

Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

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

MONTHLY FOCUS:

WORLD DAY OF CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION (21st April)

LOVE SETS US FREE TO LIVE



Jesus knew every step of his Father's plan; he knew that the very crowd which had sung his praises as he entered Jerusalem would be the same crowd threatening to riot if Pilate did not crucify him. He knew that nothing he could do or say would change anything, for the heart of man was hardened by fear.

SCRIPTURE QUOTE TO MEMORISE:

Day after day
I was among
you, teaching
in the temple,
and you did
not arrest me.
But this is the
hour of the
power of
darkness; this
is your hour

(Luke 22:53)

It was fear of the Romans and the crowds that led the Pharisees to plot against Jesus, fear of authority that led the crowds to blindly follow and crucify an innocent man. Fear of a riot made Pilate turn his back on his duty to be fair and it was also fear that drove Peter to deny Jesus.

Even today, we fear the world, fear the darkness, fear loss and fear ourselves. We follow the law for fear of retribution, follow the crowd for fear of isolation. We limit ourselves, afraid of both failure and success. Look back over your past week. How many of your decisions were made out of fear?

But we were never meant to live like this. God created mankind to share in His own life and happiness. When mankind lived in God's grace, there was no place or reason for fear. Sin and the subsequent separation from God brought death and fear into our lives. Now, we may even fear the justice and retribution of God, knowing we could never measure up to His perfection.

God, who loves us, does not want us to remain in fear. For this reason, He sent His own Son – not only to show us the way, but also to restore us to life by giving up his own. Jesus willingly lay down his life for his friends and for each one of us because he truly loved us; he faced his fear and gave everything for the sake of spending an eternity with us.

The story of the Passion shows us that love conquers all fear. By loving us so perfectly, Jesus breaks the chains of our fear and gives us the freedom to live as God's children. Love gave Jesus the courage to say, "Father, let your will be done."

May love also give you courage to live beyond your limits. ✝

SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Isaiah 50: 4-7;

Psalms 21: 8-9, 17-20,
23-24;

Philippians 2: 6-11;

Luke 22: 14-23, 56
(or 23: 1-49).