

Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

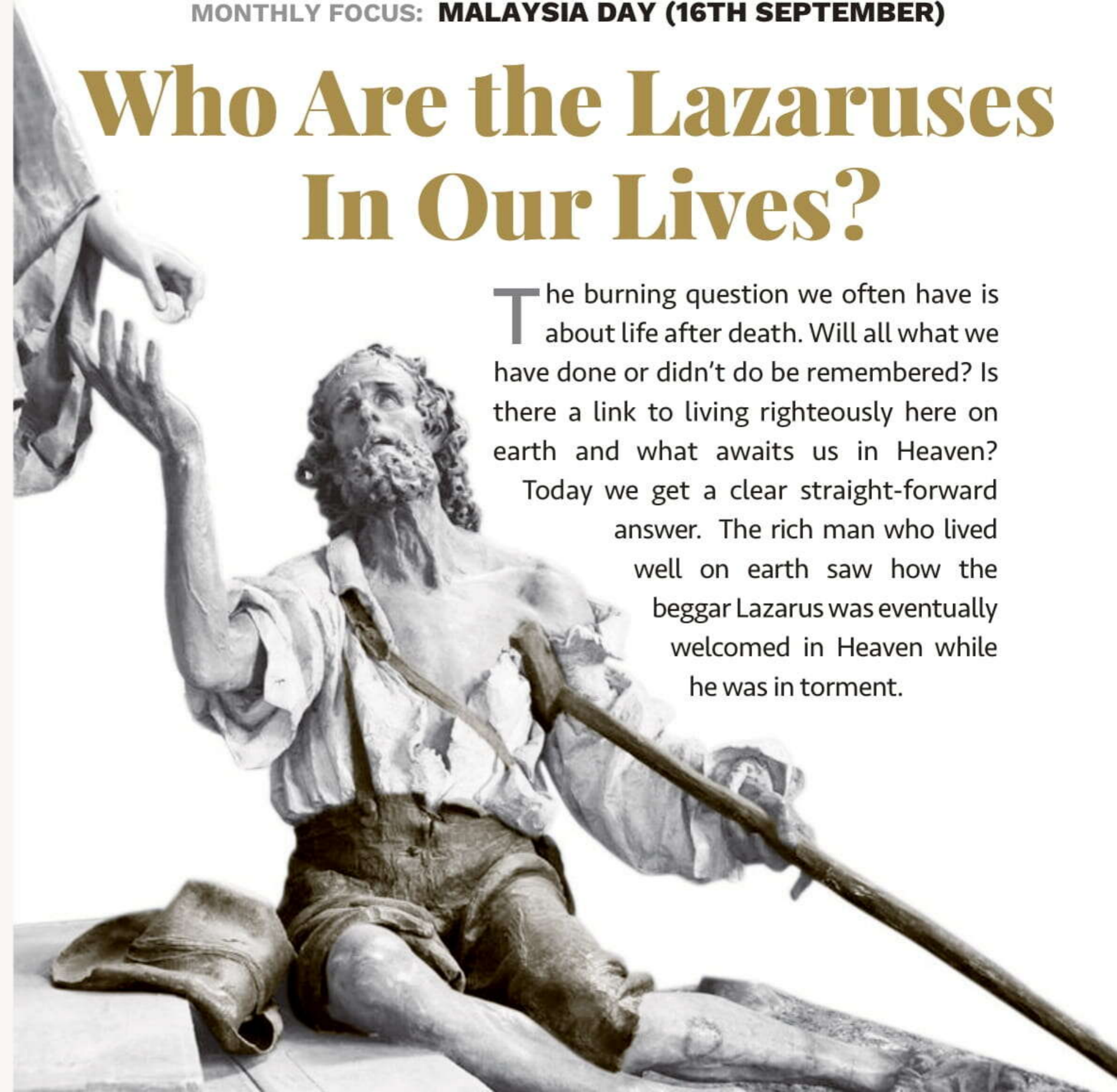
26th Sunday of Ordinary Time
(World Day of Migrants and Refugees)

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

MONTHLY FOCUS: MALAYSIA DAY (16TH SEPTEMBER)

Who Are the Lazaruses In Our Lives?

The burning question we often have is about life after death. Will all what we have done or didn't do be remembered? Is there a link to living righteously here on earth and what awaits us in Heaven? Today we get a clear straight-forward answer. The rich man who lived well on earth saw how the beggar Lazarus was eventually welcomed in Heaven while he was in torment.



SCRIPTURE QUOTE TO MEMORISE:

If anyone is well off in wordly possessions and sees his brother in need but closes his heart to him, how can the love of God be remaining in him?

(1 John 3: 17)

He soon found out that once this sentence is meted out, there was no going back on the judgement. This scary scenario tells us to be extra mindful of how we treat people here in this life. We are called to share our wealth and resources to help each other and to build God's Kingdom here, while we can.

There's a twist to this parable as the rich man pleads to warn his brothers on earth about the afterlife and judgement. His fate, as is with ours is sealed, in that, "If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead". This stark discourse is a *tongue-in-cheek* reference to Jesus, Who taught us everything about living, and what we are to do to gain eternal life. The salient message of the parable was to **warn the godless wealthy about their need for repentance in this life and to help people in need even in their cushioned and protected lives.** The parable establishes that both identity and memory remain after death for the soul of the one in Heaven & hell.

Who are the Lazaruses in our lives? Are there people we ignore as we go about the daily grind? Is there a need to sacrifice something for someone without? Jesus showed us that love comes with sacrifice, the more we share and sacrifice the more we build God's Kingdom. Remember the widow who gave all she had in the collection. Contrast this with what the rich in this world gives to the needy. The needy are all around us today, do we know and see them? Be certain that we answer for everything we do and/or don't do as God knows and sees everyone and everything. ❖

SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Amos 6: 1, 4-7;

Psalms 145: 6-10;

1 Timothy 6: 11-16;

Luke 16: 19-31.