

This Week's Readings

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-11, 16.

God promises David that his descendants will be secure forever.

Second Reading: Romans 16: 25-27.

The Good News of Christ must be broadcast to all men everywhere.

Gospel: Luke 1: 26-38.

The Angel Gabriel tells Mary that her Son will be David's promised descendant and the Son of God.



Points for Reflection

1. In today's **First Reading** we are told that God wanted to found for King David a lasting royal house out of which the Saviour would come. And this was a sign of God's fidelity to the Covenant with his People, Israel.
2. In today's **Gospel** we see God's promise fulfilled. By the power of the Holy Spirit, the Virgin Mary becomes the Mother of Jesus who is, at the same time, true Son of God and true Son of Man, David's promised descendant.
3. Through the Gospel we are first of all led to focus our attention on Christ's identity: **Jesus is at once totally human and perfectly divine.** Why should the Saviour be a member of mankind? Because a Messiah, who was not man, could have no intimate partnership with men in the work of salvation. And why should the Saviour be the Son of God? Because a Messiah, who was not the Son of God, could not have led us to the only means of salvation: sharing in divine life and filial love for the Father.
4. St Luke, by today's Gospel, reveals to us also the identity of **Mary, Virgin and Mother**, and her role in the plan of salvation. In Mary, God's gratuitous initiative and man's free response to God are met and perfectly blended. **Through the power of the Holy Spirit and Mary's "yes" to God, the work of salvation can be accomplished: the Saviour is born.**
5. **And so Mary becomes the model of all those who want to let the Saviour Jesus Christ enter their lives.** As disciples of Jesus, we share Mary's vocation. She was chosen to be the one who bore the Saviour. In Baptism, we have been called and commissioned to do the same: to be the signs of God's presence in the world, to bring Christ's Good News of salvation to mankind. Mary gave Christ a body..., so should we. Saint Paul tells us that we are the Body of Christ. The story of Mary in today's Gospel is our story, too. Or it should be. The key is in our response. Are we willing to say "yes" to God as Our Lady did? Am I as ready as Mary to say "yes" to God's call to let the Spirit fill my life so that I may become

Christ's bearer and messenger to the world? Am I as ready as our Lady to risk what doing the will of God might entail in my day-to-day life? If I can follow Mary's example of faith, humility and love, then Jesus Christ will be born every day in my heart, and my life will be Christmas for my brothers and sisters; the Saviour of the world will come again also through me.

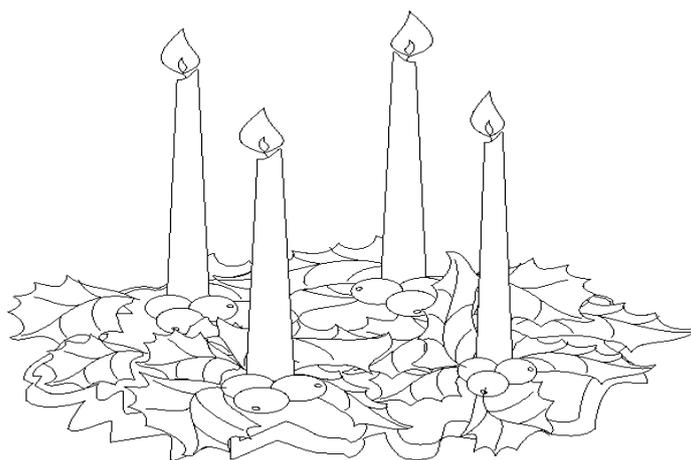
I wish all and each one of you a Blessed and Happy Christmas!

--- 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: 9.00 am (English) 7.45 am (Chinese) 10.30 am (Chinese)
Parish Priest: Fr Carlo Tei carlotei@gmail.com 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)
Secretary: Miss Tse Choi Ping Office hours: Mon-Fridays: 9.00am – 1.00pm; 2.00pm – 5.30pm Sundays: 8.45am – 12 noon	Confessions: Sundays before Mass and during the 7.45 am 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

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

- 24 December 10.00 pm Christmas Eve 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



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