



The gospel tells us another story of God meeting us in challenging situations, but the response is heartwarming. Joseph, after discovering Mary is with child, decides to save her from shame and plans to divorce her quietly. But when the angel reveals to him the truth, Joseph surrenders his own plan, his understanding and his reputation. He takes Mary into his home. Joseph cooperates with grace in an act of trust and courage, and does his part to fulfil the messianic prophecy.

“Apart from the mercy of God, there is no other source of hope for mankind.”

*St. John Paul II*

In both the accounts, Emmanuel is the answer. As we stand at the threshold of Christmas, these words will continually ring out. O Come, O Come Emmanuel. The promise of God-with-us assures us of God’s everlasting love and presence, especially in moments of crisis. When we approach him in prayers, he enters into our situation, whatever that may be. Like St Joseph, we must have the courage to let go of our own will, and submit to the Lord.

To let go and to trust God is a lifelong process. We are often overwhelmed by societal trends, and more often than not, we lack the will and mental strength to cope. We have the BECs as support groups but we need to be more effective. Perhaps a redefinition of the framework is required, with more emphasis on formation and empowerment to build individuals, families and communities spiritually. Then, coming together, we can support each other in the Body of Christ as we learn to lean on the Lord and trust him like Joseph does.

As Advent comes to a close this week, we are reminded of the 4th candle of love. May we continue to love and to be of service to others, building upon the hope, peace and joy of this Advent season. When Christmas comes around, let the Lord enter for he is the King of Glory.

Blessed Christmas, everyone.✦

**SCRIPTURE of the DAY**

Isaiah 7: 10-14

Psalms 23: 1-6

Romans 1: 1-7

Matthew 1: 18-24

# NEWBEC

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH | 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent | 21 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

## Emmanuel is the Answer

**H**ow will we react when face with life uncertainties? Today’s readings show us two contrasts, and teach us valuable lessons. The context in Isaiah is that King Ahaz of Judah faces imminent threats from his political alliances, and instead of trusting God, he joins forces with another. Ahaz’s sin is his lack of faith and trust in God’s assurances. By refusing God’s command to ask Him for a sign, Ahaz shows an act of defiance. Grace opens door to him, but he closes it.

