

Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

3rd 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)

Rejoice and Sing FOR JOY

The third pink candle of Advent symbolizes the liturgical colour of joy. The church uses pink vestment during the fourth Sunday of Lent and the third Sunday of Advent. The third candle of Advent is also called the Shepherd's Candle and Gaudete Sunday to signify the joy



SCRIPTURE QUOTE TO MEMORISE:

Rejoicing and gladness will escort them and sorrow and sighing will take flight.

(Isaiah 35:10)

experienced by shepherds when the angels announced the birth of Jesus in rejoicing the coming of Jesus. This is to signify that Jesus came for the humble and the insignificant people.

In the first reading **Isaiah speaks of the joy and a picture of hope that will be redeemed with the coming of Jesus.** The joy of God becoming man for humanity, waiting in hope for meaning and purpose. We learn that God will reverse the curse upon mankind and nature, transforming creation, healing the disabled and rescuing human race - the promise of salvation.

In the second reading, James instructs us to imitate the patience and endurance of the farmer. We are reminded to wait in hope, preparing our hearts for the coming of the Lord and staying rooted in Jesus.

In the gospel of Matthew, John was imprisoned, and he heard about the healing and miracles that Jesus was performing, yet there was no sign of Jesus coming to his rescue. John had his own expectations of who the Messiah is and how the Messiah must act. At the same time, Jesus instructed the disciples to tell John what they had witnessed. Here, we see Jesus strengthening John as a powerful witness while affirming his role in fulfilling His Father's plan in liberating humanity.

Jesus also praised John the Baptist for his greatness who was as a transitional in salvation history. John was his forerunner to explain who he was to the people. Jesus affirmed that John was born of a great woman but at the same time he reduced the praise by saying that the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The scripture today prompts us not to become prisoners of our own expectations but experience the greater blessings and sense of God's immediate presence. ✦

SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10;

Psalms 145: 6-10;

James 5: 7-10;

Matthew 11: 2-11.