

Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

16th Sunday of Ordinary Time

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

MONTHLY FOCUS:

WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS & THE ELDERLY (24 July)

How Do I Welcome The Lord?

Jesus was very hospitable to people and indeed, He came to reveal the hospitality of God, especially to those who were most in need of it. On the other hand, Jesus is also portrayed as accepting hospitality from others.



SCRIPTURE QUOTE TO MEMORISE:

On his return
Jesus was
welcomed by
the crowd, for
they were all
there waiting
for him.

(Luke 8:40)

In the gospel reading Jesus is offered hospitality by two women. Martha welcomed Jesus to her house, showing hospitality by preparing a meal while Mary chose to sit at the feet of Jesus and listen to Him. The hardworking Martha gets irritated and comes across as being angry with Jesus too for not giving Mary a telling off, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister is leaving me to do the serving all by myself? Please tell her to help me'.

Many of us find it easy to identify with Martha. We can all get into an overly anxious frame of mind about all we have to do, and our anxiety can easily stifle the Holy Spirit in us somewhat. St. Paul in one of his letters reminds us that 'God loves a cheerful giver'. Mary, however, was showing Jesus a different kind of hospitality compared to Martha. Mary was taking up the posture of a disciple, a pupil of Jesus. She wanted to hear what he had to say, nourishing herself on His Word.

Jesus defends Mary against Martha's criticism but does so in a way that is very respectful of and even affectionate towards Martha. Jesus clearly loved both sisters very much. Yet, Jesus wanted to validate the kind of hospitality that Mary was showing him, the hospitality of attentive listening, the hospitality of presence, rather than of anxious activity. On this occasion it seems that this was the kind of hospitality that Jesus actually desired, 'Mary has chosen the better part'.

In our relationship with Jesus, there is a time to be present to Him by actively serving him, as one of his labourers. This is what we find Abraham doing when he was serving the Lord by busying himself offering hospitality to strangers. Yet, there is also a time to be present to Jesus by silently attending to his presence to us. St. Paul speaks of the mystery of 'Christ among you, your hope of glory'. Christ is among us and within us.

Today, Jesus is calling on us, amidst the busyness, to find ways of being silently attentive to his presence within and among us. **The gift of our attention is one of the great gifts we can give God and each other.** ✚

SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Genesis 18: 1-10;

Psalms 14: 2-5;

Collosians 1: 24-28;

Luke 10: 38-42.