

Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

20th Sunday of Ordinary Time

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

SCRIPTURE QUOTE TO MEMORISE:

Give in to
God, then;
resist the
devil, and he
will run away
from you.

(James 4: 8)

Jeremiah, a prophet chosen by God, was not promised that he would have it easy when he proclaimed the words of God. He was rejected by his own family, humiliated, lonely, imprisoned, suffered through a period of spiritual struggle and left to die in captivity. But he persevered in his mission. It is believed that he was stoned to death by his angry fellow countrymen.

Throughout His ministry, Jesus endured and suffered much opposition, rejection and hatred from His own people, who were mostly ignorant, stubborn, jealous or ambitious. They even plotted his death. And did He know it? Of course, He did! Imagine the anguish of that knowledge, an anguish which he admitted, yet He was determined to carry out the will of His Father in heaven. His baptism of fire, His dying on the cross, was our means of a glorious and eternal life with our Father, through our own baptism.

Jesus was forthright and He did not mince His words. His followers had expected Him to bring peace (Is 11:6-9) but He corrected them. He said he came to bring fire upon the earth – to destroy the old, to purify us and to bring us to judgement. He came to establish a new world order, to set our hearts ablaze to change the world where power, materialism, greed and injustice reign supreme. Change never comes easy, then or now. Change invites conflict and tension, even within ourselves. Indeed, he was preparing us for the discord we would face as His followers.

It is tough to follow Jesus and to walk His way. But, let us not allow external pressures or our own mediocrity stifle the spark that he has placed in us, or let our baptism fade into just a memory or a mere ceremony. **In our struggles, let us keep our eyes upon Jesus**, believing that He will always be our help and our Saviour. Be assured that messianic peace will come when the Kingdom of God is established. ✦

SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Jeremiah 38: 4, 6, 8-10;

Psalms 39: 2-4, 18;

Hebrew 12: 1-4;

Luke 12: 49-53.

MONTHLY FOCUS:

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION
(15 AUGUST)


FIGHT
AGAINST

EVIL

How often we have faced conflicts in our lives. In our homes, at work, in our communities and even in church, we encounter differences in opinions, approaches and decision-making, to say the least. None of us seems to have been spared.