

This Week's Readings

- 1st Reading:** **Baruch 5:1-9.** The prophet consoles the Jewish exiles and tells them that God will restore glory to Israel.
- 2nd Reading:** **Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11.** We are urged to a greater love of each other so that we may be ready for Christ's coming.
- Gospel:** **Luke 3:1-6.** John the Baptist demands strict preparation for the Lord's coming



Points for Reflection

- On the second Sunday of Advent, the Church invites us:
 - to wait for the coming of Christ in joy (**1st Reading**),
 - to prepare ourselves for his encounter by leading a blameless life (**2nd Reading**),
 - to heed the command of John the Baptist to convert and show repentance (**Gospel**).
- Jerusalem, the holy city, is urged to abandon sorrow and distress and put on the "*beauty of the glory of the Lord*" and to arise and observe the flow of the Jewish people coming from the four corners of the globe. (**First Reading**).

Jerusalem is the image of the Church. She, too, suffers on account of the estrangement and dispersal of so many of her children and she, too, is invited to rekindle her hopes, confiding in the Saviour, who mystically comes again each Christmas to lead her to salvation with all her people.

- In the **Second Reading**, St Paul expresses his joy and happiness at the news that the Gospel has been preached and is flourishing among the Philippians, and he is grateful for their help and collaboration. However, St Paul challenges the Philippians to be "*pure and blameless*" and to reach perfection "*for the day of Christ*".

The same challenge is addressed to us today. "To lead a pure and blameless life" is synonymous with holiness, which is not a prerogative of the elite but the responsibility of every Christian. As Vatican Council II says: Everyone in the Church, whether "belonging to the hierarchy or being cared for by it, is called to holiness . . . The Lord Jesus preached holiness of life to each and every one of his disciples, regardless of their situation" (LG 39-40).

- In the **Gospel**, Luke attaches a very great importance on the preaching of John the Baptist in the desert. As a good historian, he gives us the historical background by fixing the time when John appeared. "*When Pontius Pilate . . . etc.*" According to Luke, the preaching of John is a turning point in the plan of salvation.

The liturgy joins Luke and wants us to meet John before meeting Christ. It wants us to listen to John in order to make all the necessary preparations for the coming of the Redeemer. All of the preaching of John is focused on repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The Church repeats to each one of us today: "Repent and change". Could we have a better programme for the Advent Season?

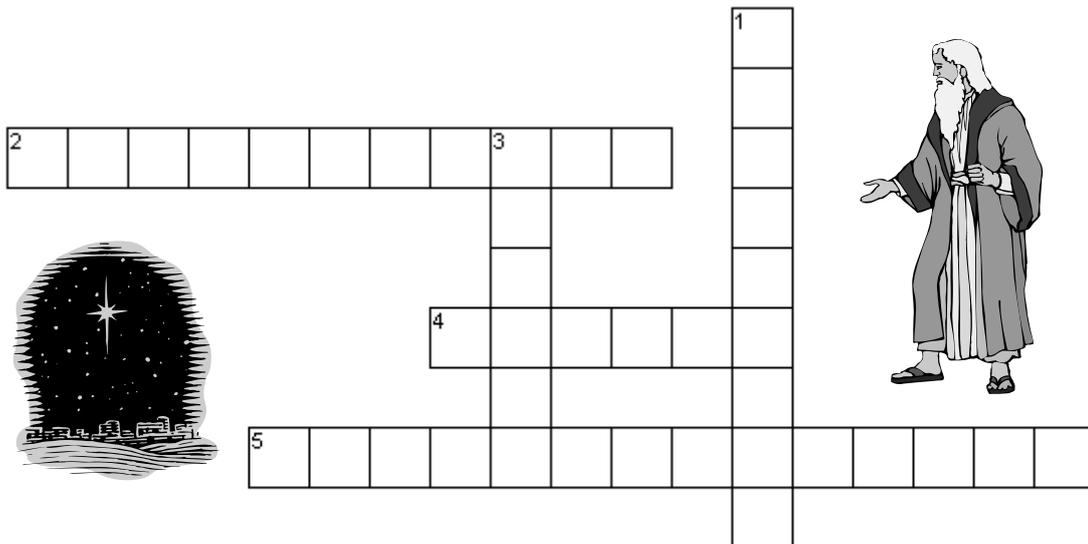
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Phone: Office hours: 27922967 (with answering machine) After office hours: 27920181 Fax: 27922967	Eucharistic Celebrations: Sundays: 9 am (English) 7.45 am (Chinese) 10.30 am (Chinese)
Parish Priest: Fr Carlo Tei (E-mail: carlotei@gmail.com) Fr Sergio Ticozzi, Fr Augustine Zaw, Sr Mary (helping on weekends)	Anticipated Sunday Mass Saturdays: 6.00 pm (English) 7.30 pm (Chinese) Public holidays: 8 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.

Advent



Across

- 2. St. Paul challenged these people to be "pure and blameless"
- 4. During Advent, we should "_____ and change"
- 5. He prepared the way of the Lord by baptizing men and preaching repentance

Down

- 1. the birth of Jesus
- 3. the coming of Christ