

**J**ust before the break of dawn, the horizon turns rose in colour, and although the sun is yet to appear, we make take comfort that the night will end and another day will soon begin. This hopeful colour of rose illuminates the deep violet of the season with the promise of the dawn of salvation. And so, as we gather for Holy Mass and the priest approaches the altar vested in rose-coloured vestments, the Church proclaims, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! Indeed, the Lord is near."

Today we are reminded of the purpose of our advent penance; we are comforted with the promise that suffering gives way to joy, just as sure as the sun rises each day in the east. For sure, we must look inward to examine our conscience and repent of our sins, which separate us from the path of holiness that leads to the Lord. But we must also look outward, to the breaking dawn, ever hopeful of the Lord's coming, ever joyful that the light he brings casts out all the shadows of sin and lifts the darkness of human suffering.

In the rose light of this Gaudete Sunday let us consider the nature of Christian joy. When was the last time you felt truly happy? What was the source of your joy? And how long did it last? All things of this world will fade and disappear. This is the very nature of the natural world. It stands to reason then, that all joy found in the things of this world will also fade and disappear. The smell of a new car fades quite quickly, as does the joy of driving it disappear into the frustration of our daily jammed journeys. The joy of a holiday evaporates into the burdens of work, even memories of it fade and are only temporarily reawakened as photographs appear on our Facebook timeline to remind us of joys already passed. For sure there is joy to be found in our daily lives and in the natural world, but these are mere reflections of the supernatural joy that is ours to be had in the Father's Kingdom. Only when all our joys in this world are rooted in the promise of eternal joy in heaven can we truly rejoice in the blessed hope that Christ brings.

It can be as simple as thanking God for the joy of friendship, or for the beauty of a clear blue sky. Dedicating the joyous moments of our lives to our God who gives us all that is good is the beginning of experiencing a joy that transcends this world and lifts us daily closer to heaven. It is for this reason that the Apostle Paul exhorts us to "Be happy at all times," yes, even when there is nothing much to be happy about, and even when life is just not going our way. Be happy! Why? Saint Paul has the answer, "because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus". Because in Jesus Christ we have eternal joy, which transfigures even sadness and grief, and puts all things of this world firmly in context: joy or sorrow in the things of this life will pass, and in Jesus Christ become joy with him in his Kingdom for ever.

The English saying, "looking at life through rose-tinted glasses" is usually spoken with a degree of negativity, as if these glasses make a person naïve and ignorant of the ways of the world. But the pair of rose-tinted spectacles we are given today are glasses of joyful hope, which do not deny that there is both joy and sadness to be experienced in the world around us, but rather give us a heaven-sent perspective that looks upward and forward to the dawn of Christ's coming and enable us to stand with John the Baptist as witnesses to the light, looking forward to the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. †

Be Disciples of Hope

# NEWBEC

17th December 2017  
3rd Sunday of Advent



# In Joyful Hope



**CHURCH OF THE VISITATION**  
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 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 16 - 24 DECEMBER 2017**

**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  
**"My Soul Rejoices In My God. My Soul Rejoices In My God" (Psalm Lk 1:46-50, 53-54)**

SAT	16	5.00 pm 6.00 pm	Rosary : 5.30 pm : Novena; 5.45 pm: Benediction Eucharist (E) (Animation : St. Denis)	
SUN OCT	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 (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	18	6.45 am	Eucharist	Charismatic (E) 7.30 pm at Visitation Hall
Tues	19	6.45 am	Eucharist	Charismatic (M) 7.30 pm at Visitation Hall
	20	6.45 am	Eucharist	
Thur	21	6.45 am	Eucharist	Charismatic (T) 7.30 pm at Visitation Hall
Fri	22	<b>No Morning Mass</b> <b>6.00 pm : Vespers followed by Mass and Confessions</b>		

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B):** 2 Sam 7, 1-5, 8b 2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 Rom 16, 25-27, Lk 1, 26-38  
**"I Will Sing Forever Of Your Love Love O Lord, I Will Sing Forever Of Your Love, O Lord" (Psalm 88)**

SAT	23	5.00 pm 6.00 pm	Rosary : 5.30 pm : Novena; 5.45 pm: Benediction Eucharist (E) (Animation : St. Benedict)	
SUN	24	7.00 am 9.00 am 11.00 am 1.00 pm	Eucharist (T) (Animation : Sts. Titus/Angela) Eucharist (E) (Animation : St. Liturgy) Eucharist (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

**SUN 24 : CHRISTMAS EVE : 5.00 pm (Eng) ; 7.00 pm (Tamil) ; 9.00 pm (Mand) ; 11.00 pm (English)**

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](mailto:serembanvisitation@gmail.com). You will receive a Prayer Card (Magnificat). Pray it daily.

**Thank you to : BECs – St. Denis (Jln Labu) & St. Aloysius (Jln Labu) for Mass Animation this weekend**

**i) Parish Weekend Collections :**  
 09/ 10 December : RM9,326.25 Titi : RM107.00  
**God Bless All Generous Donors**

**i) Religious Items for sale near the Grotto**  
 Liturgical Calendar 2018 (Eng) : RM6.00  
 Tamil Liturgical Calendar 2018 : RM5.00  
 2018 Bible Diary (English / Tamil) : RM20.00  
 Souvenir Book of Late Monsignor Anthony Thomas (1937 - 2017) @ RM5/- per copy

**ii) A Big Thank You to all Altar Servers** for a successful Camp organized recently.  
 A special thanks to the organizing team. May God Bless you all.

**➤ BE RECONCILED THIS ADVENT 2017**

18 Dec (Mon) : 7.30 pm : Holy Family, Kajang,  
 19 Dec (Tues) : 7.30 pm : St. John Vianney, Tampin  
 : 7.30 pm : Sacred Heart, K.L  
 20 Dec (Wed) : 8.00 pm : Mary Mother of God, Bahau  
 21 Dec (Thur) : 7.00 pm : SFX, P.J.  
 22 Dec (Fri) : 12.30 pm : St. John Cathedral, K.L.

**➤ Team from Church of the Immaculate Conception, P.D.** will be here (17/12/17) to sell Fund Raising Lucky Draw Tickets for their maintenance works of the Parish's building and premises. Kindly give your generous support.

**➤ Church of the Visitation Seremban Facebook Page (@churchofthevisitationsban)**  
 Please visit our Facebook page for interesting articles and timely updates and also to dialogue with other parishioners of all age groups on one universal platform.

**➤ 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**

**➤ 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

**Police Permit for "Christmas Carolling 2017"** are available in the parish office. Zone/BEC coordinators can get a copy now.

**➤ John Paul II Mission House** - No. 11 & 12 shoplots behind are undergoing a complete refurbishment. We pray for a successful completion

**➤ Cemetery at Sendayan** -the SCCA (Seremban Christian Cemetery Association) is seriously looking into the possibility to begin burial at this site at Sendayan soonest possible.. Any info call parish office. More updates to come.

**➤ For Marriages in 2018**, kindly make appointment to see parish priest. Dates of marriage course are available.

**➤ 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.

**➤ Cleanliness in Church** : Keep the Church grounds (inside/outside ) clean.  
**Grotto** - Candles tray and surroundings as well.