

Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH 4th Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)

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

SCRIPTURE QUOTE TO MEMORISE:

How good
Yahweh is –
only taste
and see.

(Psalm 34:8)

But the reality is that for many of us, such dreams remain elusive for we continue to remind ourselves of the feelings of hurt and guilt, anger and betrayal caused by us or the other person, and therefore, deny ourselves the reconciliation and peace we yearn for.

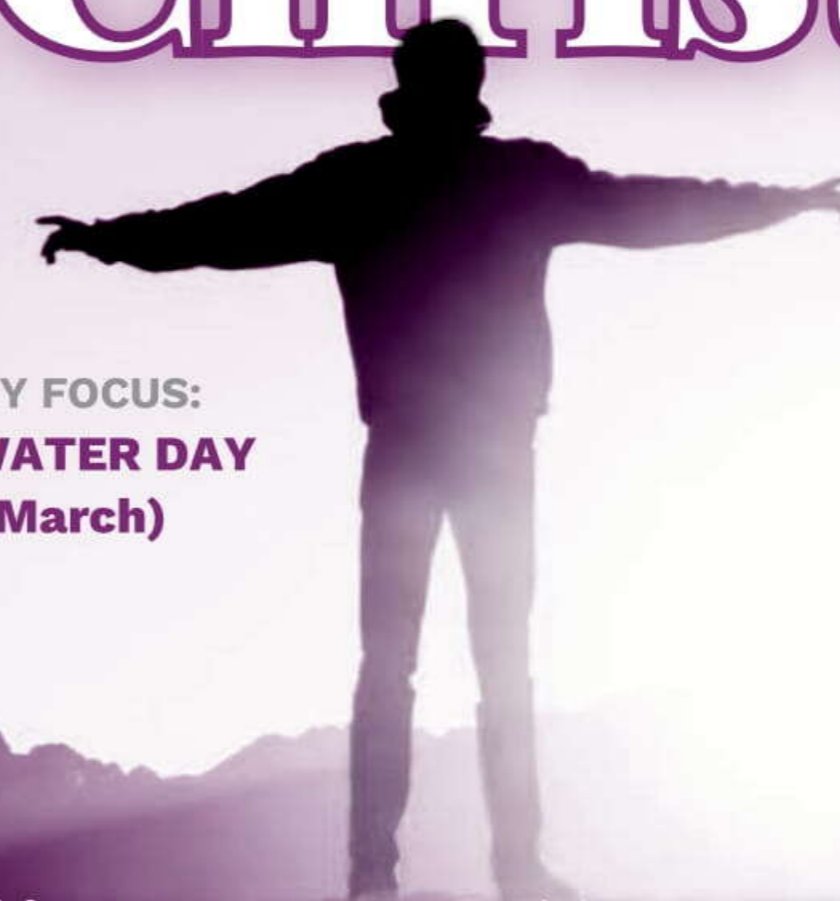
The Lukan gospel for today gives us a glimpse as to how wonderful it could be if dreams become a reality – but only if we allow ourselves the possibility of reconciliation, trusting in the grace and gifts of our heavenly Father. The new robe for the prodigal son signifies restored dignity (remember the same gesture God gave both Adam and Eve with robes of animal skins despite being cast out of the Garden of Eden). A ring on his finger means being re-entrusted with what his father has; sandals representing freedom from slavery. Surely this restoration of honour and joy calls for a celebration, a feast that only the best is offered.

The same parable introduces us to the elder son, who appears distant from the familial ties. His disinterest in the drama of his lost sibling, marked especially with the enquiry of his servants on the happenings around his own family, like a stranger in the house. His disregard for his brother is intensified with the choice of term 'this son of yours' although the father's continuous confirmation of his sonship appears to yield an unrepentant heart.

Our Heavenly Father continues to woo us with his assurance of comfort and love, our sonship guaranteed for us. Yet some of us chose to remain blind to what we are able to "see", more often choosing to blame others and circumstances instead of the poor decisions and choices we ourselves made.

"Lord in thy Eucharist, take and redeem" – allow these words to speak to you, **allow yourself to be found, and allow yourself to share in the joy of being found like the repentant prodigal son**, seeking, and yearning for love. ✚

A New Creation in Christ



MONTHLY FOCUS:
WORLD WATER DAY
(22nd March)

It is natural for anyone, every now and then, to reminisce about broken relationships. How many times have we reflected on the hurts that we received from others or have given to others – with the deepest wounds and hurts most often inflicted on the ones we love or loved the most. On some days when hopeful dreams glint through, we may imagine the steps we would take towards healing the pain, by reconciling ourselves with those we may have hurt or have alienated through our unforgiveness.

SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Joshua : 5: 9-12;

Psalms 33: 2-7;

2nd Cor 5: 17-21;

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32.