

# Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

3rd Sunday of Advent

HOPE: BELIEVE, LIVE AND GIVE

MONTHLY THEME: DO NOT BE AFRAID, I BRING YOU GOOD NEWS

## LEARN TO LET GO AND LET GOD

How are we doing preparing for Christmas, for Jesus? Today's readings leave us much food for contemplation. First, we are told that our God is always a God of restoration and hope. He will remove evil from among His people and replace it with peace.



✝  
SCRIPTURE QUOTE  
TO MEMORISE:

"I want you to  
be happy,  
always happy  
in the Lord"

(Phil 4: 4)

He will purify us from sin, evil and violence and proffer a future where we can flourish in peace and joy. Indeed, he tells us not to fear our misfortunes, but to rejoice for He rejoices with us. The people of God cannot be one of despondence because He is among us and will save us.

In the second reading, St. Paul urged us also to rejoice in the Lord always, to let others feel our gentleness and understanding for them. How do we rejoice when we need so much comforting and encouragement ourselves? This is how. He tells us that the Lord is near and not to be anxious about anything; that we should pray and petition to Him with a grateful heart in everything. He teaches us that the Lord is a God of peace, and He will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. In other words, we must learn to let go and let God. In humility, we pray for His mercy and compassion to let go of all our fears and worries, difficulties and doubts, guilt and disappointments that fill our hearts and minds so often each day.

Like the repented people, soldiers and tax collectors who asked John the Baptist for directions in the Gospel reading, in faith we ask Jesus, "What, Lord, should I do?" John did not only call for repentance, but he also exhorted works of charity towards others and to practise occupational ethics. Repentance goes further than just saying 'sorry'. Repentance and faith go hand in hand. Real repentance and faith must lead to action. Action must be accompanied by compassion. Compassion for God's people reflect the image of God himself. While we need to live positively with purpose, intention and action to be truly right with God, **let us allow ourselves to be guided by His hand and rejoice as He tells us to.** ✝

SCRIPTURE  
of the DAY

Zep. 3: 14-18

Is. 12: 2-3, 4-6

Phil. 4: 4-7

Lk. 3: 10-18