

Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

5th Sunday of Lent

HOPE: BELIEVE, LIVE AND GIVE

MONTHLY THEME: IGNITING EQUALITY



THE LEAST TO THE GREATEST
Shall Know the Lord

When Lent began on Ash Wednesday, the ashes on our foreheads reminded us of the fragility of life and the evitable death that will come to everyone. Today, on the 5th Sunday of our Lenten journey, we hear the Psalmist sings, 'Create a clean heart in me, O Lord.' The deeper meaning of this creation of a clean heart in us takes us to another level of discipleship which Jesus reveals in John's Gospel (12).

It is not coincidental but providential that at the time when Jesus is preaching in the Jerusalem Temple, some Greeks (Gentiles) ask to see him. Jesus does not directly speak to them, but he foretells his imminent death, and he tells those who serve him to follow him for 'where he is, there also will his servant be.' The pathway to discipleship is open to anyone who is willing to follow him.

How does Jesus prepare us on this journey with him? The author of letter to the Hebrews (5:7-9) tells us of Jesus in the flesh, offering up prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears. It will be easy to overlook this profound truth, but we can feel the humanity of Jesus in Gethsemane as he goes through his most agonised moments. Yet, he submits to the Will of the Father and ultimately conquers death.

The image of the grain falling to the ground, dying and growing to bear much fruit is a metaphor of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. The grain of wheat in Him shall die as it falls to the ground, and rises to a new life. His death seals the new covenant which Jeremiah has prophesized. Jesus is the New Lamb of the Covenant, who takes away our sins, and restores man's broken relationship with God.

Each time we partake of the Holy Eucharist, we affirm this Covenant. We no longer need anyone to teach us. With a clean heart created in us, we are intimately connected to God within. **To love and follow Christ as his disciples, means we must reach out to everyone.** No creed, no colour, no boundaries shall stop us from sharing this love so that the least to the greatest shall know the Lord. Then, the world will know that we are Christians by our love.

Jesus loves you, always has and always will. ✚

WEEKLY
 SCRIPTURE VERSE:

If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.

(Jn. 12: 26)

SCRIPTURE
 of the DAY

Jer. 31: 31-34;

Ps. 50: 3-4, 12-15;

Heb. 5: 7-9;

Jn. 12: 20-33.