

# Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

5th Sunday of Easter

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

## SCRIPTURE QUOTE TO MEMORISE:

We are to love,  
then, because  
He loved us  
first.

(1John 4 :19)

*'I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.'*

Today as the world celebrates International Day of Families, let us be reminded of Jesus' commandment, to make it our golden rule. Our families are the sacred expression of God's love. How else can our children know the meaning of selflessness if they do not experience its flesh-and-blood in the home? We, who are followers of Christ have to embody His qualities by loving, caring, and giving of oneself just as He did. A spouse's hug when we are overwhelmed with the challenges of life; a parent's bear hug for a child undergoing stress at work or in school will go a long way in emulating our Lord.

The first reading in Acts talk about the hardship which we have to endure in order to enter the Kingdom of God. Sharing the cross of Christ is sharing in His Glory as we continue our earthly journey towards eternity. We can envision what lies ahead of us from the 2nd reading taken from Revelation where John tells us that God will dwell with us, His people, and he will wipe every tear from our eyes.

**So when we give our all to the family, God has endowed us with, we are the other Christ giving of himself, out of love** with the dignity God has given to each of us. With the assurance that God is with us and dwelling with us, we can love because God is love; we can forgive because God forgives; and we can go out of the way to care, because God cares.

If today, un-forgiveness is stopping you from loving, think of Jesus at the Cross crying out to His Father, 'Father, forgive them, they know not what they do'. ✦

## SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Acts 14: 21-27;

Psalms 144: 8-13;

Revelation 21: 1-5;

John 13: 31-35.

MONTHLY FOCUS:

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES (15<sup>th</sup> May)

## The **FAMILY** As A **SACRED EXPRESSION** of God's Love

The scriptural readings today pack a punch. John's gospel is short yet the sum and substance is all there! As the drama of the Passion unfolds, Jesus tells his disciples that God is glorified in Him, the Son of Man. Jesus gives expression to the Paschal Mystery which leads to his glorified state by this act of selfless living, all the way to the Cross, as he lays down his life for all of humanity.

