

Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

11th Sunday of Ordinary Time

HOPE: BELIEVE, LIVE AND GIVE

MONTHLY THEME:

BRIDGING CULTURAL BOUNDARIES

GOD'S GRACE AT WORK IN THE HARVEST

The tale of harvest and the celebration of it is a yearly affair for East Malaysians. At the end of May, Sabahans celebrate the Kaamatan Festival, while Sarawakians will have their Gawai do during the first two days of June. Usually, in June, the Church in Peninsular Malaysia will also celebrate with the East Malaysians (and Indonesians) over a day's event and combine these two festivals to offer thanksgiving to God for a bountiful harvest.

Image: i723rf.com

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SCRIPTURE QUOTE
TO MEMORISE:

"It is good to
give thanks
to the Lord,
to make music
to your name,
O Most High."

(Ps. 91:1)

Culturally, Kaamatan and Gawai bring about the spirit of unity and solidarity, cutting across race and religion. Cultural and religious mingling is not only acceptable, but it is lived. Truly, for as long as this generation can remember, East Malaysians have lived together in enviable harmony, as each one plays his or her part in not sowing seeds of discord.

Mark's gospel today is also a tale of seeds sowing. Jesus preaches in parables to the people in the 'agricultural' language the people are familiar with. In telling them about the Kingdom of God, the Sower goes about sowing seeds, and allowing the plants to grow on their own, 'how he knows not.' It is about God's grace at work in the harvest, much like God's grace growing in 'the land below the winds', and the 'land of the hornbills.'

Time and tide wait for no man, so also the Lord. He goes about sowing, about loving people all over and get those who are in tune with his Spirit to sow alongside. The fruits are the harmonious relationship amongst the people, like the plant, flowering and fruiting to its contentment.

As Christians living in a multi-religious and multi-cultural society, we have to have a Kingdom mind-set. It begins by our doing away with 'I', 'Me', and 'Mine.' It is not about taking on big tasks but be about God's signposts, pointing fellow pilgrims in the right direction. For most of us, our roles may even be hidden, insignificant. But this is how Jesus speaks to us - in the parable of the mustard seed. **Never underestimate that tiny seed.** The deeds we do in his Name may have a lasting influence far beyond our comprehension. For you see, the main Sower is the Lord and he sees to the growing, the nurturing and the harvesting.

Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will Be Done on Earth as it is in Heaven. ✝

SCRIPTURE
of the DAY

Ez 17, 22-24;

Ps 91, 2-3, 13-16;

2 Cor 5, 6-10;

Mk 4, 26-34.