

Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

18th 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)

All is Vanity

We are in a transitory world and are called to make use of the things of this world prudently without losing our ultimate goal. It is only when we make heaven our goal that the full meaning of life would be revealed and realized.



SCRIPTURE QUOTE TO MEMORISE:

A mere puff of wind is the wealth, stored away – no knowing who will profit from it.

(Psalm 39:6)

The first reading begins with a warning: “Vanity of vanities, the Preacher says. All is vanity!” The Preacher calls us to remember God in all we do. He reminds us that there will be an ultimate end to all created things. He also reminds us that **the ultimate goal here on earth is to walk our way straight to heaven.**

In the second reading, St. Paul clearly differentiates true life, that is life lived in Christ, from life lived outside Christ. Without mincing words, he reminds us that we must be heaven bound where Christ is everything. St. Paul tells us: “Kill everything in you that belongs only to earthly life”. This is simply a call to transform our lives, a call to purity of life, and call to remain steadfast.

In the Gospel, Jesus speaks to us as he did to the man in the crowd: “Watch, and be on your guard against avarice of any kind, for a man’s life is not made more secure by what he owns, even when he has more than he needs.” The pursuit of wealth and the pleasures of this world have so blinded us to the reality that we are pilgrims here on earth.

Avarice is one of the seven capital sins. Thomas Aquinas says: “Temporal goods are subject to man, that he may use them according to his needs, not that he should make them his main purpose, or be overly anxious about them.” The more we place our hopes on things of this world, the more we lose sight of heaven. This is because: “Where a man’s wealth is, there is his soul.”

Therefore, let us fix our eyes and minds on heavenly things, and not on the vain things of this earth. Only by remaining focused on Christ and being obedient to Him can we expect to remain salt of the earth and light in the world. ✦

SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Ecclesiastes 1: 2, 2: 21-23;

Psalms 89: 3-6, 12-14, 17;

Collosians 3: 1-5, 9-11;

Luke 12: 13-21.