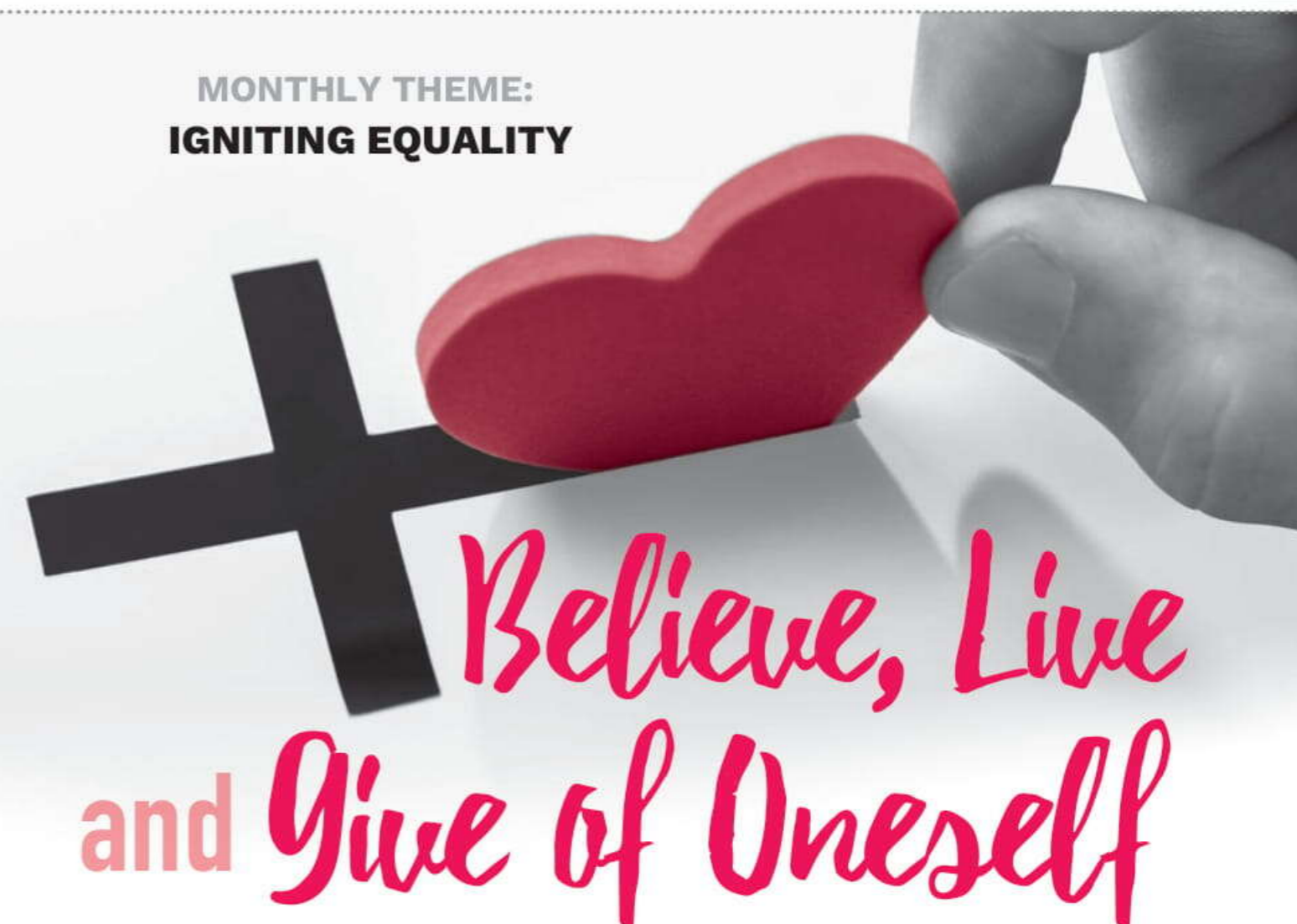


Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

4th Sunday of Lent

HOPE: BELIEVE, LIVE AND GIVE

MONTHLY THEME:
IGNITING EQUALITY

A video is circulating of a man growing and foraging 100% of his food. He has no land of his own but uses his neighbours'. The bountiful harvest reaches many in the community. The man has not gone to the shops for his meals, neither to the supermarket to pick up his grocery. Everything he needs is home-grown. He has gone on to teach and empower others to do the same. It is inspiring and it is giving us a sense of hope. This man teaches us HOPE - to believe, live and give of oneself.

Image: ©123rf.com

WEEKLY
SCRIPTURE VERSE:

"We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it."

(Eph. 2: 10)

Creation is groaning in pain. It needs healing and this man in Orlando, Florida is doing his part, without much fanfare. Much like St. Joseph, whose feast we celebrate on 19th March. What about us? Today is Laetare Sunday. The Church wants us to rejoice and to bask in the Good News: 'For God so loved the world that He gave us His Only Son so that all who believe in Him will be saved.'

The 1st reading from Chronicles shows us God's wrath is accompanied by His compassion. The exilic Israelites may feel the rejection of God, but the Compassionate Father has already planned for their redemption through King Cyrus.

Let us learn from the lesson of the past. The Psalmist speaks of the laments of the exilic community in Babylon. Crying and weeping doesn't help anyone. The invisible destructive virus is here to co-exist with us. While our way of life has changed, we can take steps to make it better, like the man in the video.

The pathway to right living is through God's gift of His Son. St Paul in the 2nd reading from Ephesians tells us that 'even when we were dead in our transgressions (like the Israelites), God who is rich in mercy brought us to life with Christ.' St Paul goes on to tell us that 'we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them.'

Let us make a difference because of our belief. Jesus explains to Nicodemus about living in His light so that all that we do can be seen. We must leave the world of darkness and sin to bask in the Light of Christ. May we emulate the man in the video, who dedicates his life to community living, and follow the footsteps of St. Joseph, a hardworking and courageous man. ✚

SCRIPTURE
of the DAY2 Chr. 36: 14-16,
19-23;

Ps. 136: 1-5;

Eph. 2: 4-10;

Jn. 3: 14-21.