

# Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

31st Sunday of Ordinary Time

HOPE: BELIEVE, LIVE AND GIVE

MONTHLY THEME:  
PUT INTO THE DEEP

LOVE  
IS THE WAY  
TO THE  
KINGDOM

For the past four weeks, Mark Chapter 10 has shown us some values and mysteries of the Kingdom: tenderness, graciousness, compassion and faith marked by equality. The embodiment of all these values is in the context of LOVE, which Jesus will show, is the Way to the Kingdom.



SCRIPTURE QUOTE  
TO MEMORISE:

"...The Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength."

(Mk 12, 29)

Jesus has entered the last leg of his journey to embrace his fate. A scribe asks him which commandments of the Law is the greatest. Jesus emphasises the commandment from Deuteronomy, which everyone is familiar with: 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength.' Then Jesus adds, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' When the Scribe concurs with the answer, Jesus affirms him saying, 'You are not far from the Kingdom.'

**Love is the very heart of the Gospel.** As the Church celebrates All Saints' Day on 1st November, we remember St Maximilian Kolbe, a Polish Catholic priest. He exchanges place with a stranger in Auschwitz and dies in his place. From a young age, Maximilian is close to the Blessed Virgin Mary. One day she appears to him in a vision, holding two crowns, one red (for martyrdom) and one white (for purity). She asks the boy to choose. Maximilian chooses both. Maximilian goes on to live a life worthy of Christ, and he dies with his faith intact.

St. Catherine of Sienna also comes to mind. She faces humongous obstacles in life, and like many saints she understands the meaning of redemptive suffering. Her tremendous love of Christ in the Eucharist enables her to help the poor, especially the terminally ill. The same goes for St Teresa of Calcutta. Her love for the Eucharistic Lord takes her to the slums of Calcutta. There she picks up the sick and the dying, to care for them and/or to prepare them for a dignified death.

The Saints live and die believing in the Paschal Mystery where Christ has shown us the Way to the Kingdom. They know that above and beyond the reality of human suffering and death is the promise of eternal life. It is Jesus' promise to us to those who believe in Him, walk with Him and obey His commandment to love without counting the cost.

Whoever loves me will keep my word, says the Lord; my Father will love him, and we will come to him. ✠

SCRIPTURE  
of the DAY

Deut 6, 2-6;  
Ps 17, 2-4. 47. 51;  
Hebr 7, 23-28;  
Mk 12, 28-34.