



However painful our state of being is, we are to hope and to be beacons of hope.

As Church called to be merciful, we are not immune from both criticisms and compliments in our response to situations. **Today, we look to scriptures and look for epiphanic signs so as to set our hope fully on the grace of our Lord Jesus.**

“The Church cannot be other than the sacrament of God’s mercy in the world, in every time and towards all humanity.”

*Pope Francis*

In a time of darkness, Isaiah summons the people to hope. He gives the certainty and assurance that the Light will shine, and God’s radiance will come. The Redeemer will come to break the power of darkness. Indeed, we see this fulfilled in our Lord Jesus. Our Redeemer has come! These are the epiphanic signs as God self-reveals himself to the gentiles: the Magi paying heed to a star, they go in search of and bringing appropriate gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. They set the tone, the stories are told and we believe.

Believing is good thing, acting on it is another. The Psalmist tells us the Messiah’s kingship of justice and mercy is for all. As followers of Christ, He would want for us to be merciful, just as our Father is merciful. We shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him. We shall have pity for the lowly and the poor, for these are lives the Lord will save.

St Paul affirms us that we have the stewardship of God’s grace, and we are co-heirs and co-partners of the same body. Let us take ownership and be beacons of hope even as we come and pay homage to Jesus, the Light of the World, who has come.✦

**SCRIPTURE of the DAY**

- Isaiah 60: 1-6
- Psalms 71: 1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13
- Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6
- Matthew 2: 1-12

# NEWBEC

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH | Epiphany of the Lord | 5 January 2025

CELEBRATING, LISTENING AND WALKING AS PILGRIMS OF HOPE

MONTHLY FOCUS & RATIONALE CHURCH - CALLED TO BE MERCIFUL

## Proclamation of Hope in God’s Grace

Epiphany is a celebration of hope. In the course of this Jubilee year, Pope Francis hopes for every effort to be made to enable us to participate fully in its proclamation of hope in God’s grace.

Natural hazards and weather conditions caused by climate change continue to kill and threaten lives. The horrors of war intensify the gloom. Poverty exists for as long as inequality and unjust distribution of wealth remain. The world is wrapped in darkness, with many experiencing hopelessness.

