

# Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

1st Sunday of Lent

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

**SCRIPTURE QUOTE  
TO MEMORISE:**

For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

(Romans 10:13)

Even Jesus was not spared the agony of human suffering and temptations. Many of us can easily relate to the temptations that Jesus faced in the desert. The first test was the need to satisfy a basic human need – hunger. In this case, the temptation was to turn stone into bread. Jesus was tempted to put aside his “human-ness” and to prove he could do anything he wanted to because he is the Son of God. How often have we wished that we had “divine” powers so that we may perform miracles or get what we want?

The next sequence in the temptations reflects the hunger for power. It means the seeking of recognition and popularity for its own sake, the subsequent expectation of respect and obedience from others, and ultimately to have complete authority over people and situations. A desire for such power can erode our moral compass especially when nothing else can compare to its importance in our lives, including God.

The final temptation ultimately draws us back to our natural tendencies of being the descendants of Adam – the desire to be God. After all, history has shown us, human beings, as being great creators and inventors in many spheres of life. And when we strive towards “recreating” life itself – we fall back to the most basic sin, one that existed even at the beginning of creation, the inability to see that everything, and most especially life, comes from God.

Ultimately in facing these temptations in trust and faith, as Jesus did so willingly, we may realise that it is God who is in control and not us. Only if perspectives of our relationship with God gets higher or goes beyond our own self, we may stop questioning God and asking Him to give an account to us for our trials and sufferings. ✦

**SCRIPTURE  
of the DAY**

Deut 26: 4-10;

Psalms 90: 1-2,10-15;

Romans 10: 8-13;

Luke 4:1-13.

**MONTHLY FOCUS:**
**WORLD WATER DAY (22<sup>nd</sup> March)**

# STOP QUESTIONING GOD



The enormity of the challenges faced during the pandemic appears so insurmountable that some of us may feel like giving up. Some of us may even have blamed God for allowing it to happen. So, instead of God asking us to account for our actions, as with Adam in the garden – “where are you?” (Gen 3:9) we summon God with “Where are you in the midst of this pandemic?” Or we may have asked this question even before the pandemic years, especially during times of personal suffering. Our constant cry perhaps has been to ask God to justify our sufferings, especially when we felt we deserved more or better.