

Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

4th 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)

MY PEACE

I GIVE YOU

A king offered a reward to an artist who could best paint the picture of PEACE. Many masterpieces were sent to the king, and he displayed them all at an exhibition. Many people thought that the painting of a calm lake next to the towering snow-capped mountain with blue skies would be the winner. The king chose a painting of an angry stormy weather with a bird sitting peacefully on her nest in the turmoil. The king thought differently as he believed that the **true peace can only be experienced when there is calmness in the heart during turbulence.**

SCRIPTURE QUOTE TO MEMORISE:

...and the peace of God which is beyond our understanding will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

(Philippians 4: 7)

It is the same for us, as we await the birth of our Saviour - the Prince of Peace during this final week of prayer and penance. The fourth week of advent is represented by the final purple candle symbolizing Peace. This candle is also called the Angel's Candle as it reminds us of the angel's message: Peace on Earth, Good Will Towards Men. The birth of Jesus brings peace with God and peace on earth; and Jesus is the source of true peace during our turbulences or unrests.

In the first reading, "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel", Isaiah prophesies the birth of a son to a young woman who will be called Immanuel, which means God is with us.

In the gospel of Matthew, we see the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy, "So, all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet.... God keeps his word and God indeed came in flesh and was born of a virgin. We have seen the greatest sign from God and Jesus is a clear sign of God's blessing because he has come to save his people from their sins.

In the second reading, Paul wanted to explain his calling as an apostle of Christ to let the people know the gospel about Jesus Christ as promised through the prophets of God through the Scriptures. He pronounces grace and peace upon the Christians in Rome, conveying peace with God through Christ.

Today, we take refuge in Jesus Christ's words: "Peace, I leave you, my peace I give you..., a promise and a life-giving command. ✚

SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Isaiah 7:10-14;

Psalms 23: 1-6;

Romans 1: 1-7;

Matthew 1:18-24.