

This Week's Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7.

Isaiah tells us that God's Servant will never falter, however difficult his mission, and that he will restore justice to the world.

Second Reading: Acts 10: 34-38.

Peter tells us how God sent Jesus to reveal the Good News of peace.

Gospel: Matthew 3: 13-17. Jesus, as he is being baptized by John, receives his mission as God's chosen and beloved Son and Servant.



Points for Reflection

1. **John the Baptist**, when announcing the imminent coming of the Messiah, called the people to be baptized, to be plunged into the water, as a sign of their determination to repent for their sins and rise to a new life, and thus be ready for Christ.
2. Jesus, too, at the start of his ministry, chose to be baptized by John, to show his willingness to identify himself with our helplessness, with our need for salvation. But, when he rose from the water, he was filled with the Holy Spirit and was greeted by the voice of God the Father as "*my beloved Son*". The Greek word for "son" can also mean "servant". So Jesus was revealed as the Servant foretold in the First Reading. He was the One sent to free us, captive in the loneliness of our human situation, and to open our blind eyes. But, since this could only be brought about through his death, Jesus called his passion the baptism he longed for.
3. At the moment of our baptism, **we were "Christ-ened"**:
 - **We made Christ's death our own**: we died and rose with him. Something that we have to ratify every day of our lives, by identifying ourselves with Christ in his life and love and in his fight against sin: we have to die to sin and rise to new life in the Spirit of Christ, growing more like him.
 - **We, too, were sent to spread the same Good News to those around us**. Jesus met the sick, the despised, the spiritually crippled and the poor. We meet such people, too, in our daily lives. Our approach to them should be like his, like that of the faithful Servant who never lost hope or patience. This is how we, too, can be God's beloved children and bring his fatherly love to others. This is how we are true to our Christian call.

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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

Kids' Corner

Colour the picture of Jesus and John the Baptist below.

