading**, taken from the Letter to the Hebrews, presents the coming of the Lord in the flesh as an act of obedience by Christ to his Father's will. The **Gospel** is a touching description of the events immediately preceding the birth of Jesus. It centers around two expectant mothers, Mary and Elizabeth. When Mary learned that her elderly cousin had conceived, she felt it was her duty to visit the older woman and offer her help. The episode took place several months before the birth of Jesus. But the foretold Messiah was already present to mankind through Mary, his Mother. And it was precisely his presence that brought joy to Elizabeth and to her not yet born son, John. Through Mary, therefore, the Son of God became as close to mankind as to become Incarnate, as to become one of us. Mary was indeed the dwelling-place of God among men.
- Since the moment of the Incarnation of the Son of God, no more does God dwell in temples of stone, but in living persons, in the living temples of human beings.** After the example of Mary, every Christian and, indeed, every human being is a sign of God's presence in the world and of God's closeness to mankind. Our attitudes, our words and actions, our involvement in human history build the divine dwelling-place on earth. It is our lives, our commitment to others, our endeavours to spread justice, love and peace and our determination to create unity, mutual understanding and reconciliation that tell us and others that God is present among us and cares for us.
- May our Lady obtain for us all the graces we need to prepare for the celebration of Christmas in the same spirit of faith and love in which she awaited the birth of her Child.**

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a **HAPPY** and **BLESSED CHRISTMAS!**

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, Sr Mary Leung (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 – 6.00pm Saturdays: 10.00am – 12 noon 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: 2.30pm 1 st Thursday of the month 8.00 pm

Kids' Corner

Directions: Read the clues and put your answers in the correct boxes of the crossword puzzle. If you need more help, read the *Points for Reflection* on the first page.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Across

- Advent is a time of pr_____n before Christmas
- _____ is the mother of Jesus
- As Christians we must endeavour to spread justice, love and p_____.
- Jesus is the M_____, or the King.

Down

- _____ is the mother of John the Baptist.
- _____ is the birth of Jesus.
- "By the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary and became man." This refers to the i_____n.

