

newbec

SALT OF THE EARTH AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD:
CELEBRATING, LISTENING AND WALKING TOGETHER IN A SPIRIT OF COMMUNION
PARTICIPATION AND MISSION. (MATTHEW 5: 13-16)

MONTHLY FOCUS

CELEBRATING HUMAN FRATERNITY

We Were Created to be Together, Not Alone

Today, the Church observes the 32nd World Day of the Sick. This observance was established by Saint John Paul II in 1992. It serves as a reminder for us to show care and support to those who are sick, most especially the vulnerable and marginalised, as well as, to acknowledge our appreciation for caregivers and health workers who dedicate themselves to helping others.



“We were made for love; and we are called to communion and fraternity.”

*Pope Francis
Message for the
32nd World Day of the Sick*



SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Lev. 13: 1-2, 45-46;

Ps 31: 1-2, 5, 11;

1 Cor 10: 31 – 11, 1;

Mk 1: 40-45.

This year, Pope Francis has chosen the theme “It is not good that man should be alone”: Healing the Sick by Healing Relationships” for the World Day of the Sick. **In his message the Pope speaks about the healing power of our relationships with God and with others.** He says that, “Our lives, reflecting in the image of the Trinity, are meant to attain fulfilment through a network of relationships, friendships and love, both given and received. We were created to be together, not alone.”

The Holy Father also points out that to care for the sick also means to care for their relationships with God and with others—family members, friends, healthcare workers, and with creation and with themselves. He especially invites us to care for those who suffer and are alone, perhaps marginalised and cast aside, following in the example of His Son, Jesus, who is always ready to “heal the wounds of solitude and isolation.”

In the gospel passage, we read that Jesus shows care for the man afflicted by leprosy. According to certain Jewish laws (as described in the first reading), someone suffering from leprosy is to be cast away from society because he or she is considered “unclean” and is forced to live in isolation. Jesus, however, instead of rejecting the man, not only allows the man to come close to him, but also reaches out to touch him and heal him.

During this month, there are several ways by which, we too, can show care and solidarity with those who are sick. These include visiting a loved one or friend who is sick, donating to a charity supporting the sick, volunteer at a hospital or nursing home, become involved or start a ministry or group in the parish or BEC that reaches out to the sick, as well as, pray for the sick. ✚