

How do I desire the Lord to find me when he comes? Certainly, awakened in hope of the day of salvation. But what must I do today to make myself ready for the day of the Lord? The spirit of Advent is one of preparation. All too often this preparation is undertaken to make ourselves ready for the Christmas festivities. Writing cards, buying presents, putting up decorations ... December is a busy month. But for far too many of us, bar the Christmas Carols piped through supermarket loudspeaker systems, the true meaning of the season is easily eclipsed by premature celebrations, some of which begin even before the first purple candle is lit on the Advent Wreath.

At the risk of turning Grinch-green, I call on you to consider the season's penitential heart, its call to conversion echoing the voice of the Baptist in the wilderness that calls out, "Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight!" (Mark 1:3) Make ready your heart to receive the Lord. Recall your own baptism, when you rejected Satan and all his works, when you turned from sin and death and clothed yourself in the white robe of salvation. Advent is the time to take that robe out again, and to ensure that it is as white as the first day that you wore it. Making the paths straight for the Lord means removing the obstacles in your life that prevent you from going out to meet him. Fear of the day when you will see him face to face can only ever be replaced by hope when we are freed from the burden of our sins and become free to embrace the one who frees us. It is for this reason that we begin the journey of the liturgical year surrounded by the penitential colour violet, which evokes the image of Christ crowned with thorns, mocked, scourged, and rejected by his own people with cries of "Crucify him!". It is a potent reminder of why the Eternal Word Incarnate humbled himself even unto death on a cross, and it humbles us too, before so great a love that we have too often rejected.

At the very beginning of the Church's year, we are reminded of why the Word became Flesh, so that we might embrace that conversion of life to which each of us is called. It is a conversion that sees us (in the words of today's Responsorial Psalm) turn back to the Lord to see his mercy and receive his saving help; for justice did indeed march before him as the Father received full satisfaction for all man's sins in the death of his Son, and peace did indeed follow his steps: that peace between heaven and earth which the angels announced at his birth singing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, to people of good will."

May we then strive to live in that same peace which we have been given in Christ, and prepare our lives for the glory of God to be revealed. Christ's peace is the end of enmity between man and God. His incarnation, death, resurrection from the dead, and ascension to the right hand of the Father proclaims that our warfare is accomplished, that our iniquity is pardoned. And as, in this season of Advent, we await in hope for his return in glory, let us heed the words of the St. Peter, that while we are waiting, we do our best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find us at peace (2 Peter 3:14).

"Beloved, we are God's children now; it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. And every one who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure." (1 John 3:2-3) †



Be Disciples of Hope

NEWBEC

10th December 2017
2nd Sunday of Advent



Made Ready *in Hope*

	<p>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</p>	<p>DISCIPLESHIP : BE DISCIPLES OF HOPE. Hope : Christ the Hope (December) <i>Towards 170 years of the Parish of Visitation</i> (1848 - 2018)</p>	<p>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 <i>all Weekend Masses at availability of priests 1/2 hour before</i> <i>all Weekend Masses at availability of priests</i></p>	
<p>OUR PROGRAMME THIS 09 - 17 DECEMBER 2017 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 <i>"Let Us See O Lord, Your Mercy, And Give Us Your Saving Help" (Psalm 84)</i></p>				
SAT	09	5.00 pm 6.00 pm	Rosary : 5.30 pm : Novena; 5.45 pm: Benediction Eucharist (E) (Animation : St. Sophia)	
SUN OCT	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 (BM)	<i>No RE Classes, RE resume on 07 January 2018 for registration</i> 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	11	6.45 am	Eucharist	<i>Charismatic (E) 7.30 pm at Visitation Hall</i>
Tues	12	6.45 am	Eucharist	<i>Charismatic (M) 7.30 pm at Visitation Hall</i>
	13	6.45 am	Eucharist	
Thur	14	6.45 am	6.45 am	<i>Charismatic (T) 7.30 pm at Visitation Hall</i>
Fri	15	6.45 am	6.45 am	
<p>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B) : Is 61, 1 - 2a, 10-11 Ps Lk 1, 46-48, 49-50, 53-54 TH 5, 16-24 Jn 1 : 6-8, 19-28 <i>"My Soul Rejoices In My God. My Soul Rejoices In My God" (Psalm Lk 1:46-50, 53-54)</i></p>				
SAT	16	5.00 pm 6.00 pm	Rosary : 5.30 pm : Novena; 5.45 pm: Benediction Eucharist (E) (Animation : St. Denis)	
SUN	17	7.00 am 9.00 am 11.00 am 1.00 pm	Eucharist (T) (Animation : Sts. Titus/Angela) Eucharist (E) (Animation : St. Aloysius) Eucharist (M) Eucharist (B M)	<i>No RE Classes, RE resume on 07 January 2018 for registration</i> 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
<p>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.</p>			<p>➤ BE RECONCILED THIS ADVENT 2017 11 Dec (Mon) : 7.30 pm : St. Ignatius, P.J 12 Dec (Tues) : 7.00 pm : St. Theresa, Nilai 13 Dec (Wed) : 8.00 pm : Holy Redeemer (Klang) 14 Dec (Thur) : 7.30 pm : St. Aloysius, Mantin : 8.00 pm : St. Joseph, Sentul 15 Dec (Fri) : 8.00 pm : Good Shepherd (Setapak)</p>	
<p>NEWS / EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER 2017 i) Parish Weekend Collections : 02/03 December : RM9,770.00 Min. of Social Concern : RM6,811.00 God Bless All Generous Donors ii) Religious Items for sale a) Liturgical Calendar 2018 (Eng) : RM6.00 b) Tamil Liturgical Calendar 2018 : RM5.00 c) 2018 Bible Diary (English / Tamil) : RM20.00 d) Souvenir Book of Late Monsignor Anthony Thomas (1937 - 2017) @ RM5/- per copy</p>			<p>Confession at Visitation : Fri 22/12/17. 6.00 pm : Vespers followed by Mass and confessions</p>	
<p>Wedding Bells : Yugendran Nair & Christina Sherene Xavier on 16/12 @ 3.30pm</p>			<p>➤ Christmas Carolling is an ancient practice of bringing the Good News of Birth of Christ to all. Every BEC or Zone is strongly encouraged to sing Carols to all families. Please do go to the Homebounds, the Lonely, Migrant Families, Hospital, Children's ward, Elderly Homes, nearest police station, supermarket etc. Reachout to all in whatever possible and creative way</p>	
<p>Pray for the Departed soul of : a) Mary Ann a/p Stephen (d.o.d: 02/12/17) b) Susan Sara D'Silva d/o John Francis (d.o.d : 3/12/17) May the Perpetual Light shine upon them</p>			<p>Police Permit for "Christmas Carolling 2017" are available in the parish office. Zone/BEC coordinators can get a copy now.</p>	
<p>➤ Mass Schedule for Christmas 2017 and New Year 2018 a) Christmas Eve- 24 December (Sunday) 5.00 pm (Eng) ; 7.00 pm (T) ; 9.00 pm (Mand) ; 11.00 pm (Eng) 4.30 pm (Titi -M) b) Christmas Day (25 December) (Monday) 7.00 am (T) ; 9.00 am (Eng) ; 11.00 am (M) ; 1.00 pm (BM) c) New Year's Eve – (31 December) (Sunday) 8.00 pm : Multi-languages & Quiet Prayer till Midnight d) New Year (1 Jan 2018) (Monday) 7.00 am (T) ; 9.00 am (Eng) ; 11.00 am (Mand) ; 1.00 pm (BM) e) Weekday Masses from 26 - 29 Dec will be at 7.00 pm ➤ 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. N.B : Inter-Faith Tea Fellowship will be together as well. ➤ Dry Food Items needed for all Poor Families (e.g. Rice bags, sugar, flour, oil etc). Please send to the parish office. Thank you. ➤ 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. ➤ Booking of Premises/rooms for meetings /activities. Advance notice of booking required through parish office. No last minute booking.</p>				
<p>• Love and Life Retreat (Eng, BM, Tamil & Mand) for all young people aged 18-24 within the Archdiocese of K. L. Date : 16 - 20 January 2018 (Tues to Sat). For info call : 03-20706101 or email jacinta@asayokl.org</p>				