

Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

2nd Sunday Of Advent

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

MONTHLY FOCUS:

CHRISTMAS SEASON (25th DECEMBER – 1st JANUARY 2023)

Christmas Season

The month of December is called the Christmas season, known as Christmastide, the name given in the liturgical calendar. It begins on Christmas eve and ends on the Sunday celebrating the Baptism of the Lord. The Christmas season begins with the gift of the special seven days besides 25 December, focusing on the mystery of Christ's birth during these days called the "Octave Christmas". It starts with the Nativity of the Lord on 25 December and ends with Mary, Mother of God on 1 January.



SCRIPTURE QUOTE TO MEMORISE:

May the
God of hope
fill you with
all joy and
peace in
your faith...

(Romans 15:13)

The second Sunday of advent, represented by the purple candle, symbolizes faith, also called the Bethlehem Candle reminding us of Mary's and Joseph's journey into Bethlehem.

In the first reading, Isaiah describes the world that emerges at the coming of the Messiah and tells us about the royal authority of the house of David that was dormant for 600 years. When Jesus came forth, as King and Messiah, it was like a new green branch coming from a dead stump, from the root of the family of Jesse. The seven-fold description of the Holy Spirit showed its character in perfection and fullness, the aspects of the spirit of God. In receiving the spiritual empowerment, Jesus understood that they were not from his own divine resources, but reliance on the Holy Spirit - the Spirit of the Lord that filled him.

In the second reading, Jesus took the abuse and suffered for the glory of God, fulfilling what was written in God's word. St. Paul, in his letter to the Romans said that the word of God was written to give us hope in this life and to encourage and build us up in faith, love and hope.

In the Gospel today, The Proclamation of John the Baptist, "a voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.... provides a lens through which Jesus is interpreted. Deserts are places of simplicity and poverty, where distractions and attachments are eliminated - and hence where the voice of God can be heard. Wealth, pleasure, power and honour tempt us, but what is God saying? We have to go in silence to deserted places in order to hear. John's words today, "repent", is a command to turn around and start moving in a new direction. ❖

SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Isaiah 11:1-10;

Psalms 71: 2, 7-8,
12-13, 17;

Romans 15: 4-9;

Matthew 3: 1-12.