

Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

7th Sunday of Easter

HOPE: BELIEVE, LIVE AND GIVE

MONTHLY THEME:

TOGETHERNESS IN GOOD TIMES AND BAD

AN EVERLASTING FRIENDSHIP

WITH
JESUS

*'Can we find a friend so faithful? Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness.'*

These meaningful lyrics are from the hymn, 'What a friend we have in Jesus,' and we sing them at almost every funeral. They soothe us and remind us of a life lived in accompaniment by the Lord.

Let us take this a little further, like imagining we are at the funeral of Jesus. We have just lost him. Do those lyrics connote the meaning of a deeper relationship? If we are in that relationship with the Lord, cling on to it. Jesus longs for us, and he wants us to stay in that relationship with Him for all eternity.

In the gospel today, we read how Jesus cries out to his Father. He knows his end is near, and he is pleading with his Father to take care of his disciples. He wants to teach them the very core message of self-sacrificial love that he shows by example. In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Peter mentions how closely Christ journeyed with his apostles. And in choosing the replacement for the one who betrayed Jesus, Peter sets the same criteria. That person has to know Jesus personally when he was about his earthly ministry.

It is the same message for us today. As missionary disciples of Christ, we must set the same standard for ourselves. If we do not know Christ intimately, how are we to be partakers in his mission? It is never too late to start getting to know the Lord. Being friends with Jesus means finding all means to deepen this everlasting friendship with him. We have to prioritise time so that we can turn to the Word of God and deepen our spirituality. **When our spirituality deepens, our friendship with Christ takes us to another level of loving others**, just as God has loved us. So long as God remains in us, and we in Him, we can accomplish all that Christ has asked of us. Without him we can do nothing.

Let us therefore turn our lives over and yield to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. The Lord has said he will not leave us orphans. As we await His coming, let us live our lives purposefully for His Greater Glory. ✚

SCRIPTURE QUOTE
TO MEMORISE:

"God will live
in us and
his love will
be complete
in us."

(1 Jn 4, 12)

SCRIPTURE
of the DAY

Acts 1: 15-17, 20-26

Ps 102, 1-2, 11-12,
19-20;

1 Jn 4, 11-16;

Jn 17, 11-19.