

# Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

Divine Mercy Sunday

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)

## Freedom and Power to Change Lives

At the end of his Gospel, John tells us, "These (signs) are recorded that you may believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name." His words speak of a truth that all Jesus' disciples had experienced for themselves: the moment you believe in Jesus and his promise of salvation, life will never be the same.

### SCRIPTURE QUOTE TO MEMORISE:

These are recorded, so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Believe, and you will have life through his name!

(John 20:31)

The first reading describes the believers as 'people who were loud in their praise' and tells of wonders worked by the apostles, so that 'those who believed increased steadily'. These disciples, who, only days before, were huddled in small rooms, fearful of the authorities who crucified Jesus, now boldly proclaimed his name for everyone to hear. What changed?

In the Gospel reading, we hear Thomas the Apostle saying, "Unless I see the holes in his hands and put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe." It is not difficult to understand Thomas' hesitation. He had just seen Jesus crucified only a few days before. Having lost his hope and courage once, it was hard to trust again. Even if his friends had seen Jesus, Thomas needed to see for himself.

When Jesus appeared to them again, he was not angry with Thomas' lack of faith. He understood the pain and fear that caused Thomas to close his heart. He accepted that Thomas was doubtful and needed help to believe again.

We constantly struggle with fear and doubt, especially, those of us who work for positive change in our lives. Sometimes, we become so overwhelmed with fear, we close our hearts to God, just as Thomas did. But God constantly offers us his hands and his side, just as Jesus offered them to Thomas, and tells us not to be afraid - "Doubt no longer, but believe."

Like Thomas, it is sometimes difficult for us to trust in a God we cannot see. We have been hurt and disappointed, even by those who love us. It is not easy to trust in the promise of a life so free and powerful it could change the world. Yet, that is what the readings today invite us to do. To believe in Jesus, and by believing, have life in his name. ❖

### SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Acts 5: 12-16;

Psalm 117: 2-4, 22-27;

Revelation 1: 9-13,  
17-19;

John 20: 19-31.