

Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

First Sunday Of Lent

HOPE: BELIEVE, LIVE AND GIVE

MONTHLY THEME: **SOLIDARITY IN DIVERSITY**

REPENT and BELIEVE

Fittingly at the start of Lent, Jesus asks us to “*Repent and believe the Gospel*”. Jesus comes out of his 40-day prayer and fast in the desert with a mission in one hand and God’s complete wisdom in the other. The mission Jesus has been entrusted with is to draw everyone to the Father by using his own self as the ultimate sacrifice of love.



WEEKLY SCRIPTURE VERSE:

In your love
remember me,
because of
your goodness,
O Lord.

(Ps 24, 7)

Later, Jesus prays before his Ascension to Heaven: “...*For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them*”. This is the making of the covenant that no man in any age will destroy; for God establishes a new covenant with believers, in Jesus, the new Adam.

Throughout time, God has kept His promise. When God reset the world after the big flood on the days of Noah, He promised that He would never totally flood the world again. The world was in turmoil then as people were lawless and had no regard for God. In the presence of Noah and his family, God set the rainbow in the sky as a sign that He will keep His promise. In the Gospel, we see another promise of God fulfilled. Jesus, His Son, becomes the Mediator, the living covenant between God and all creation. He is the holy sacrifice and the full expression of God’s love. In Christ alone, we now have a chance for eternal life with God.

As we reflect on our lives and the state of the world, we must recognise the covenant God makes with us. **The message does not change: we must repent and believe.** This belief urges us to do good things and to work for the benefit of all. There are so many chances and ways to show our love to people around us. For us, this mission does not merely start and end in the season of Lent. It is a daily journey. Knowing Jesus is knowing that life is about constant change – toward sacrifice and love, toward repentance and greater belief, toward mercy and goodness. In Jesus, our salvation is certain. Understanding this truth is to meaningfully say, like the Psalmist, “*Your ways O Lord are love and truth, to those who keep your covenant*”. ✚

SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Gen 9, 8-15;
Ps 24, 4-9.
1 Pt 3, 18-22.
Mk 1, 12-15.