



In declaring Israel as His servant, God's plan is for the nation to be the conduit of salvation to the whole world. Israel is called to live in a covenantal relationship with the Lord so that His glory can be manifested to the world. Yet, time after time, the nation Israel fail to live up to God's call. They assimilate into pagan culture, practise idolatry, and do not fulfil their covenantal obligations.

John the Baptist comes into the scene in the gospel narrative. He points to Jesus as *the Lamb of God*. Lambs are sacrificial animals and, Jesus, the true and faithful Israel embodies and fulfils Israel's calling. From the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, John already points to Jesus' sacrificial mission, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

What is our role, then in Jesus's Servant-Mission since by our baptism, we are incorporated into the Body of Christ?

Knowing first of all, that the family is not merely a social institution but a domestic church. Thus, those called to family life have a primary vocation. When we learn to die to self and live for the other, we will become the Light in our families. Before any external mission, the utmost call is toward holiness in the family, especially to conversion in relationships.

Then, when we learn to live exemplary lives, the Lord may call us out of our comfort zone, nudging us that *'it is too little a thing,'* to keep the Light to ourselves. Instead, the Spirit will lead us to go beyond our families, to our workplace, schools, BECs and communities. John has a pivotal role - pointing and directing people to the Lamb. We too must point away from ourselves and point everyone towards Christ by our words and deeds. By doing so, we become credible witnesses. ✝

**SCRIPTURE
of the DAY**

Isaiah 49 3, 5-6
Psalm 39: 2, 4, 7-10
1 Corinthians 1: 1-3
John 1: 29-34



✝
"Families remain as places where we learn to exchange the gifts of love, trust, forgiveness, and understanding — where we discover both our need to be listened to and our ability to listen."

FD #35

NEWBEC

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH | 2nd Sunday In Ordinary Time | 18 January 2026

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

WALKING TOGETHER TOWARDS A SYNODAL AND PROPHETIC CHURCH

A People for Missionary Discipleship

MONTHLY FOCUS: FAMILY: Building Trust

Expansion of the Servant-Mission of Christ

As we move into Ordinary Time in the liturgy, we see the continuation of Isaiah's prophecy on the Servant-Mission of Christ. The reading from Isaiah is deemed as the Servant-Song, beginning with what seems like an all-Israel's affair, but explodes into beyond, even as the Lord says, *'It is too little, for you to be my servant, to raise up the tribes of Israel. I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'*

