

Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

4th Sunday of Easter

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

MONTHLY FOCUS:
INTERNATIONAL DAY
OF FAMILIES (15th May)

MY SHEEP LISTEN TO MY VOICE

A three-year old child was playing by himself in the living room. After sometime, he heard his mom's voice calling him from somewhere in the house. Dropping all he was doing, he went in search of that familiar voice. He ran to his mother, small as he was, and put his arms around one of his mom's legs and hugged it tight.



SCRIPTURE QUOTE TO MEMORISE:

I give them
eternal life;
they will never
be lost and no
one will ever
steal them
from me.

(John 10:28)

Today we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday; and on this day, we also honour all Mothers. John 10:27 says, *'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me.'*

The mother of the 3-year old child personifies Jesus the Good Shepherd. Her child listens to her voice and he follows her.

Bishop Robert Barron, in his podcast homily speaks of the endearing image of the Good Shepherd and of the short gospel passage today that is packed with theological significance. 'Texts leave us cold, but a voice kind of melt us.' He goes on to preach that **'Christianity is not a set of ideas, but a relationship with Someone who has a voice.'**

That compelling voice of Jesus draws the disciples in, as it calls, preaches, counsels, reprimands and ultimately commands them to missionary discipleship. They go about proclaiming the Good News as we read Act 13 today, where Paul and Barnabas first speak boldly to the Jews who rejected the Word, then to the Gentiles as the Lord has commanded them.

Yet the voice of the Good Shepherd who does all that becomes the meek Sacrificial Lamb to pay for the price of His stray sheep. So worthy is the Lamb, he now sits in the throne most high shepherding His flock to streams of life-giving water. (Rev 7:9, 14-17)

While we remember and honour all Mothers today, let us remember also our priests, for they are the visible and living sign of the Good Shepherd, our Lord Jesus Christ. May they always be after the heart of God, who will go out in search of the lost sheep and bring them back to the fold, especially during this time when many have strayed.

Echoing the Psalmist, we praise the Lord as we sing, 'We are the sheep of His green pasture. For we are His people; He is our God. *All the earth proclaim the Lord sing your Praise to God.*' (Psalm 100) . ❖

SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Acts 13:14, 43-52;

Psalms 99: 2, 3, 5;

Revelation 7: 9, 14-17;

John 10: 27-30.