

# Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

30th Sunday of Ordinary Time

HOPE: BELIEVE, LIVE AND GIVE

MONTHLY THEME: PUT INTO THE DEEP

## MERCY AT THE Heart of Humanity

**'C**all him.' This is Jesus' response when he hears the voice of Bartimaeus, the blind beggar in Jericho. Jesus is walking toward the last leg of his journey to Jerusalem. His fate awaits him, yet he stops when he hears the voice of the blind man.



✝  
SCRIPTURE QUOTE  
TO MEMORISE:

"What  
 marvels the  
 Lord worked  
 for us!  
 Indeed we  
 were glad."

(Ps 125, 3)

'What can I do for you?' Jesus asks Bartimaeus. By this time, the beggar has thrown away his cloak. He says to Jesus, 'Master, I want to see.' Jesus replies, 'Go your way, your faith has cured you.' With the above scene in mind, the rest of the sizeable crowd falls into oblivion. It is Bartimaeus and Jesus. The blind beggar knows his pitiable condition, and he pleads for the Lord's mercy and healing grace.

In his Mission Sunday message, Pope Francis says, 'Everything in Christ reminds us at the world in which we live and its need for redemption are no strangers to him and also calls us to feel an active part of this mission: 'Go to the crosses of the streets and all those you will find, call them' (Mt 22:9). This is being affirmed by Jeremiah 31:7-9 where the company of those whom God will 'gather from the ends of the world,' are the blind and the lame in their midst. **God's preferential love for the poor is incarnated in the healing love of Jesus.**

Sarah Gilbert, the British scientist who develops the Astra Zeneca vaccine with her team sees not the millions of dollars she could pocket but the millions of lives she could save. So she shares the intellectual benefits of the vaccine instead of patenting it.

We are heartened by the generous acts of many NGOs, corporations, families or individuals who go out of the way to help those in need. Some months back, the Malaysian Catholic Church shows a strong sign of solidarity when she supports the Tzu Chi Foundation in donating hospital equipment. Websites of churches show the many heart-warming initiatives of outreach by BECs and parish ministries too.

All the above are selfless acts of mercy at the heart of humanity. But we must not rest on our laurels to reach out 'for no one is foreign, no one can feel foreign or far away from this love of compassion.' (Pope Francis - Mission Sunday 2021)

Like Bartimaeus, let us be prepared to throw away our cloak (of security) for the sake of the gospel. ✝

SCRIPTURE  
of the DAY

Jer 31, 7-9;

Ps 125; 1-6;

Hebr 5, 1-6;

Mk 10, 46-52.