

Saint Mark's account of Christ's temptation in the wilderness may be the shortest among the synoptic gospels but it loses none of the magnitude of this significant event in the life of the Saviour. Jesus walked away from his tempter with a universal call to repentance and faith. He emerged from the desert a man with a profound, human experience of the wiles of Satan and an urgent message that resounds through the millennia to our own times. It is not a message of condemnation but one of profound compassion, for Satan and the temptations of the forces of evil abound, and the Lord Himself knows how formidably compelling they can be.

He comes to us from the desert not to judge but to redeem; and His is the calling of Lent, indeed, it is the calling of our whole lives: *Repent and embrace the Good News of your salvation from sin and death.*

Turn to me and be saved – this is the message of the Lord today. It really is that simple. He knows every one of our sins but counts them naught. He does not stand with a list of punishments for each of our transgressions. Instead, He says *come as you are; the just punishment for your sins I have already borne*. This is the essence of true faith – the emptying of ourselves, sins and all, in exchange for the love of God. And what a deal it is! For each sin, for which our immortal souls should wrench in guilt-ridden agony and for which we should rightly be condemned, the Lord offers unconditional pardon and peace.

If only we would turn. If only we would believe. If only we would accept the mercy that freely pours from the heart of our God. If only we could see Christ in the world around us and draw our strength from Him to resist the temptations of Satan.

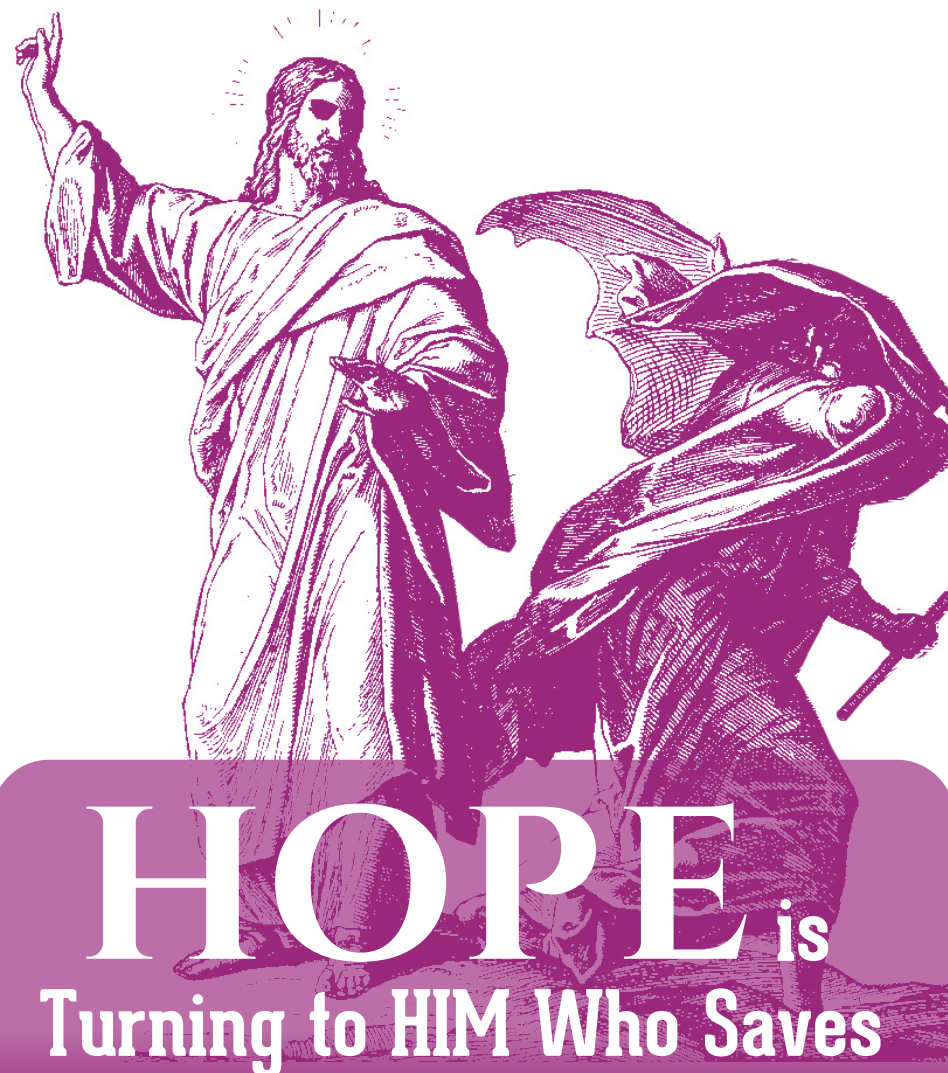
Hence the need for our Lenten fast: not as a punishment for our transgressions, but as tool with which to strengthen our resolve for God. Penance is never so much about paying for what we have done in the past, as it is about tempering ourselves in the refiner's fire to live differently than before and walk stronger in the faith. Many turn away from Christ and the Church for fear that the burden of their sins will bring condemnation. Others bury their sins in their darkened souls in the hope that the Lord will not see them. Both fail to appreciate the hope that this season offers, that Christ offers today and every day. For He has confronted Satan, and although he emerged victorious over the temptations the Evil One placed before Him, He knows both their power and human frailty in the face of them. He does not call us to conversion so that He can rebuke us, but so that He can tell us that there is a way out from the wilderness

At Midday Prayer throughout the season of Lent, we sing the antiphon, "*As I live, says the Lord, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked man; rather let him turn from his evil way and live.*" Let us turn, then, with true contrition and resolute hearts fortified by our Lenten penance, towards the Lord who is our guide through the wilderness of the world to the reward of eternal life with Him.†

BE DISCIPLES OF HOPE **18th February 2018**
1st Sunday of Lent

Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH





CHURCH OF THE VISITATION
 85-A, Jalan Yam Tuan, 70000 Seremban
 Tel : 06-7624468 / 7634934 / 7677542 Fax : 06-7677544
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 Parish Pastor : Rev. Fr George Harrison
 Assistant Priest : Fr. Andrew Kooi

DISCIPLESHIP : BE DISCIPLES OF HOPE.
Hope : Together we are healed in Christ (February) 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 17 – 25 FEBRUARY 2018

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) Gen 9, 8-15, Ps 24 4-5ab 6 and 7bc, 8-9 1 Pt 3, 18-22

“Your Ways Lord, Are Faithfulness And Love For Those Who Keep Your Covenant”. (Psalm 24)

Sat	17	5.00 pm 6.00 pm	Rosary : 5.30 pm : Novena; 5.45 pm: Benediction Eucharist (E) (Animation : Dominic)	7.00 pm : <i>Infant Baptism</i>
Sun	18	7.00 am 9.00 am 11.00 am 1.00 pm	Eucharist (T) (Animation : RCIA) Eucharist (E) (Animation : RE - Form 1) Eucharist (C) Eucharist (BM)	<i>No RE Classes</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	19	6.45 am	Eucharist	<i>Charismatic (E) 7.30 pm at Visitation Hall. We welcome All to join in praising God in Song.</i>
Tues	20	6.45 am	Eucharist	<i>Charismatic (M) 7.30 pm at Visitation Hall. We welcome All to join in praising God in Song</i>
Wed	21	<i>No Morning Mass</i> Clergy Monthly Recollection in APC		
Thur	22	6.45 am	Eucharist	
Fri	23	<i>No Morning Mass</i> 7.00 pm : <i>Way of the Cross followed by Eucharist (E/T/M/BM)</i>		

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) Gen 22, 1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-19 Ps 115, 10 et 15, 16-17, 18-19 Rom 8, 31 b -34 Mk 9, 2-10

“I Will Walk In The Presence Of The Lord In The Land Of The Living”. (Psalm 115)

Sat	24	5.00 pm 6.00 pm	Rosary : 5.30 pm : Novena; 5.45 pm: Benediction Eucharist (E) (Animation : St. Teresa of Calcutta)	
Sun	25	7.00 am 9.00 am 11.00 am	Eucharist (T) (Animation : St. Jude) Eucharist (E) (Animation : St. Lorenzon Ruiz) Eucharist (C) No BM Mass at 1.00 pm	RE(T): 8.45-10.15 am; RE(C): 9-10.30 am ; RE(E) & (BM) 10.45 -12.15pm 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 3.00 pm : RCIA Rite of Election at Holy Family , Kajang

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 – St. Dominic and RE- Form 1 for Mass Animation this weekend.

i) **Parish Weekend Collections :**
 10 / 11 Feb 2018 : RM8,668.15 Titi : RM105.00
God Bless All Generous Donors

ii) **SSVP Visitation** - we need more volunteers with passion in visiting and serving the poor & needy. Call parish office or Louise (019-6227440)
SSVP One-Stop Center for aid will be opened only on 1st Tuesday every month. Time : 4 - 6 pm, Place : Canteen.

➤ **CNY Luncheon** on 04 March (Sun) @ 12.30 pm.
 Venue : Min Kok Restaurant, Ti pm in Churchkets at :RM50/- per pax. Call Doreen : 0173326007

➤ **BE RECONCILED THIS LENT 2018**

19 Feb (Mon) : 8.00 pm : Risen Christ, Jln Ipoh
 20 Feb (Thur) : 8.00 pm : Kristus Cahaya, Kepong
 26 Feb (Mon) 7.30 pm : OL Fatima, B'field
 7.00 pm : St. Theresa, Nilai
 27 Feb (Tues) : 6.45 pm : St. Anthony, K.L
 7.00 pm : Visitation,

• **CLEANLINESS OF CHURCH AND SURROUNDINGS.**
Nailing on walls, stickers, glue etc are not permitted. ALWAYS ENSURE House of God is well maintained and looked after by ALL.

• **CMPC (Catholic Marriage Preparation Course)**
 English : 27 - 29 April 2018 in K.L.
 Tamil : 25 - 27 May 2018 (K.L.)
 BM : 23 - 25 February 2018 (K.L.)
 Mandarin : 20 - 22 April (K.L.)

➤ **FAST THIS LENT ?** (In the words of Pope Francis)

- ~ Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- ~ Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- ~ Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- ~ Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- ~ Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- ~ Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- ~ Fast from pressure and be prayerful.
- ~ Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- ~ Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- ~ Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- ~ Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

➤ **What can I DO this LENT**

- Read the Lenten message 2018.
- Visit the website for more info and reading(lent.aohd.org)(www.facebook.com/Lenten campaign)
- Make a good 'Confession'.
- Pray the Way of the Cross!
- Read the weekly reflections given in Lenten Kit / Herald.
- All children, Youth, are to be faithfully carry out the Lenten activities as proposed on the Kit. Kindly refer to your RE teachers, Youth leaders & BECs/Zone heads

➤ **Music Ministry** inviting organists to come forward to serve the

English Sunset Mass and Sunday 9 am Mass. Please contact :
 Amanda (Sunset Mass) : 0163673049/ Adrian (Sunday 9. Am Mass) : 0108970642

➤ **Rite of Election** : 25 February (Sun) at 3.00 pm at Holy Family Church, Kajang. Keep all our RCIA candidates in prayer.

RCIA (Eng & BM) will have their Retreat at P.D on 10 - 11 March 2018. Keep them in prayers.

- **Diocesan Vocation Awareness 2018** : Vocation Camp for young men on 24- 25 Feb 2018 at Good Shepherd Church : Age : 18 yrs to 35. Call Fr. George / Andrew /Parish office.
- **18/3** - Medical Camp 2018 (8am - 3 pm) at Visitation Hall
- **18/3** - ACIES Seremban (Legio Marie) @ 2.30 PM (Church)