

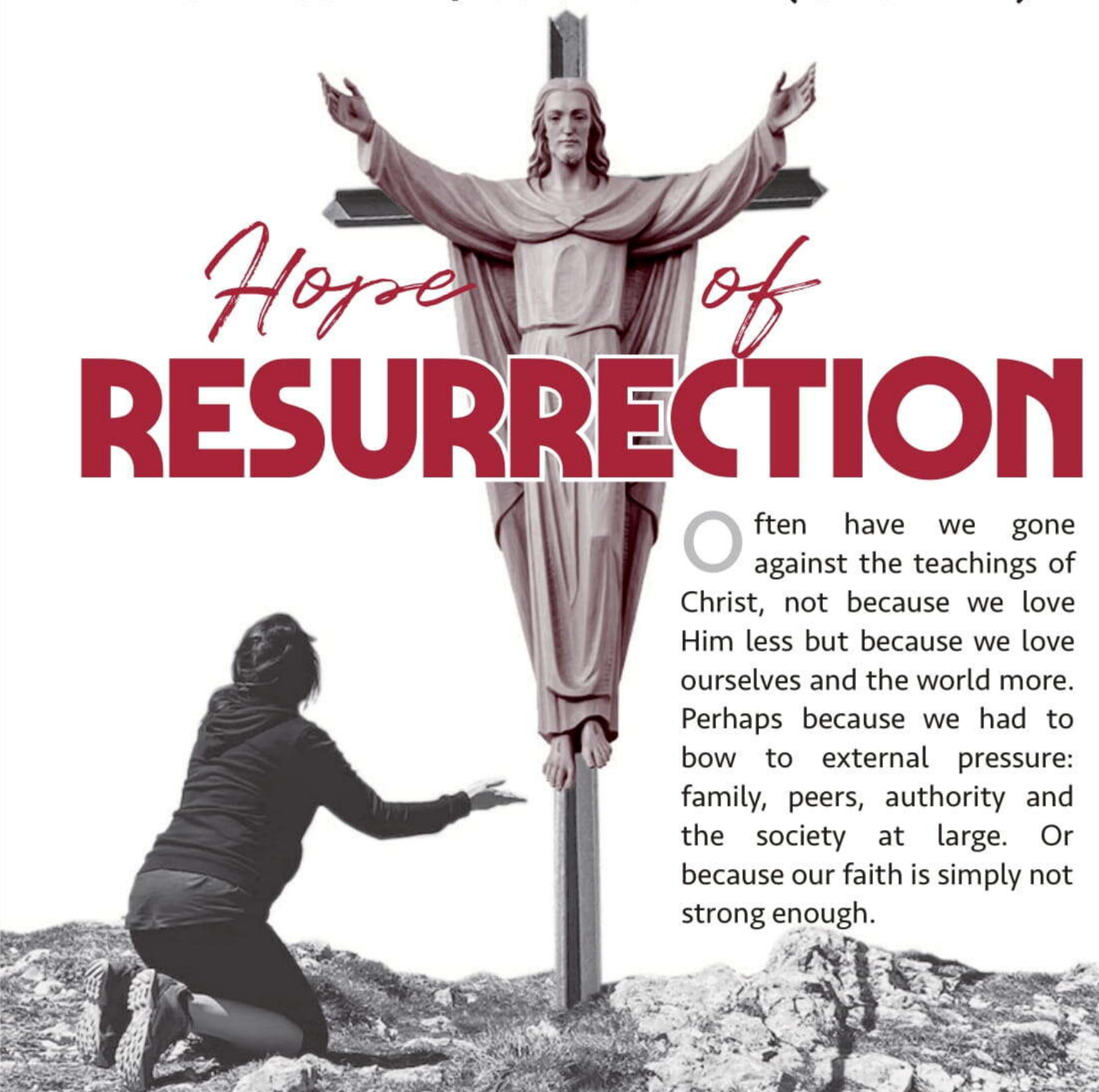
Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

32nd Sunday Of Ordinary Time

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

MONTHLY FOCUS:

WORLD YOUTH DAY/YOUNG PEOPLE DAY (20th NOVEMBER)


Hope of RESURRECTION

Often have we gone against the teachings of Christ, not because we love Him less but because we love ourselves and the world more. Perhaps because we had to bow to external pressure: family, peers, authority and the society at large. Or because our faith is simply not strong enough.

SCRIPTURE QUOTE TO MEMORISE:

I am the resurrection. Anyone who believed in me, even though that person dies, will live.

(John 11:25)

In the first reading, the brothers and their mother held out against the temptation to renounce the Law at the threat of certain death. Their faith in God was so strong that they willingly died at the hands of their captors believing till the end that the kingdom of heaven awaited them. They believed that they will be resurrected while their enemies will not. Things have not changed since the first temptation in the Garden of Eden. Every day, we are bombarded with temptations that try to undermine our faithfulness to God. Do we have the faith of these brothers and their mother? We ask ourselves why we believe in God in the first place. Weak as we are, our efforts to remain faithful to Him will not go unrewarded.

We need to focus. The second reading tells us to encourage our hearts and strengthen them through good deeds and words. We can trust that God will strengthen us and guard us from the evil one. We are also encouraged to pray for those whose mission is to spread the Word of God.

Often among the elderly especially, in their chats with friends and family, they would playfully say that they will meet each other again in heaven when they have passed on. However, Christ teaches us that we cannot accord our resurrected life in heaven the same way we have lived on earth. In today's gospel, the Sadducees asked Jesus a trick question: what is the marital status of the lady who married all seven brothers when they go to heaven. Jesus replied clearly that there is no such status in heaven. **When we are resurrected, we are no longer children of the world but children of God.** As His heavenly children, we will be like angels. We will have eternal life because He has raised us from the dead. This is the salvation promised to us by Christ when we believe in Him and His teachings. ✦

SCRIPTURE of the DAY

2 Maccabees 7: 1-2, 9 - 14;

Psalms 16: 1, 5-6, 8, 15;

2 Thessalonians 2:16 - 3:5;

Luke 20: 27-38 (or 27: 34-38).