

Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

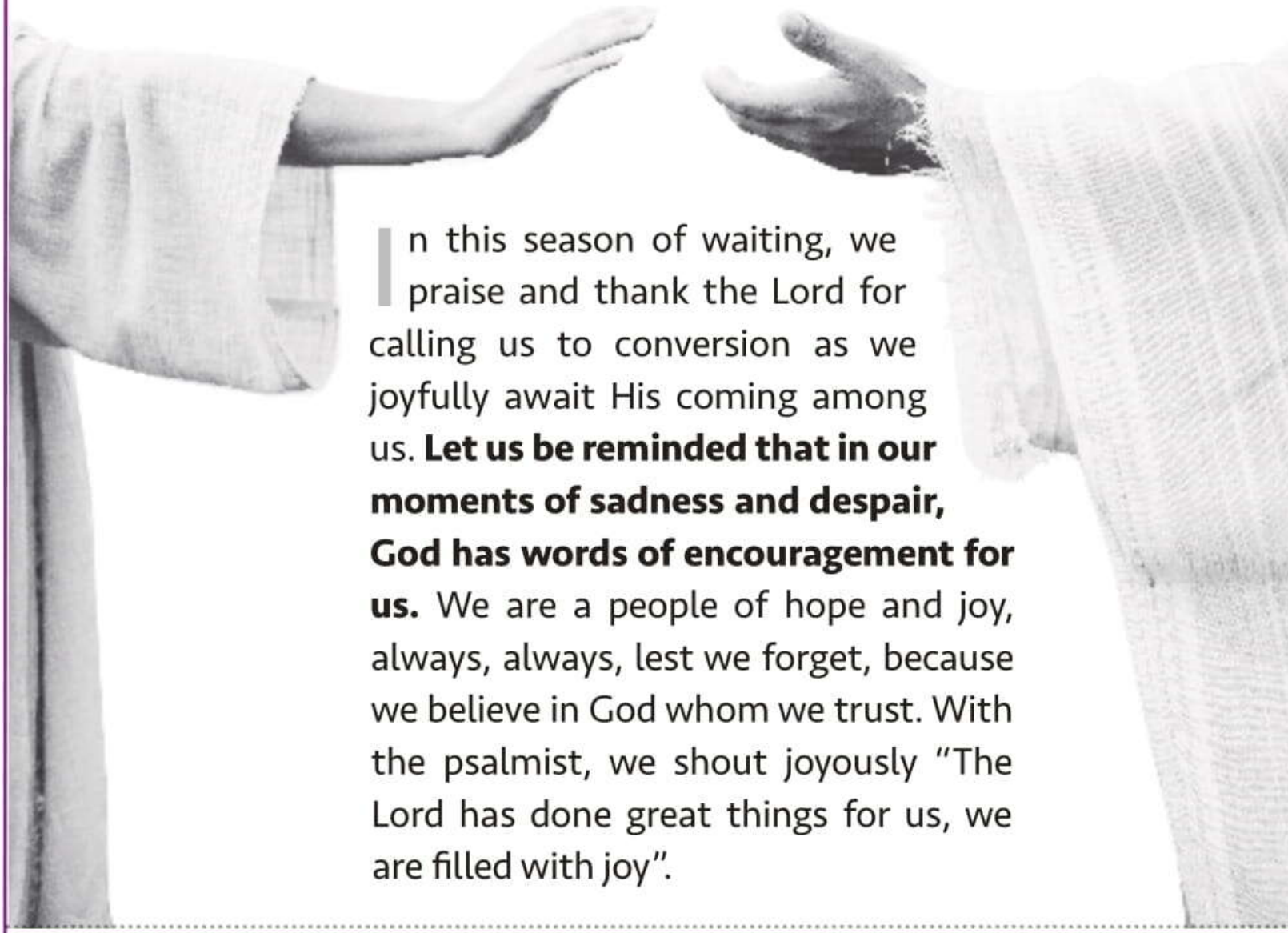
2nd Sunday of Advent

HOPE: BELIEVE, LIVE AND GIVE

MONTHLY THEME:

DO NOT BE AFRAID, I BRING YOU GOOD NEWS

GOD HAS NOT FORGOTTEN US



In this season of waiting, we praise and thank the Lord for calling us to conversion as we joyfully await His coming among us. **Let us be reminded that in our moments of sadness and despair, God has words of encouragement for us.** We are a people of hope and joy, always, always, lest we forget, because we believe in God whom we trust. With the psalmist, we shout joyously "The Lord has done great things for us, we are filled with joy".

We recall God's mercy and righteousness in the first reading. God comforted the Israelites who were about to be taken into exile as captives to Babylon. There appeared to be no future for them in a foreign country and they did not know when they would ever see their homeland or families again. God encouraged them and told them not to mourn or be distressed. He promised to restore them to dignity, crowned and clothed like royal princes and walk in safety in His glory, justice and mercy.

Likewise, God has not forgotten us. In His compassion for all humanity, He will make straight and smoothen our paths and lead us to everlasting joy with Him in heaven. At this juncture, let us spare a thought for our brother and sister migrants and refugees in our midst. Though not the same, their situation is similar to that of the Israelites. How do we respond to them?

We are also reminded of the love of God for us, which cannot be any less than the love St. Paul expressed for the Philippians. The prayers of the saints, our parents, priests, friends and the community poured out for us that we be filled with joy, knowledge and discernment, and holiness cannot but move us to reject our sinful nature and to reach out for God in humility and repentance.

Together, let us imitate God's nature to be just and merciful to society, bearing our social responsibilities for the needs of the world and that of the Church, giving voice to His presence among us. Emmanuel. We are witnesses and heralds to His coming as was John, no less. ✚



SCRIPTURE QUOTE
TO MEMORISE:

"And all
mankind
shall see
the
salvation
of God."

(Lk. 3: 6)



SCRIPTURE
of the DAY

Bar. 5: 1-9

Ps. 125: 1-6

Phil. 1: 3-6, 8-11

Lk. 3: 1-6