

Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

21st Sunday of Ordinary Time

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

**SCRIPTURE QUOTE
TO MEMORISE:**

Try your
hardest to
enter by the
narrow door.

(Luke 13:24)

Echoing that, Jesus told his followers the same that people from all over will sit at table of the Kingdom of God. And the last will be first, while those who think they are first shall be last. This would have been hard to take by the people in Jesus' time and in the time of Isaiah. Even now.

Someone asked Jesus whether it was true that only a few people would be saved. He must have followed Jesus for a while and listened to His teachings. It must have occurred to him that it is not easy to follow them and so concluded that few would make it to heaven. Should it really matter to us whether few or many will be saved? If it were, Jesus would have answered that question. Jesus' lesson today is how to gain salvation and the urgency of it.

Jesus tells us to enter by the narrow door. He acknowledged that it is difficult and many will fail to enter by it. And who will be the ones who cannot gain entry? The evildoers! The narrow door implies that we have choices and **the choices we make have consequences**. Once the door is closed, it will not open for us. We will be left standing outside in anguish.

"Do your best", said Jesus. He tells us that we need to strive to enter heaven so that we may gain eternal life, to be able to participate fully in the very life of God. For that, we need to know His teachings and obey Him on a daily basis.

There will be occasions when we falter. In the second reading, Paul speaks of God as a father who loves us and disciplines us like a father who disciplines a child. He likens the discipline as the training we get in following Him and to become more like Jesus. God is bringing us back to that narrow door. Do not despair, instead we must strengthen our faith and lift each other up. We pray for God's grace. ❖

**SCRIPTURE
of the DAY**

Isaiah 66: 18-21;

Psalms 116: 1-2;

Hebrew 12: 5-7, 11-13;

Luke 13: 22-30.

MONTHLY FOCUS:
**FEAST OF
THE ASSUMPTION
(15 AUGUST)**

Choose the Narrow Door

The first reading speaks of God gathering the people from all nations to Him. They will witness to Him and proclaim His glory all over the world. He will choose priests and Levites, even among them.

