

Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

17th 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)

“Look Beyond” for God’s Purpose

The Church draws our attention to the need to always turn to God in prayer in all circumstances of life. Today, Christ himself teaches us how to pray, as well as encourages us to pray without ceasing.



SCRIPTURE QUOTE TO MEMORISE:

In old age
they will still
bear fruit.

(Psalm 92:15)

In the Gospel, the disciples approach Jesus, asking Him to teach them how to pray. The prayer that Jesus gives is short but deep. **The primary focus of Jesus’ life was God his Father**, which is why the opening petitions all relate to God, the honouring of God’s name, and the coming of God’s kingdom. Jesus is teaching us to look beyond ourselves to God’s purpose for our world and our lives.

Then Jesus teaches us to focus on our own needs, both physically and spiritually, for our journey. We will always stand in need of God’s forgiveness and we will always need the freedom to allow the forgiveness we receive from God to flow through us and embrace those who offend us. We are to ask God to keep us faithful when the test comes, so that we don’t succumb to evil but to overcome evil with good. Also, our focus is not on ourselves as individuals but as members of a community. We are praying both for ourselves and for others.

Jesus then develops his teaching with two images, one drawn from community life and the other from family life. If someone can rely on a good friend to help him out in an emergency and if a son can rely on his father to feed him, how much more can we rely on God in our hour of need.

At the very end of the Gospel, Jesus suggests that what we also need to ask for is the Holy Spirit. Even if our prayer of petition is not always answered in the way we would like, such prayer will always open us up to God’s gift of the Holy Spirit.

As we celebrate the 2nd World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly with the theme, “They shall bear fruit even in old age” from the Book of Psalms (92:15), Pope Francis invites all grandparents and the elderly to be “the enduring ‘chorus’ of a great spiritual sanctuary, where prayers of supplication and songs of praise sustain the community that toils and struggles in the field of life”. ✝

SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Genesis 18: 20-32;

Psalms 137: 1-3, 6-8;

Collosians 2: 12-14;

Luke 11: 1-13.