

Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

31st Sunday of Ordinary Time

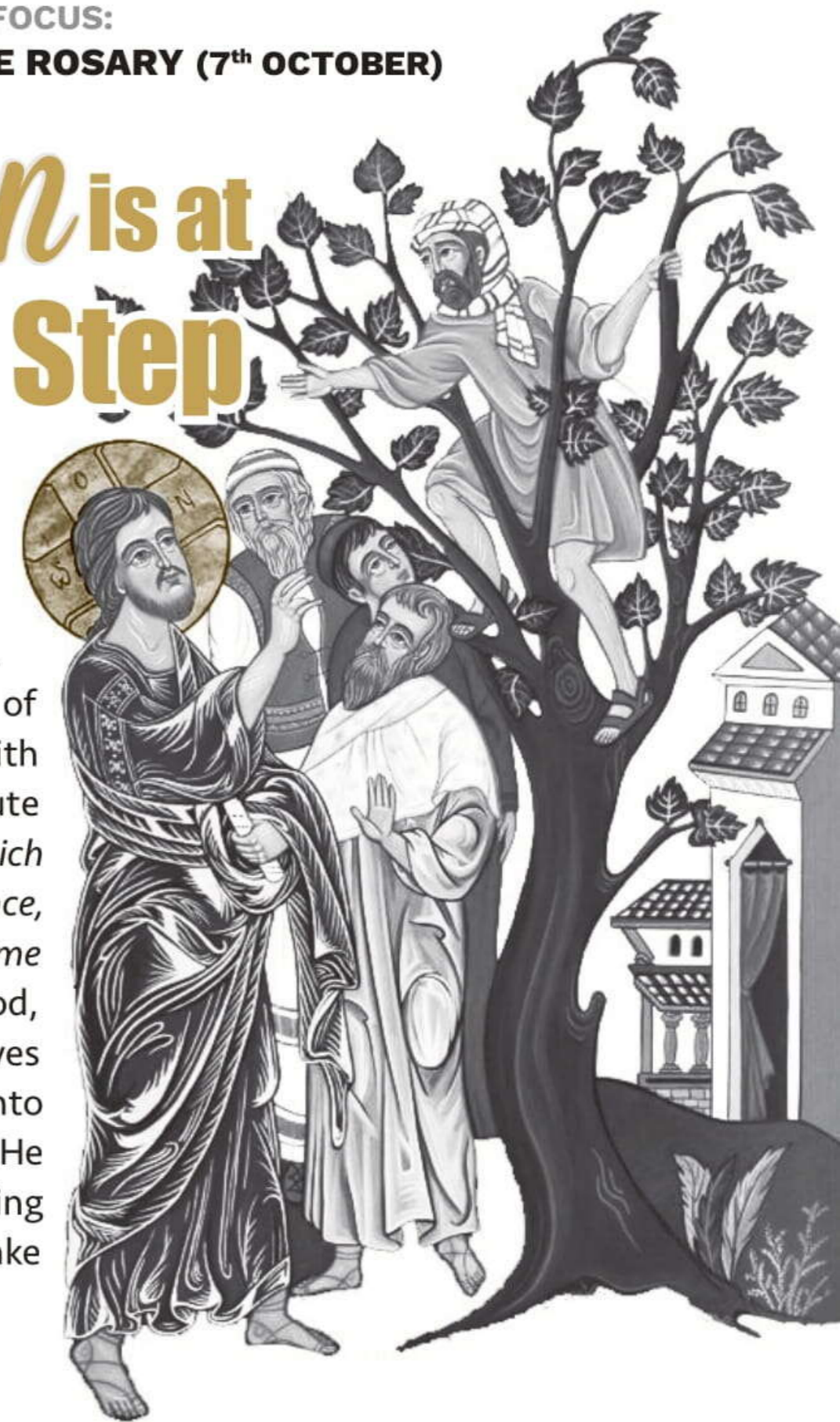
SALT OF THE EARTH AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD: COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION AND MISSION

MONTHLY FOCUS:

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

Salvation is at Your Door Step

We reap the wisdom of the ages in today's reading from the lyrical passage of Wisdom 11:22-12:2. It is a paradoxical perspective of God's power intertwined with mercy. We are but a minute piece in the vast universe, *'which itself is as a grain from a balance, or a drop of morning dew come down upon the earth.'* Yet God, the lover of souls loves everything he brings into existence. When he rebukes, He does it little by little, giving penitents every chance to make a comeback.



SCRIPTURE QUOTE TO MEMORISE:

...for the
Son of Man
has come to
seek out and
save what
was lost.

(Luke 19:10)

The same tone is heard in Zacchaeus' encounter with Jesus in Luke 19:1-10. The whole narration is filled with gentleness, compassion and acceptance. Jesus is intending to pass by Jericho, so Zacchaeus has to take the extra effort to catch a glimpse of Jesus. The genius of this chief tax collector has this urgency to not let the opportunity slip, so he climbs a sycamore tree. As Jesus passes by, he looks up and says, *'Zacchaeus, come down quickly for today I must stay at your house.'* Surely Zacchaeus does not expect this? That the door of salvation opens to him, and Mercy has preceded him even before he goes looking for it.

Every one of us realises our own sinfulness and unworthiness like Zacchaeus. But he takes the step forward to go in search of Jesus. When we read of how Jesus reaches out to him, we know that the same **Jesus is opening his heart of mercy to us too.** Having received the mercy of God, Zacchaeus warms up to his neighbour. He wants to make good what he has done wrong. The injustice he has done gives way to restitution.

We need to open up the door to our hearts like Zacchaeus does. Jesus will not force it on us, like Wisdom tells us the Lord *'over look people's sins that they may repent.'* Many of us need that space to work things out, and what is needed is gentleness and compassionate instead of admonishment. Zacchaeus' story does not end with Jesus visiting his home. He was given back his identity as a descendant of Abraham.

Seize those graced moments and do not let them pass us by. Salvation is at your doorstep. Claim it *'for God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will have eternal life.'* (Gospel Acclamation) ✚

SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Wisdom 11: 22-12:2;

Psalms 144: 1-2, 8-11,
13-14;2 Thessalonians
1:11-2:2;

Luke 19: 1-10.