



“Mercy is the very foundation of the Church’s life...The Church’s very credibility is seen in how she shows merciful and compassionate love.”

Pope Francis

SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Isaiah 11: 1-10

Psalms 71: 1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

Romans 15: 4-9

Matthew 3: 1-12

God indeed works even at barren places, as at this time, the Davidic kingdom is no more, it has been reduced to a *stump*. Yet, the Messiah from the lineage of King David, son of Jesse is coming.

Isaiah’s vision shows how Spirit-filled the Messiah will be. As the Spirit of the Lord rests upon the Messiah, one sees the manifestations, working alongside to empower and to guide. The reign of God will be shown by perfect justice, particularly for the most vulnerable. The poor and the meek will find an advocate in Him for *justice is his belt*.

The vision of Isaiah gives us hope even as we strive for justice and champion the cause of the marginalised. More than hope, the prophet also shows us a Kingdom of peace: that in the end, all things will come together, all predatory nature of creation will reconcile. Imagine a world without gun violence and senseless killing, no wars nor conflicts, and where babies, orphans and elderly are sheltered from harm. Peace will prevail, ‘for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the Lord, as water covers the sea.’

Powerful imageries for us to ponder even as John the Baptist takes the vision to a state of urgency, saying that the peaceable kingdom that is to come begins with repentance. While Isaiah looks to the future and John looks at his generation, the message is evergreen for us – repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand. St Paul tells us that *whatever was written previously was written for our instructions, and by endurance and by the encouragement of the Scriptures, we might have hope*.

Our takeaway for this Second Sunday of Advent as a faith community is that peace is not a passive state of being, but an active pursuit that starts with each person. Let’s start at the base with our families, BECs, parish community, and to our co-workers and larger community.

Let us wish each other an Advent of Perfect Peace.✙

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NEWBEC

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH | 2nd Sunday of Advent | 7 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

An Advent of Perfect Peace

Between the vision of Isaiah and the proclamation of John, we see the continuity of God’s plan of salvation, of prophecy and fulfilment. Isaiah gives a vivid description of who this coming shoot is, and what his reign will be like. From the seemingly dead stump of Jesse, a bud blossoms at the root of this shoot.

