

Apostle Paul has been helping us to understand better in what Christian hope consists. And we said that it was not optimism, it was something else. And the Apostle helps us to understand this. Today he does so by approaching it from two altogether important attitudes for our life and our faith experience: “*perseverance*” and “*consolation*” (vv. 4.5). They are mentioned twice in the passage of the Letter to the Romans. What is their most profound, truest meaning? And in what way do they throw light on the reality of hope? These two attitudes: perseverance and consolation.

We can describe *perseverance* in fact as *patience*: it is the capacity to endure, to carry on one’s shoulders, “*support*,” to remain faithful, even when the burden seems to be too great, unbearable, and we are tempted to judge negatively and to abandon everything and everyone. *Consolation*, instead, is the grace to be able to receive and show in every situation, even in those largely marked by disappointment and suffering, the compassionate presence and action of God. Now Saint Paul reminds us that particularly the Scriptures, namely, the Bible, transmit to us perseverance and consolation (v. 4). In fact, in the first place, the Word of God leads us to turn our gaze to Jesus, to know Him better and to be conformed to Him, to be ever more like Him. In the second place, the Word reveals to us that the Lord is truly “the God of perseverance and of consolation” (v. 5), who is always faithful to His love for us, namely, that He is perseverant in His love for us, He does not tire of loving us! He is perseverant: He always loves us! And He who takes care of us, covering our wounds with the caress of His goodness and His mercy, that is, He consoles us. He does not tire of consoling us, either.

Understood in this perspective also is the Apostle’s initial affirmation: “We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves” (v.1). This expression “we who are strong” might seem presumptuous, but, in the logic of the Gospel, we know that it is not so, rather, it is in fact the contrary, because our strength does not come from ourselves, but from the Lord. One who experiences in his life the faithful love of God and His consolation is able, more than that, has the duty to be close to weaker brothers and sisters and take on their frailty. If we are close to the Lord we will have that strength to be close to the weakest, to the neediest and to console them and give them strength. We can do this without being pleased with ourselves but feeling ourselves simply as a “channel” that transmits the Lord’s gifts; and thus become concretely a “sower” of hope. This is what the Lord asks us, with that strength and capacity to console and to be sowers of hope. And today it is necessary to sow hope, but it is not easy . . .

However, all this is possible if Christ and his Word are put at the center, because He is “strong. He is the one who gives us strength, who gives us patience, who gives us hope, who gives us consolation. He is the “strong brother,” who takes care of each one of us: all of us, in fact, are in need of being carried on the shoulders of the Good Shepherd and of feeling enveloped by His tender and solicitous gaze.

We can never thank God enough for the gift of His Word, which is rendered present in the Scriptures. It is there that the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is revealed as “God of perseverance and of consolation.” And it is there that we realize that our hope is not founded on our capacities and our strength, but on God’s support and on the faithfulness of His love, that is, on God’s strength and consolation. †

Be Disciples of Hope

NEW REC

31st Dec 2017
The Holy Family



Hope

Founded in the Word



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 : Experiencing Christ As I Am (January) 2018
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



OUR PROGRAMME THIS 30 DECEMBER 2017 – 07 JANUARY 2018

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH (YEAR B) : Gen 15,1-6,21, 1-3 Ps 104, 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 Hebr 11,11, 8, 11-12, 17-19, Lk 2, 22-40
"He, The Lord, Is Our God. He Remembers His Covenant For Ever" (Psalm 104)

Sat	30	5.00 pm 6.00 pm	Rosary : 5.30 pm : Novena; 5.45 pm: Benediction Eucharist (E) (Animation : Liturgy)	31/12 : Special Blessing
Sun	31	7.00 am 9.00 am 11.00 am 1.00 pm	Eucharist (T) (Animation : Liturgy) Eucharist (E) (Animation : Fmly Life Min) Eucharist (C) Eucharist (BM)	No RE Classes, RE resume on 07 January 2018 for registration 31/12 : Special Blessings for Families at all Sunday Masses

31 December 2017 : New Year's Eve : 8.00 pm - Multi languages & Quiet Prayer till Midnight

Mon	01	01 January 2018 : New Year Day : 7.00 am (T), 9.00 am (E), 11.00 am (M), 1.00 pm (BM) (MARY MOTHER OF GOD)		
Tues	02	6.45 am	Eucharist	
Wed	03	6.45 am	Eucharist	
Thur	04	6.45 am	Eucharist	7.30 pm : Holy Hour (T) followed by Mass at Chapel St. Paul the Hermit, Rahang Kecil
Fri	05			7.30 pm : Holy Hour (E) followed by Mass (1st Friday)

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (YEAR B) : Is 60, 1-6, Ps 71, 1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13, Eph 3, 2-3a, 5-6 Mt 2, 1-12
"All Nations Shall Fall Prostrate Before You, O Lord. All Nations Shall Fall Prostrate Before You, O Lord. (Psalm 71)

Sat	06	5.00 pm 6.00 pm	Rosary : 5.30 pm : Novena; 5.45 pm: Benediction Eucharist (E) (Animation : St. Christopher)	
Sun	07	7.00 am 9.00 am 11.00 am 1.00 pm	Eucharist (T) (Animation :) Eucharist (E) (Animation : St. Mary) Eucharist (C) Eucharist (BM)	Registration for RE Classes (4 languages) 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 University / 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.

Thank you to : BECs – Liturgical team & Family Life Ministry for Mass Animation this weekend

i) **Parish Weekend Collections :**
 23/24 December : RM7896.65
 Christmas Eve 24/12 : RM18,066.20
 Titi (24/12) : RM362.00
 Christmas Day 25/12 : RM10,475.60
God Bless All Generous Donors

ii) **Religious Education (RE)** (all languages) classes will resume on Sunday 07 January 2018 with registration in the respective RE classroom

- **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.
- **iHero Charity Run** - co-organised by Aclac.
Date : 21 Jan 2018. For more info and registration call Pamela : 016-6306196
- **3rd February 2018 (170 yrs Anniversary Celebration).** Open to all Language Groups with age 7years and above and above. More info call :
Adrian (E):010 8970642
Henderson (BM)-019-4688277
Irene (T) 0163666843
Edwin (M) 0122059209



- **John Paul II Mission House** - No. 11 & 12 shoplots behind are undergoing a complete refurbishment. We pray for a successful completion
- EULOGY** - "In praise of God for the deceased member". Kindly see the Parish Priest if there is a need for an Eulogy at funeral services. An Eulogy Must be written (briefly) on an A4 paper. BEC/Zone heads please take note.
- **Christian Unity Week** - 18 - 25 January 2018 → Week of Prayer with all our Christian Brothers and Sisters here in Seremban Town. Visitation Parish will host this Prayer gathering on Friday 26th @8 .00 pm. All are welcome
- **For Marriages in 2018**, kindly make appointment to see parish priest. Dates of marriage course are available.
- **Booking of Premises/rooms/Church** for meetings /activities /practices. 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.
- **Priestly Ordination of Deacon Nicholas Hoh Jeng Kin, OCD** from the Carmelite Friary, Rahang Seremban,
Date : 31 January 2018 (Public Holiday) @ 10.30 am
Place : Church of St. Thomas More, Subang Jaya.
All are welcome

FRS. GEORGE HARRISON & ANDREW KOOI WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL PARISHIONERS ESPECIALLY THE PARISH LITURGICAL TEAMS FOR ALL SPIRITUAL PREPARATIONS DURING THE SEASON OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS. GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

"WISHING ALL A HAPPY NEW YEAR 2018"