

Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

5th Sunday of Ordinary Time

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

SCRIPTURE QUOTE TO MEMORISE:

...they left
everything
and
followed
him.

(Luke 5:11)

Yet, ironically, now they decide to leave their prized assets, that is, their boats, ditch their “new-found success” and follow Jesus. Jesus called them as they are – *ordinary fishermen* – so that he may make them *extraordinary fishers of men*.

Countless stories have been told about God calling common people who were going about their ordinary lives. Throughout Scripture, we see that sin, failure and inadequacy are no obstacles to God’s call. In most of these instances, the people called by God are simply not ready, sometimes unwilling or at most times, feel unworthy in serving Him. God doesn’t wait for them to become “perfect”. He knows that under His watch, they will shape up to the task at hand if they trust Him. It is no wonder that when St. Paul tells us that he is the last of the apostles to be called, he himself is bemused to the point of bewilderment because he knows he is unworthy of the call.

In the first reading, Isaiah is shown a glimpse of heaven where our Supreme Lord reigns majestically. Isaiah feels unworthy and needs an angel to cure him of his sinfulness with a burning coal that touches his lips. **God works in all our lives just like that, in different ways.** The need to proclaim the Gospel in the world today is urgent and essential. We too are called, even with our frailties, failures and sense of unworthiness in midst our ordinary, sometimes busy and complicated lives. Jesus needs you and me to be his hands and feet to “catch” others.

If we are honest enough, deep within, we too can hear God’s question, “*Whom shall I send, who will my messenger be*”. Let us be courageous enough to respond, as Isaiah does, “Here I am, send me”. ✚

SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Isaiah 6: 1-8;

Ps. 137: 1-5, 7-8;

1 Cor 15: 1-11
(or 15: 3-8, 11);

Luke 5: 1-11.

MONTHLY THEME: **WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE**

HERE I AM, *Send Me!*

Although Simon Peter confesses his sense of unworthiness, Jesus still calls Simon to follow him - just as he is – *a sinner*. The Lord does not request a CV from Simon or tell him to get his act together or even to tidy himself up (*imagine the sight the fishermen must have been after a whole night’s fishing*). Just a little while ago, Peter and his fishing partners, James and John, had the biggest catch of fish in their careers as fishermen.

