

Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

26th Sunday of Ordinary Time

HOPE: BELIEVE, LIVE AND GIVE

MONTHLY THEME: ALL THE EARTH PROCLAIMS THE LORD

“For Whoever is for Me is Not Against Me”

“Anyone who is not against us is for us.” Jesus insightfully crafts the tapestry of faith in this one simple yet powerful statement, giving credence to anyone who professes him and acts with faith in him. Sometimes, we can sheepishly think that we have a monopoly on all that happens in ‘our’ world of faith.



SCRIPTURE QUOTE
TO MEMORISE:

“The decrees
of the Lord
are truth and
all of them
just.”

(Ps. 18: 8)

We too, can act like the disciples or like the men who rushed to complain to Moses as to why some who don’t believe ‘like us’ may be endowed so fully in faith.

Today, the Lord tells us to withhold our judgement of those around us but to place our focus on what is really essential, that is, on God alone. His assuring statement must encourage everyone to help each other in this journey of faith, as we uplift one another and not be quick to judge or belittle the efforts of others. The truth is that as the rain and sun falls on everyone, so does God’s kindness. It falls on all whom He loves.

As the world battled with the Covid-19 pandemic in one of the recent waves, the afflicted did not ask if help was coming from a Christian or a Hindu. In communities hardest hit, like in India and Italy, the outpouring of service and love, especially from selfless front-liners was overwhelming. People even lent gas cylinders to others, and bought medicines for those in need. Some took to the streets to feed the hungry or comfort the lost and lonely. **These actions of love are examples of godliness, standing with both the truth and with your struggling neighbour in need.** Where did the world learn this if not from a God who loves us and who only speaks the language of love to every people, generation and age

Jesus tells us that all our good efforts, little as we ourselves sometimes regard them, will be rewarded. This is indeed the stark reality of our lives, that we must remain in Jesus and encourage everyone else to live by his powerful commandment of love. When we attain this consciousness, we are able to understand like the psalmist, that the precepts of the heart truly give us joy. Then, we will know that we actually stand in common unity with so many others, united only by the person of Jesus himself.

For indeed he is the vine and we are all his branches. ✦

SCRIPTURE
of the DAY

Num. 11: 25-29;

Ps. 18: 8, 10, 12-14;

Jm. 5: 1-6;

Mk. 9: 38-43,
45, 47-48.