

Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

2nd Sunday of Lent

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

SCRIPTURE QUOTE TO MEMORISE:

Do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord.

(Philippians 4:1)

Jesus taught this to the apostles immediately after the Transfiguration event, that is, how necessary it would be for him to suffer and die and be raised up, although this teaching was still beyond the apostles' comprehension at that stage (Lk 9:44-45).

God's affirmation of Jesus' divinity when He declared "This is my Son" during the Transfiguration also celebrates the revelation of Jesus as fully divine and fully human. Directing our thoughts to the cross, we also see that Jesus' divinity is linked to the Cross as his resurrection and exaltation is accomplished in no other way than through the Cross. Like the early apostles, the very idea that suffering and death is connected to victory over sin and new life may appear alien or illogical to many of us who are Christians today. However, the term **"carry your cross" typifies the challenge every Christian has to expect as part of their faith.**

"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Phil 1:21) will make no sense unless a Christian comes to the awareness that the benchmark of a true Christian disciple is one who "ought to lay down our lives for our brothers" (1 Jn 3:16). Living a Christian faith inevitably challenges and prepares us for the times that may require our own necessary sacrifice and suffering, not just for our sake, but for others as well.

The hope of eternal life gifted to us is at the cost of Jesus' suffering and death and our belief in his love for us should then direct our own disposition towards others other than only focusing on the self, fitting into the mould of Christ so that we may have a sense of God's peace and love that we seek in our journey, here and in the afterlife. ✦

SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Gen 15: 5-12, 17-18;
Psalms 26: 1,7-9, 13-14;
Philippians 3:17-4:1
(or 3:20-4:1);
Luke 9: 28-36.

MONTHLY FOCUS:

WORLD WATER DAY (22nd March)

PUT YOUR FAITH *in the* LORD

The gospel reading for this week addresses the topic of conversation that Jesus had with the Old Testament prophets, Moses and Elijah which focuses on the "paschal mystery" that they had prophesied — namely, Christ's imminent passion, death, and resurrection, and the "things he was to accomplish in Jerusalem."

