

This Week's Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10.

God will come to save us bringing with him new courage and hope.

Second Reading: James 5: 7-10.

We must be patient with one another as we are patient in awaiting the Lord's coming.

Gospel: Matthew: 11: 2-11.

Again the First Gospel tells us of John the Baptist. Jesus declares him the last and greatest prophet of the Old Testament. Yet, he adds that the least born into the Kingdom of God are greater than John.



Points for Reflection

Today's **Gospel** is made up of two parts: the narrative of the deputation of John the Baptist's disciples and the praise of John by Jesus himself.

1. John the Baptist, when announcing the coming of the Messiah, had particularly emphasized the last judgment and the power of God's intervention in mankind's history.

But, to John's surprise, and to the surprise of his disciples, Jesus' works were all works of peace and salvation. Instead of judging and condemning, Jesus healed and saved. That is why John sent some of his disciples to ask Jesus whether he was the real Messiah.

To prove that he was the Messiah, Jesus appealed to his works of healing and liberation as works foretold by the Scriptures and in keeping with the messianic hope. He also proclaimed blessed those who would take no offence at him: that is, those who, against their own personal views and expectations, would welcome him as the Messiah and accept only his way of announcing and

spreading the kingdom of God.

2. Jesus then gave witness both to John's holiness and genuine mission. Being the forerunner of the Messiah, John was declared by Jesus the last and greatest prophet of the Old Testament. Yet, Jesus added that the least in the Kingdom of God are even greater than John.

The least in the Kingdom of God are those who believe in Jesus and are enlightened and guided by his Gospel of mercy, reconciliation and peace.

3. Therefore, we, too, are born into the Kingdom of God and are blessed whenever we acknowledge we are sinners in need of God's forgiveness; whenever we are willing to forgive everyone who has hurt us; whenever we turn our backs on our own false gods: our pride, selfishness, envy and spiteful judgment of others; whenever we grow in the love of God, and love one another as Jesus loved us.



Sacred Heart Church Sai Kung (E-mail: sacredheart@netvigator.com)

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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 (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 |
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| 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 9:00 am 10:00 am | Church |
| Anticipated Sunday Mass (Saturday) Feast of the Holy Family | Mass (English) Mass (Chinese) | 6:00 pm 7:30 pm | |
| 26 December 2010 Feast of the Holy Family | 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) Solemnity of the Epiphany of Our Lord | Mass (English) Mass (Chinese) | 6:00 pm 7:30 pm | |

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

