

# Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH Palm Sunday of the Passion of The Lord

HOPE: BELIEVE, LIVE AND GIVE

MONTHLY THEME: IGNITING EQUALITY

## WERE YOU THERE?

Many artists have covered this hymn, 'Were you there?' It was written for the Old Plantation Hymnal in 1800s. Slavery was common then, and the slaves could relate to the brutality of the Crucifixion. Their lives hinged on HOPE and the salvific message of the Gospel. This hymn reminds us of our own salvation. Christ has set us free, and St Paul ask us not to be subjected to the yoke of slavery once more. (Galatians 5:1)



### WEEKLY SCRIPTURE VERSE:

"His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross."

(Phil. 2: 6-8)

The holiest week arrives today on Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion. Before we rejoice at the sight of the empty tomb, let us not pause at the crossroads leading to Calvary but be there to accompany Jesus. We were not there 2000 years ago, but now we can be with the Lord to relive the Paschal Mystery.

Isaiah gives the 3rd Song of the Suffering Servant, one who accepts suffering out of love and obedience. In St Paul's letter to the Philippians, we are reminded of the humility and total obedience of Christ, who 'emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, he was humble even to accepting death on a cross.'

At the home of the Little Sisters of the Poor, a volunteer was helping a nun in the infirmary. She saw the pitiable condition of an elderly who has been invalid for many years. She asked the Sister one question, 'Why does God permit this elderly person to suffer?'

The Sister said, 'Her suffering is united to Jesus. It is redemptive, and she is helping the Lord to save souls. Besides, God gives her the grace to endure.'

That day, the volunteer learned that sufferings linked to the Passion of Christ carry a different connotation. Our Catholic approach to suffering can provide comfort that secular approaches can't. Perhaps inwardly the slaves of old have understood their own redemptive sufferings.

**During this Holy Week, let us journey with the Lord intimately.** Victory is on our side and we only need to claim it. Whatever we are going through in life, unite it to Christ through the Paschal Mystery. Let Jesus who is be to Crucified on the Cross, be the One to take it to His Father. He wants to clear the temples of our hearts, and purify them so that when the time comes for the Father to glorify Him, He will bring us with Him.

Let's together be there. ✚

### SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Is. 50: 4-7;

Ps. 21: 8-9, 17-20, 23-24;

Phil. 2: 6-11;

Mk. 14: 1-15: 47.