

# Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

5th Sunday of Lent

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

MONTHLY FOCUS:

WORLD DAY OF CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION (21<sup>st</sup> April)

## FREE of Our Past

In the Gospel reading today, we hear the Pharisees say, "This woman has been caught in the act of adultery. The law of Moses orders that such

women be stoned to death'. While we may consider the Pharisees' actions cruel by the standards of today, their attitude is by no means uncommon.

### SCRIPTURE QUOTE TO MEMORISE:

Now the law of Moses orders that such women be stoned to death; but you, what do you say?

(John 8:5)

We teach our children to never break the commandments of God. Most of us have no trouble making a list of our failures. Our lives and the way we look at ourselves are often defined by our sins and failings: just as the Pharisees point at the adulteress and say 'such women', we point at ourselves and say 'someone like me doesn't deserve to be loved'. When we see only our failure to keep the law, we lose sight of God's vision for us.

God did not create us to be followers of His law. When He looks at us, He doesn't just see the imperfect creatures that we are, He sees the beauty of what we could become. To Him, we are all a masterpiece-in-progress, waiting to be recognized for what we are and given the chance to shine.

The image of God as a Creator forming a masterpiece out of our lives is reassuring, because no matter our past or the mistakes we make, He makes everything new and creates something beautiful out of our messy lives. However, we are not passive subjects, but living masterpieces that have a say in our own creation. When Jesus said, "Go and don't sin again", he reminds us that our choices matter in deciding what we will become; and each one of us is struggling to be perfect in our own way. What would please God most is for us to help and encourage each other in our journey, instead of pointing out flaws to tear each other down.

Therefore, **it matters not what sins or burdens you carry, God invites you to look at yourself:** not with the eyes of the Law, but with His own eyes. In the words of the first and second readings, He calls us to 'remember not the events of the past' but to 'strain forward to what lies ahead', and share the dream He wants to create with you. ✦

### SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Isaiah 43: 16-21;

Psalms 125: 1-6;

Phil 3: 8-14;

John 8:1-11.