

Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

13th Sunday of Ordinary Time

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

MONTHLY FOCUS: FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI (19th June)

I Will Follow You, But...

We believe in Jesus. We trust in Him. Can we follow Him the way He wants us to? **What is the cost of discipleship?**



SCRIPTURE QUOTE TO MEMORISE:

Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

(Luke 14: 27)

St. Paul said that the law is fulfilled in one word: Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. He echoed our Saviour's "You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these" (Mark 12:31). When Jesus was turned away from a Samaritan village, James and John asked Him whether they should bring fire down upon the village. He told them to just move on to another, not to be impulsive or vengeful.

It is certainly so much easier to love people who love us. And definitely much easier to love ourselves. In the Gospel reading, He clearly told the first man who wanted to follow him that His was not a glamorous life. He must not expect any luxury or special treatment. To the second man, Jesus may have sounded harsh. To be His follower, he must let go of his own needs. This young man would prefer to wait until his father is dead, bury him and then only follow Jesus. But Jesus said to let the 'dead', the unbelievers, take care of such obligations, while those who are 'alive' dedicate themselves to evangelisation. To the third man, He said that one must free himself of family concerns if he wanted to follow him. The Gospel had nothing more to say about these men. We can suppose that none of them were able to do as He said.

All the Jews who heard Him would find it reminiscent of the event when Elijah called Elisha to follow him. Elisha wanted to return home to say goodbye to his parents, to which Elijah told him to go ahead and ignore the call then. He not only did not return home, but detached himself from all that he was doing before the call. We too recollect the events when Jesus called Peter, Andrew, James and John to follow Him (Mt 4: 18-22; Mk 1: 16-20; Lk 5: 4-11).

Admittedly, it is not easy to renounce ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him. But it does not mean that we do not try. We pray for the Holy Spirit to lead us. ✚

SCRIPTURE of the DAY

1 Kings 19: 16, 19-21;
Psalms 15: 1-2, 5,
7-11;
Galatians 5: 1, 13-18;
Luke 9: 51-62.