

What is Christian hope but that one day I might see my Lord face to face in the Heavenly Jerusalem, there to wonder for eternity at His great love for me? It is this hope that should orient my life, awakening in me a desire to draw near to the Kingdom of God even as I live my life in this valley of tears. For what hope may we have in mankind or in this world that encompasses us with daily images of violence and hatred, if that hope is not that the Eternal Word became Incarnate here, not to speak of love in an abstract sense but to perform love's duty of total self-giving, of sacrifice that returns love to its source?

My hope, then, is the salvation of my soul, which is God's gift of love to me. And when I say that I love God, I only ever draw from that love which He has first given me, desiring ever more completely to return it to Him through the offering of my life, as He offered His for mine in Jesus Christ. And when I say I love myself, I mean that I open myself to receive the love of God and to desire my own salvation, working it out with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12) as I seek consolation and grace in prayer and the Sacraments. And when I say that I love my neighbour as myself, I mean that I desire the salvation of their souls and would walk the path of Christ to the Cross for them if only they would be saved.

All things are ordered to the salvation of souls because this is our one and only hope in Jesus Christ. We are not here to create some utopian 'kingdom of god' on earth so that when Christ comes again in glory He sees no need to return with us to His Father in heaven. We are here to "look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:18), for "our citizenship is in heaven, from whence we also look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Philippians 3:20).

It is in this context that I desire to set the Gospel proclamation for this first Sunday in the season of Advent, to remind myself and to urge you all to awaken the virtue of hope which is a gift of God's grace and which answers our burning desire for happiness. May this hope of the full vision of God's glory for all eternity refocus our perspective on our lives here on earth. May we see our present joys as reflections of that joy perfected to which we are called to participate for eternity. May we see our present sufferings as our meagre share in the sufferings of Christ; transient sufferings which should only fortify our hope because by them, joined with the Cross, we work for the salvation of our souls and of our neighbours'. And may this lived and living hope be found awake in us when He comes again, for this is the message of Advent, that "this Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11b).

Let us hope, then, not for vain and petty things, not for comfort or success, but rather in the promise of Christ.

"Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on in corruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on in corruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."" (1 Corinthians 15:51-54).✚

Be Disciples of Hope

NEWIREC

3rd December 2017
1st Sunday of Advent

The Awakening of HOPE





CHURCH OF THE VISITATION
 85-A, Jalan Yam Tuan, 70000 Seremban
 Tel : 06-7624468 / 7634934 / 7677542 Fax : 06-7677544
 Email : serembanvisitation@gmail.com Website : www.visitationseremban.org
 Parish Pastor : Rev. Fr George Harrison
 Assistant Priest : Fr. Andrew Kooi

DISCIPLESHIP : BE DISCIPLES OF HOPE.
Hope : Christ the Hope (December)
Towards 170 years of the Parish of Visitation
(1848 - 2018)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS
 Monday - Friday 8.30am - 5.30 pm
 Saturday : 8.30am - 7.30 pm
 Sunday: 8.30 am - 3.00 pm
Confessions in Church ½ hour before
 all Weekend Masses at availability of
 priests 1/2 hour before
 all Weekend Masses at availability of priests



OUR PROGRAMME THIS 02 - 10 DECEMBER 2017

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B) : Is 63 16b - 17, 19b, 64, 2b-7 Ps 79 2ac and 3bc, 15-16, 18-19 1 Cor 1, 3-9 Mk 13, 33-37
"God Of Hosts, Bring Us Back; Let Your Face Shine On Us And We Shall Be Saved" (Psalm 79)

SAT	02	5.00 pm 6.00 pm	Rosary : 5.30 pm : Novena; 5.45 pm: Benediction Eucharist (E) (Animation : St. Rita)	
SUN OCT	03	7.00 am 9.00 am 11.00 am 1.00 pm	Eucharist (T) (Animation: St. Getrude) Eucharist (E) (Animation : Gregory) Eucharist (M) Eucharist (BM)	No RE Classes, RE resume on 07 January 2018 for registration RCIA (T) 9.00 -10.30 am ; RCIA (BM) 11.00 am -12.30pm RCIA (E) 11.00 -12.30pm ; RCIA(M) : 9.00 -10.30 am
Mon	04	6.45 am	Eucharist	Charismatic (E) 7.30 pm at Visitation Hall
Tues	05	6.45 am	Eucharist	Charismatic (M) 7.30 pm at Visitation Hall
Wed	06	6.45 am	Eucharist	
Thur	07	6.45 am	6.45 am	Charismatic (T) 7.30 pm at Visitation Hall
Fri	08	6.45 am	6.45 am	

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B) : Is 40, 1-5, 9-11Ps 84, 9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 2 Pt 3, 8-14 Mk 1, 1-8
"Let Us See O Lord, Your Mercy, And Give Us Your Saving Help" (Psalm 84)

SAT	09	5.00 pm 6.00 pm	Rosary : 5.30 pm : Novena; 5.45 pm: Benediction Eucharist (E) (Animation : St. Sophia)	
SUN	10	7.00 am 9.00 am 11.00 am 1.00 pm	Eucharist (T) (Animation : St. James) Eucharist (E) (Animation : St. Leo) Eucharist (M) 4.30 pm : Titi (M) Eucharist (B M)	No RE Classes, RE resume on 07 January 2018 for registration RCIA (T) 9.00 -10.30 am ; RCIA (BM) 11.00 am -12.30pm RCIA (E) 11.00 -12.30pm ; RCIA(M) : 9.00 -10.30 am

We welcome new Parishioners/Students from Universities/Colleges in the vicinity of Seremban. Kindly register at the parish office or email us at: serembanvisitation@gmail.com. You will receive a Prayer Card (Magnificat). Pray it daily.

NEWS / EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER 2017

- i) **Parish Weekend Collections :**
 25/26 November : RM9,762.10
God Bless All Generous Donors
- ii) **Religious Items for sale**
 - a) Liturgical Calendar 2018 (Eng) : RM6.00
 - b) 2018 Bible Diary (English / Tamil) : RM20.00
 - c) Souvenir Book of Late Monsignor Anthony Thomas (1937 - 2017) @ RM5/- per copy
- iii) **Vacation Bible School (VBS) organised by St. Mark's Church**
 Date : 7 - 9 Dec @ 8.30 am - 4.30 pm
 Registration : RM10/-
 For more info call : Susannah (013-3311201)

Wedding Bells :

- a) Kong Keat Yang & Grace Soh : 09 Dec. @ 11.00 am
- b) Jonathan & Rachel : 09 Dec @ 3.30 pm

BE RECONCILED THIS ADVENT 2017

- 04 Dec (Mon) : 7.30 pm : Imm/Conception, P.D.
- 05 Dec (Tues) : 6.45 pm : St. Anthony, K.L.
 8.00 pm : Kristus Aman, (Desa Jaya)
 8.00 pm : Gemencheh
- 06 Dec (Wed) : 8.00 pm : St. Thomas More (S.J.)
 7.30 pm : St. Christopher, Gemas
- 07 Dec (Thur) : 8.00 pm : Jesus Caritas, Kepong

Confession at Visitation : Fri 22/12/17.
 6.00 pm : Vespers followed by Mass and confessions

- **Booking of Premises/rooms** for meetings / activities. Advance notice of booking required through parish office. No last minute booking.
- **50th Wedding Anniversary** of Mark & Irene Hendroff and Anthony Pragasam & Yvonne. We wish you God's abundant Blessings. Congratulations!

- **Feast of St. Francis Xavier - Chapel Sikamat.**
 Sun 03/12/17 : 5.00 pm Rosary / Solemn Vespers / Benediction followed by fellowship. All are welcome.
- **Christ Our Hope - PIHDM Children Christmas Party** (aged 4-17 yrs) Sun 17 Dec @ 2.30 pm.
 This year we are inviting poor children of all Faiths and Shelter Homes. Lets continue to reach out & share and celebrate Christmas meaningfully. In Giving we Receive. Please pick one or more tags from the Christmas Wishing tree. Donate a suitable X'mas gift in the Collection Box beside the Wishing Tree by Sun. 10/12/2017.
- **Orange the World - Say No to Violence Against Women and Children - 16 Days of Prayers and Reflection for the Nation** (25 Nov. to 10 Dec). Kindly refer the Church website for details and action.
- **Altar Servers Annual Camp 2017 - Theme "Brotherhood through Christ"**
Date : 11 (Mon) to 13 (Wed) Dec 2017 Venue : Visitation Centre, Jalan Lee Sam. All Altar Servers are encouraged to join (compulsory). Formal letter will be given to parents.
- **Help needed for Church Maintenance Fund**
 Kindly contribute generously towards this project to upkeep all repairs and maintenance of the Parish. All donations can be made at the parish office or through cheque payable to : CHURCH OF VISITATION. Thank you. **Note :** For tax exemption kindly contact parish office.
- **Dry Food Items** needed for all Poor Families (e.g. Rice bags, sugar, flour, oil etc). Please send to the parish office. Thank you.

- 02 & 03 Dec : **Book Mission** by the Daughters of St. Paul Kindly give your support.
- 02 & 03 Dec : **Sale of cookies and snacks** by "Flour Power" - by Sr. Bertha & team, a community project that works to improve underprivileged women and children in Taman Prima low cost flats. Your kind support will be appreciated.
- **Christmas Charity Bazaar** : Venue : EQ Greenhouse Café & Lodge, No. 36, Persiaran Kurau 1, Taman Samudra Batu 1, Port Dickson.
 Date : 2nd and 3rd Dec 2017 (Sat & Sun) Tel : 06-6463436
- **CHOICE English 100 Weekends & Choice Malaysia's 36 Anniversary** Thanksgiving Celebration at St. Ignatius Church, P.J. on 09 Dec (Saturday) (Contact Doreen : 016-3612146 / Grace : 012-3503817)