

Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

29th Sunday of Ordinary Time

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

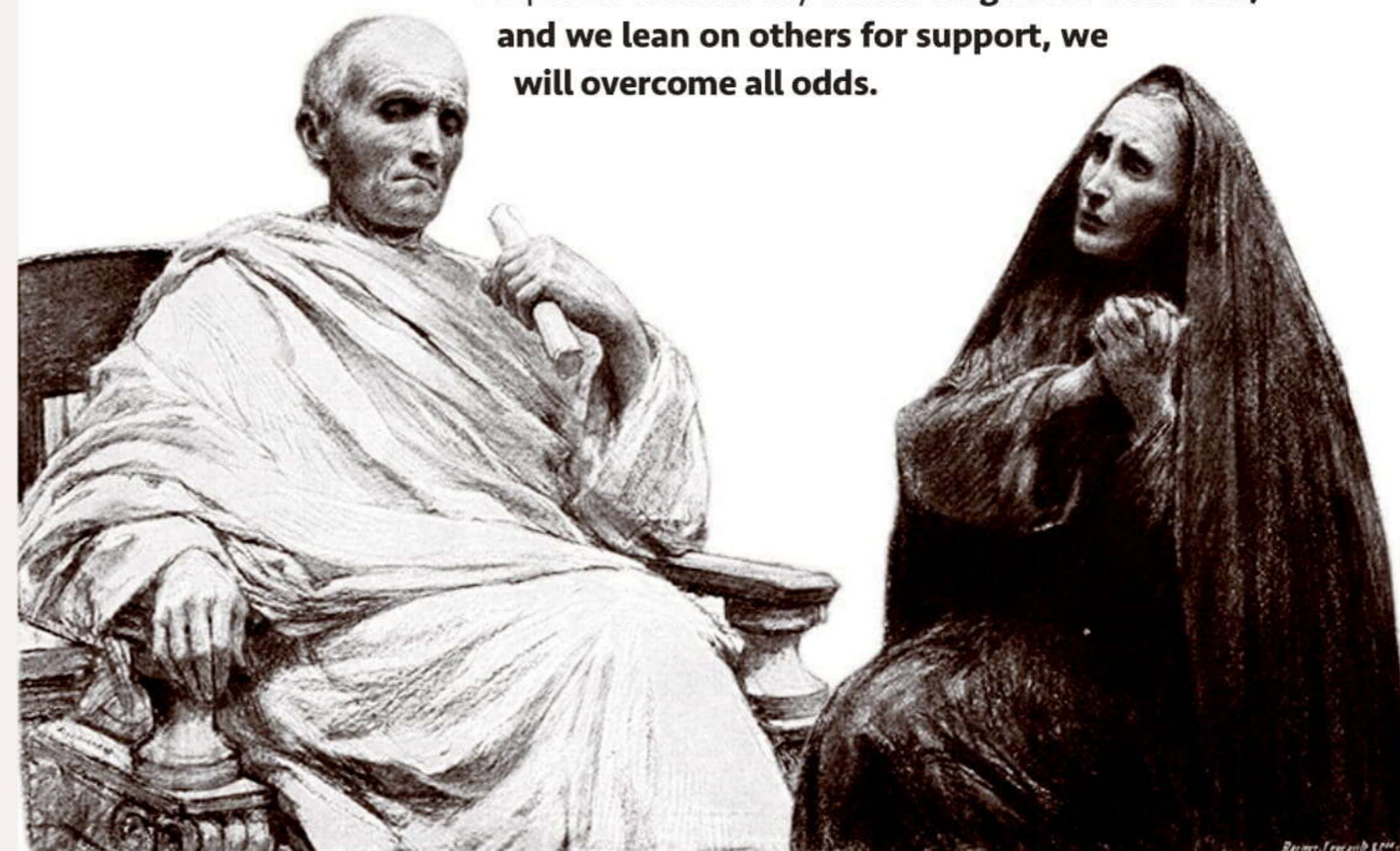
MONTHLY FOCUS:

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY (7th OCTOBER)

PRAY UNCEASINGLY AND NEVER LOSE HEART

Through the parable of the persistent widow who finally gets the judge's attention to rule in her favour, Jesus is teaching us to have courage and perseverance in faith. Our Lord knows how easy it is for us to lose heart especially when we face challenges in life.

Scriptures tell us today that **as long as we trust God, and we lean on others for support, we will overcome all odds.**



SCRIPTURE QUOTE TO MEMORISE:

...therefore, everything you ask and pray for, believe that you have it already, and it will be yours.

(Mark 11:24)

In Exodus, we read of Moses' hands (raising his staff up to God) persistently until the battle is won against Amalekites. When Moses gets tired, Aaron and Hur put a rock for him to sit, and support his arms, one on each side.

This is what we need to be about as a community of faith: persevering in prayers, leaning on one another, and remaining steadfast while trusting that *'our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth'*.

How do we remain steadfast and continue to put our faith in God? St Paul in his 2nd letter to Timothy in 3:14-3:2 points us to Sacred Scripture. *"It is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, refuting errors, for correcting and training in Christian faith. Through Scriptures, a man of God is made expert and thoroughly equipped for every good work."* Paul teaches us to be faithful to the Word of God that has been handed down to us just as Timothy was taught the faith from infancy.

One of the greatest conversion story ever told is that of St Augustine (354–430 AD). His mother, St Monica raised him as a Christian, but Augustine did not practise his faith till he was 33 years of age. St Monica endured much trials with patience and gentleness and her unceasing prayers finally saw the conversion of Augustine a year before she passed on. Augustine's conversion and his interior struggle can be read from the *Confessions*.

St Augustine prayed, *'You have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.'* Today, if we are in a state of restlessness, let us pray unceasingly to the Lord and remain in him. We want to be able to give the Lord a resounding 'Yes' when he asks us, *'When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?'*

May the peace of Christ fill our hearts. ✠

SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Exodus 17: 8-13;

Psalms 120: 1-8;

2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:2;

Luke 18: 1-8.