



“Trust the past to the mercy of God, the present to His love and the future to His providence”

St. Augustine

SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10
 Psalm 145: 6-10
 James 5: 7-10
 Matthew 11: 2-11

Yet, John the Baptist in his prison cell asks a heartbreaking question to Jesus through his disciples, ‘Are you the one who is to come?’ Jesus’ response is in his actions, as he says, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regains their sights, the lame walks, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hears, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.’ Has John’s expectation fallen short? Is he, like the rest of the Jews, expecting a political Messiah?

For many of us, too, how can we recognise God’s presence in our midst when expectations fall short? Jesus affirms John’s role in the work of salvation, he is indeed the greatest, yet John stands at the threshold, pointing to the promise. We, as baptised Catholics have the Kingdom in our midst. John has done his part, so what ought we to be about?

Inspired by Pope Francis’ *Laudato Si*, the Bishops’ Conference of Malaysia-Singapore-Brunei establishes Creation Justice Commission. It calls for ecological stewardship and justice for creation, encourages practical, community-based actions to address environmental degradation. At the grassroots levels, (families, BECs) everyone can do their bit, as every bit counts. We are encouraged to engage in campaigns such as PROTEC (Protect Our Earth, Protect Our Children), and support the pledge of Ecological or Green Parishes.

St James in his letter tells us to be patient until the coming of the Lord. While waiting, let us be our Lord’s arms, legs and mouthpiece and reach out where we can. We rejoice each time we help turn a situation around: an aged being comforted, a relationship reconciled, a migrant being cared for. The list goes on.

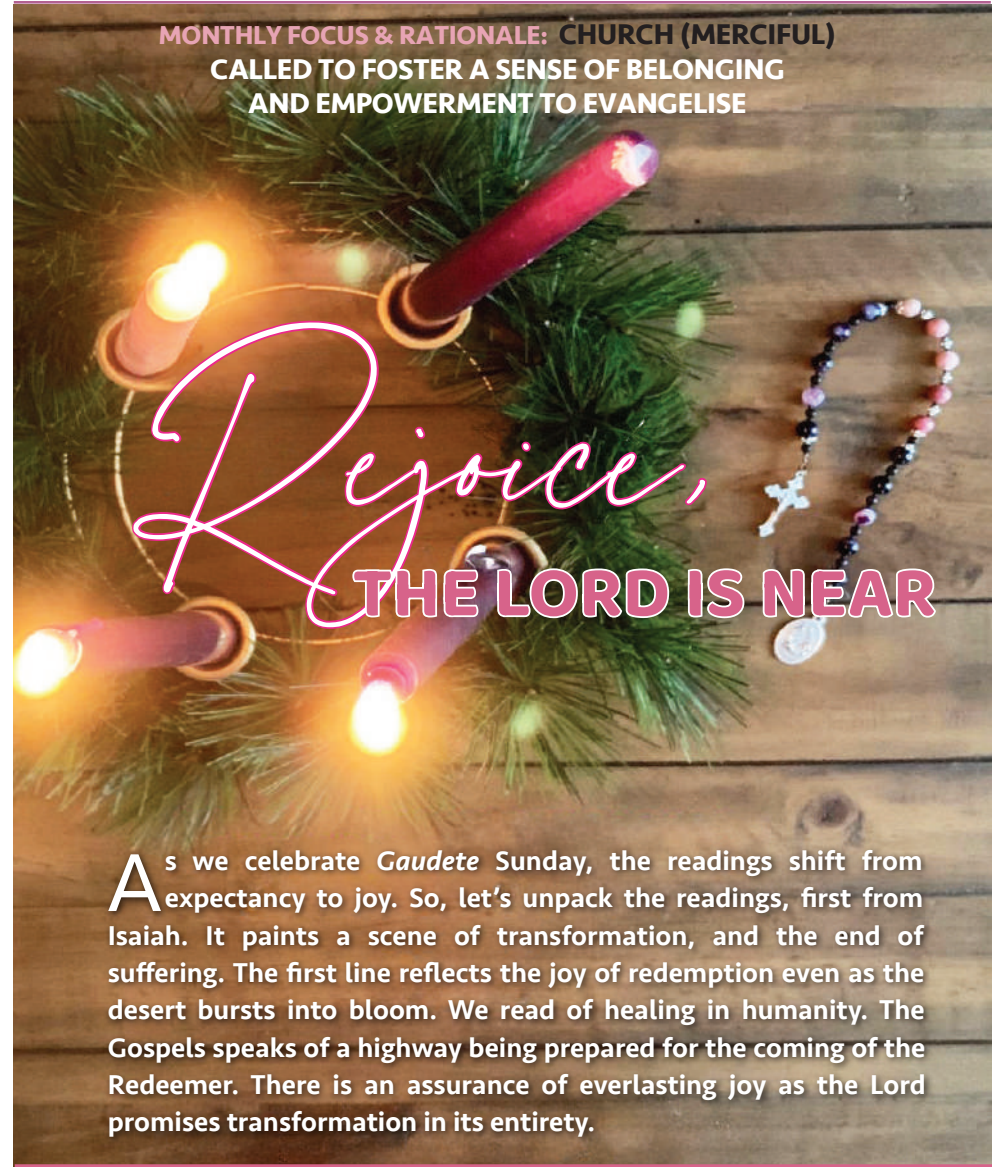
‘And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me,’ Jesus says. Indeed, we do not take offense because we are one with Him, catching a glimpse of the Kingdom in the here and now. ✚

NEWBEC

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH | 3rd Sunday of Advent | 14 December 2025

CELEBRATING, LISTENING AND WALKING AS PILGRIMS OF HOPE

**MONTHLY FOCUS & RATIONALE: CHURCH (MERCIFUL)
 CALLED TO FOSTER A SENSE OF BELONGING
 AND EMPOWERMENT TO EVANGELISE**



As we celebrate *Gaudete* Sunday, the readings shift from expectancy to joy. So, let’s unpack the readings, first from Isaiah. It paints a scene of transformation, and the end of suffering. The first line reflects the joy of redemption even as the desert bursts into bloom. We read of healing in humanity. The Gospels speaks of a highway being prepared for the coming of the Redeemer. There is an assurance of everlasting joy as the Lord promises transformation in its entirety.