

# Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

29th Sunday of Ordinary Time

HOPE: BELIEVE, LIVE AND GIVE

MONTHLY THEME:  
PUT INTO THE DEEP

## Skip Not A Heartbeat



Isaiah 53 is paradoxical. The prophet's imagery of the text is that of the Suffering Servant, the Messiah whom 'the Lord was pleased to crush him in infirmity.' Verse 11 says, 'through his suffering, my servant shall justify many, and their guilt he shall bear.' Do we skip a heartbeat? Perhaps, if we dare to replace 'their guilt' with 'our guilt.'

It is our guilt, our iniquities laid on Jesus. The punishment he endures brings us peace. His wounds heal us. His ultimate sacrifice gives us eternal life. Jesus has to undergo all these to arrive at our salvation. When James and John ask him if he could give them the seats next to him when he comes into glory, they haven't a clue yet at his Messiah-ship. Yet, a prophetic voice in them tells Jesus they will drink of his cup. **They are later to know that the greatest calling of them as disciples are to be at the service of others.** After Pentecost, the disciples discover that following their Messiah lead them to hardship, persecution, and many of them martyrdom. James is the first to die for the faith at the hands of King Herod Agrippa I. The convicted disciples skip many a heartbeat indeed, to later beat with the heart of Christ!

What about us? Are we ready to be put out into the deep? Today, if Jesus asks us whether we can drink from the same cup, pray we answer him in the affirmative. The pandemic situation has given us many opportunities to keep our Christian faith alive by serving others. Instead of giving in to fear and panic, and adopt the 'to each our own' attitude, let us place our hope in Jesus. It is so needed in place of fear, and our Christian hope is alive as Psalm 32 tells us today. Besides, Jesus our High Priest knows how it is to be human, and to be afraid. The 2nd reading from Hebrews 4:14-16 affirms us that we can 'confidently approach the throne of grace, to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help.'

Connect with your parish (if not already), BECs, and non-governmental organisations. Together as a community, be the beacon of light and hope to those who need it. As we serve, may we feel the heartbeat of Jesus in us. ✚

### SCRIPTURE QUOTE TO MEMORISE:

"... anyone who wants to become great among you must be a slave to all."

(Mk. 10, 43)

### SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Is 53, 10-11;

Ps 32, 4-5, 18-20, 22;

Hebr 4, 14-16;

Mk 10, 35 – 45  
(or 42-45).