

Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

SALT OF THE EARTH AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD: COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION AND MISSION

MONTHLY THEME:
WEEK OF PRAYER FOR
CHRISTIAN UNITY



THAT WE MAY
ALL
BE
ONE

This week marks 2022 Christian Unity Week. As we recall the last two Sundays on the manifestations of the Lord at Epiphany, and his Baptism, we remember God's invitation to all of humanity to the New Covenant inaugurated by Jesus. May this week therefore be a week of prayer for the Malaysian Church, cutting across all divide, as we celebrate our Oneness in Christ.

SCRIPTURE QUOTE TO MEMORISE:

The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose.

(1 Corinthians 12: 7)

As we read Isaiah 42 today, despite the desolation of the exilic people, the Prophet looks into the future with hope. He breaks into a song, the first Servant Song. A new dawn breaks for the People of Zion – their victory like a 'burning torch.' God's tender mercy shall be witnessed by all nations, and Zion be given a new name. Like a bridegroom rejoices in the bride, so shall the Lord rejoice in His People.

Christians of all ages carry this Hope in Jesus. The imagery of the bridegroom and the bride in the Old Testament is seen in the New Testament context as that of Christ and His Church. So, we shall look at the Wedding at Cana from that perspective. It is not a coincidence that John does not mention the names of the married couple. He centres his narrative on Jesus, who performs his first sign. The mother of Jesus is unnamed too, and we allude her to later be the Mother of the Church. The sign of abundance given at Cana gives us a glimpse into the Kingdom of God. The Wedding feast at Cana points us to the mystical union between Christ and the Church, the union consummated on Calvary.

The Church awaits to be united with the Bridegroom in the age to come. In the meantime, we must remain faithful to Him, and use the 'diversity of gifts, coming from the same Spirit' for the good of all. **During this Christian Unity Week, let us remember that we share the same gift of faith from the One Lord, Our Saviour Jesus Christ.** We have to proclaim Jesus and the Good News to those who have not received it.

'May they all be one, just as, Father, you are in me and I am in you, so that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe it was you who sent me.' John 17:21 ✠

SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Isaiah 62: 1-5;

Ps. 95: 1-3, 7-10;

1 Corinthians 12: 4-11;

John 2: 1-11.