

# Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

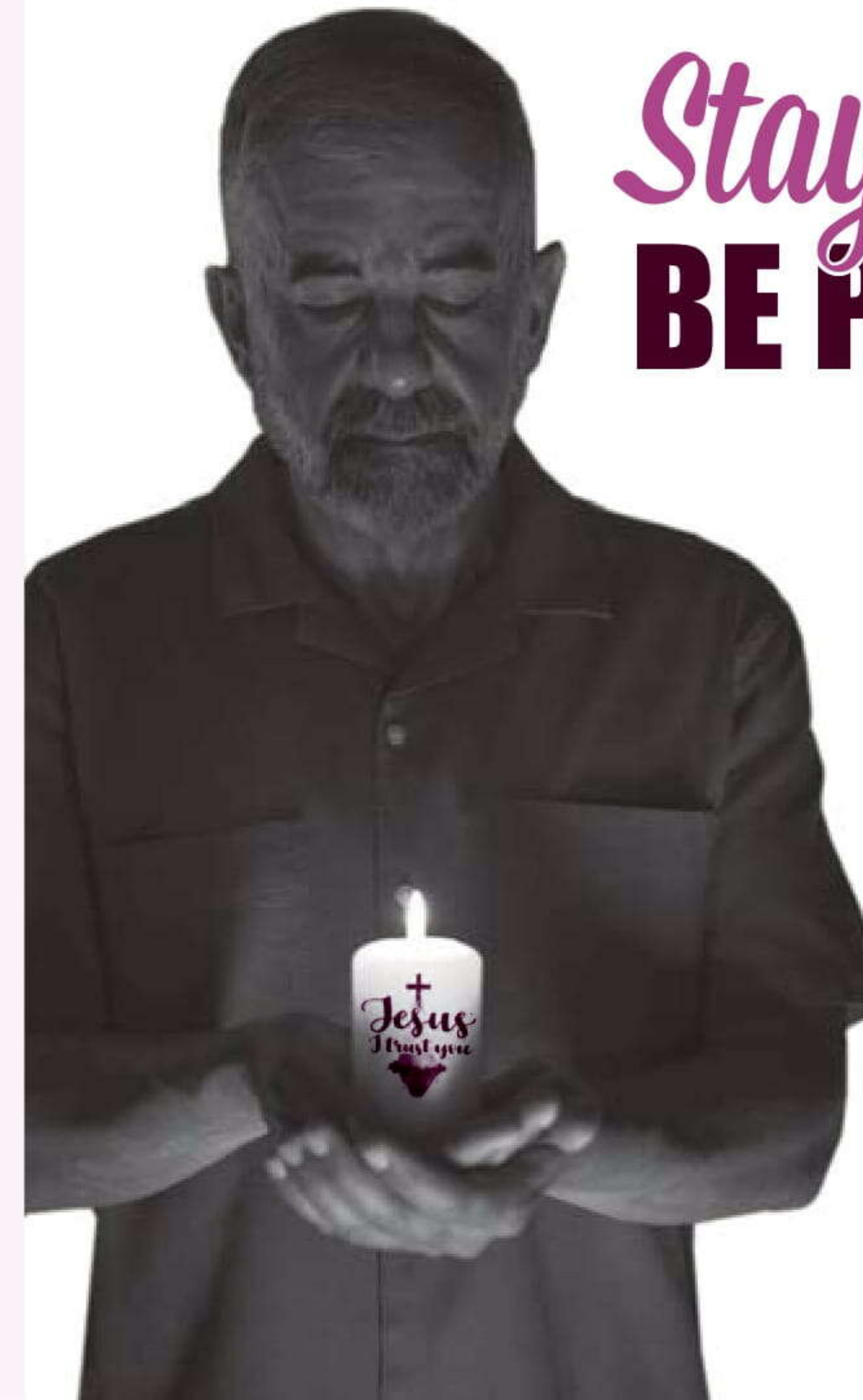
1st Sunday of Advent

SALT OF THE EARTH AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD: COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION AND MISSION

MONTHLY FOCUS:

WORLD YOUTH DAY/YOUNG PEOPLE DAY (20<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER)

## Stay Awake; BE PREPARED



The main takeaway in today's readings is "Stay awake, be prepared". This Sunday marks the start of our new liturgical year where we will be listening mostly to Mathew's gospel during mass.

Isaiah's prophetic vision reminds us of the Lord's promise. He revealed a time that we look forward to when the Lord's house will be exalted, drawing the faithful towards Him, a people of hope

### SCRIPTURE QUOTE TO MEMORISE:

Wake up,  
revive what  
little you  
have left, it is  
dying fast.

(Revelation 3: 2)

waiting for His teachings and guidance so as to live as a people of God. It is a time when God will establish His kingdom, a time for judgement, when there will be peace. It is the Lord's call that we walk in His light as we await His second coming.

St. Paul tells us that the future is now, that there is no more time to waste. He tells us to be on guard against complacency and evil deeds. We can feel the urgency in his voice. It is time to awaken. We must conduct ourselves properly now and not procrastinate. **We must cast away our dark side and put on the armour of light**, which is the armour of Christ. The time is now.

In the gospel, Jesus jolted the memory of His followers with the story of Noah and the great flood. No one knew what was going to happen and when it was going to happen then. So that His followers would understand better, He added an analogy of the master of the household who would have stayed awake if he knew a thief was coming to break into his house. Similarly, today no one will know when the Son of Man will come again and bring judgement upon us. Jesus tells us to stay awake and be prepared for His coming so that we will not be caught unaware and helpless.

Advent is a good time to start to prepare ourselves, to be vigilant lest we are caught by surprise on Judgement Day as we know it. Each year, the Church gives us this period of preparation – a second chance. She also gives us this time to prepare our hearts to let Jesus in again as we look forward to celebrate the birth of the Christ child who brings the promise of hope, peace and joy. ✦

### SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Isaiah 2: 1-5;

Psalms 121: 1-2, 4-9;

Romans 13: 11-14;

Matthew 24: 37-44.