

"Now is the time for each local Church to assess its fervour and find fresh enthusiasm for its spiritual and pastoral responsibilities, by reflecting on what the Spirit has been saying to the People of God."

St. John Paul II



**SCRIPTURE**  
of the DAY

Isaiah 53: 10-11

Psalms 32: 4-5, 18-20, 22

Hebrews 4: 14-16

Mark 10: 35-45 or 10: 42-45

Firstly, a place in the kingdom demands suffering. There is a price to be paid to share in Jesus' glory. The terms "cup" and "baptism" signify suffering and death. When Jesus was at the Garden of Gethsemane, he asked the Father to remove the "cup of suffering" (Lk. 22: 42-44). To be "baptised" is to be "immersed in water" or to "drown" oneself. Are James and John prepared to accept the full implications of following Jesus all the way?

Secondly, even if they are, it is not Jesus' prerogative to determine a person's status in the coming kingdom. This privilege belongs to the Father. Basically, Jesus is saying, "It is up to my Father to reserve the seats for you, if you are willing to take on my cross." James and John ask for a share in Jesus' glory, but Jesus offers them the cross. He turns their attention from glory to the reality of suffering and death. By this, Jesus is challenging them to take seriously what it means to follow him to glory.

Thirdly, Christian leadership is about being of service to others. True leadership is not defined by "lording it" over others but by giving our lives for them.

Like the ten other disciples who were upset with James and John, we too might feel indignant with the brothers. "How selfish they are", we may say. But have we too not assumed to be given certain privileges or benefits because we are "good" Christians or "active" members in the parish? Have we too experienced moments when we wanted the "glory" without the cross?"

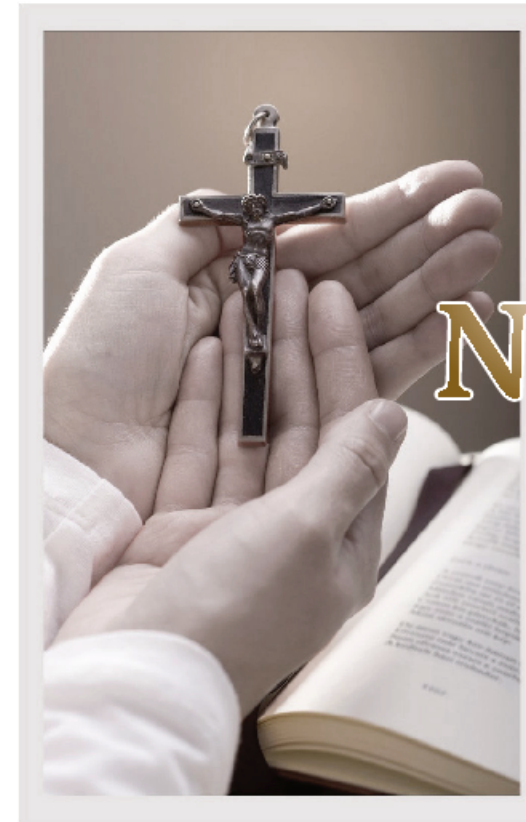
The gospel reading reminds us that Jesus calls all his followers to carry his cross and to be of service to others. To be a Christian is to be a servant. To be the greatest is to serve the needs of all, just as Jesus did, and to know that is God's prerogative to decide how we will be "rewarded" in the kingdom to come. ✚

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

20 October 2024  
29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
(Mission Sunday)

# newbee

**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**  
**A SHARED MISSION TOWARDS**  
**A SYNODAL CHURCH**

# There is No Glory Without the Cross

Jesus is approached by James and John, two of his closest disciples. They firmly request high places when Jesus enters into his glory, that is, into his kingdom. Although they were naïve, not knowing what it was that they were asking, and what would be the implications of their request, Jesus is gracious to them. He responds to them by reminding them of three important points.