

Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

16th Sunday of Ordinary Time

HOPE: BELIEVE, LIVE AND GIVE

SCRIPTURE QUOTE
TO MEMORISE:

"The Lord is
my shepherd;
there is
nothing I shall
want."

(Ps. 23: 1)

When Jesus sees the people, he feels compassion for them for they were "like sheep without a shepherd".

Today, **the world is in great and urgent need of the Good Shepherd** to guide humanity in the "right path" and through "the valley of darkness". For there are many "false shepherds" who destroy and scatter God's people. These may be people in authority and power in government, society and even in the Church. Since they fail to lead and guide the people properly, God himself will now shepherd His people.

God the Father sent Christ, the Good Shepherd to lead and guide us, heal our brokenness and transform us into wholeness. Each day, Jesus calls us to move away from crowded places and busy situations to spend time with him and rest in him. He wants to lead us to "green pastures" and quiet waters" where we can be nourished by his love and compassion.

God also wishes to send us, His "shepherds" into situations of doubt and disbelief, fear and conflict, pain and sorrow, and poverty and injustice. He wants us to share the peace and comfort that He brings to all, especially with the poor and downtrodden.

Do we rest in the quietness of our hearts alone with Jesus? It is important for us to do this as it helps us centre ourselves on Christ for comfort, consolation, reconciliation and strength. Only then can we truly reach out and give of ourselves to others in love and serve them worthily as "shepherds" of Christ. As the prophet Jeremiah proclaims, God "*will raise up shepherds over them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing...*" (Jer. 23:4).

May we hear his voice today and respond to his call! ✦

SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Jer. 23: 1-6;

Ps. 22: 1-6;

Eph. 2: 13-18;

Mk. 6: 30-34.

MONTHLY THEME:
**OPEN YOUR MOUTH,
DEFEND THE OPPRESSED**

I WILL RAISE UP SHEPHERDS!



Returning from the mission of teaching the good news and reaching out to others, the apostles are reunited with Jesus. They would have been very excited but also most likely exhausted! For Jesus, their wellbeing was important. He tells them go away with him to a deserted place where they could be by themselves and rest a while. However, their departure was observed by the people who knew where Jesus and his disciples were heading. They hurry to the place and reach there first.