



“We received this world as an inheritance from past generations, but also as a loan from future generations, to whom we will have to return it”

*Pope Francis*

### SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Malachi 3: 1-4

Psalm 23: 7-10

Hebrew 2: 14-18

Luke 2: 22-40 (or 22-32)

However, when the infant Jesus comes to the Temple, there are no “shouts of joy” from the people. His presence draws no attention. His parents quietly bring him there to fulfil the requirements of the Law of Moses. Two people, however, approach them, one after another. The first is Simeon. Drawn to them by the Holy Spirit, he proclaims the universal salvation that God will bring in Jesus and of the necessity of suffering in the mission of the Messiah. Then, Anna, an aged prophetess, also led by the Spirit, thanks God and prophesies that Jesus will be the “redemption of Jerusalem”.

As we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, let us recall that the focus of the Church in Peninsular Malaysia this month is on Ecology. But is there any link between today’s feast and ecology? Yes, it is the idea of stewardship. Both Simeon and Anna were each given a unique task as stewards of a special message from God. And in the midst of the thousands of people in the Temple on that day, the two of them, promoted by the Spirit, approached and faithfully shared the message God had entrusted to them with the Holy Family.

Just as Simeon and Anna fulfilled their responsibility, each of us have been entrusted with the task of being good stewards. **A steward is someone who has the duty of overseeing or looking after, with care and dedication, what belongs to another.** As God’s children, we have a mission to care and safeguard God’s creation. As Pope Francis reminds us, “We are not God. The earth was here before us, and is given to us” (*Laudato si*, 67). Let us fulfill our mission of caring for God’s creation. ✿

# NEWBEC

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH | Presentation Of The Lord | 2 February 2025

CELEBRATING, LISTENING AND WALKING AS PILGRIMS OF HOPE

MONTHLY FOCUS & RATIONALE ECOLOGY – CALLED TO TAKE OWNERSHIP  
OF THE URGENT MISSION OF SAVING MOTHER EARTH

## Stewards of A Special Mission

The first reading describes God as speaking through a messenger, announcing that He will appear, without any warning, to the people in the Temple. When He does, He will be like “a refiner’s fire and the fuller’s alkali”, signifying that God will remove the impurities of the people and cleanse them so that they may become “like gold and silver”. Today’s psalmist also proclaims the coming of the Lord into His Temple, and when He does, the people are to shout with joy.

