

“The whole earth is a living icon of the face of God.”

St. John of Damascus



**SCRIPTURE
of the DAY**

Wisdom 2: 12, 17-20

Psalms 53: 3-6, 8

James 3: 16 – 4: 3

Mark 9: 30-37

Today all about us, we see just the opposite happening. Many of us carry our own ‘brand’ about ourselves. We parade what we do, we literally boast about our achievements openly, we compete even in church to be better than the other, we pride ourselves in thinking that we are certainly “greater” than the next.

Truth be told, we also use the social media to promote our views and ways, frail and faulty as they sometimes are. Fame and might in this world seem to far outweigh what is true and right. No one wants to lose the little “battles” in all our lives with others. We’d rather get even today. We want justice now. St James tells us that “*where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice*”.

Yet, what a contradiction all these are with the teaching we have before us. If we want to be noticed by God, we have to simply be unnoticed by the world. If we want salvation, we have to be a servant to our brethren. This is a difficult teaching for many people.

Yet, there are many who walk among us who are unknown ‘giants’ in the world of faith. They do good works surely and silently. It could be the religious Sister or someone you just met who is praying silently for you; it could be the gardener, struggling as he is but who still looks after his neighbours with his meagre income; it could be a sacristan who never tires to prepare for the daily Eucharist. It could be a caregiver or someone who doesn’t want the attention. With the innocence of a child, they believe and give freely. Jesus is pleased with people who are considered “last” by the world and who are yet faithful to him.

What about the rest of us? Which side of the fence do we fall onto? ❖

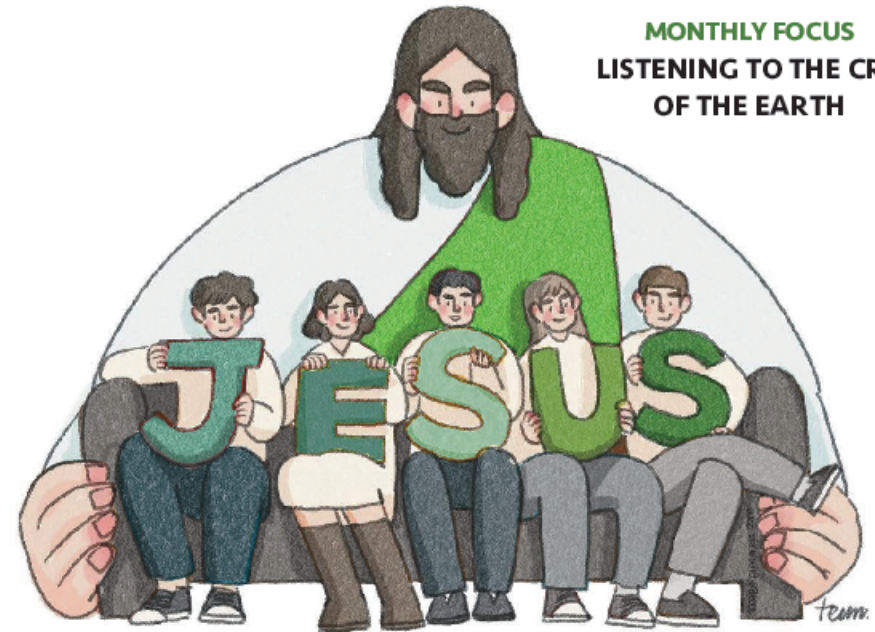
NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

newbee

22 September 2024
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**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
LISTENING TO THE CRY
OF THE EARTH**



Are We The First Or The Last?

The greatest must be the least. The Lord and Master must become slave and servant of all. This is what the Lord taught and put into practice. He died like a slave, a criminal.
The first among us shall become the last.