

# Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

4th Sunday of Advent

HOPE: BELIEVE, LIVE AND GIVE

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

## Through Obedience, Mother Mary Consented

Advent is the season of great expectations. As we draw nearer to Christmas, our thoughts turn to that lowly place, Bethlehem. A great event was prophesized to happen there. For us, it is not a surprise but an event we await knowingly, the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. The question is how do we respond to the incarnation of Christ, the Messiah?



Micah prophesized that there will be a birth of One who will have the power and majesty of God in Bethlehem. One who has existed even before Creation. He is the Holy One of Israel, the promised ruler, who will be known throughout the world and will guide His people. They will be safe and there will be peace. He will be called Peace. The Jews waited for generations for this prophesy to take place. And when He came into the world, they missed Him. Will we miss Him too?

The author of the letter to the Hebrews wrote about the obedience of our Lord who abide by His Father's will. Jesus came to bring us salvation through His ultimate sacrifice of the body on the cross. It is not only at that once-for-all moment of His sacrifice but His whole life and ministry which revealed the love and compassion of God for us.

It is also through obedience to God when our Mother Mary consented to conceive a child who will be called the Son of the Most High. 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' she had replied. Fear of the uncertain future was overcome by God's grace upon her. It was also by God's grace that Elizabeth recognised her as the mother of her Lord when Mary visited her. And the child in her womb leapt for joy! Elizabeth, who was filled with the Holy Spirit, declared a three-point proclamation that Mary is blessed among women, that the child within Mary's womb is blessed and blessed are those who believed that the Lord's word would come true.

Blessed are all of us who believe in Jesus Christ. **Our life of obedience must also take the form of acts of love, not just mere thoughts and desires.** We must serve others and impact their lives so that they too will believe that Jesus has come into the world and lives among us. ✦

### SCRIPTURE QUOTE TO MEMORISE:

"Here I am!  
I am coming  
to obey  
your will."

(Heb. 10: 9)

### SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Mi. 5: 1-4;

Ps. 79: 2-3, 15-16,  
18-19;

Heb. 10: 5-10;

Lk. 1: 39-44.