

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

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US

Practical Love is the Heart of Our Faith



The first reading from Deuteronomy reminds us of the Shema (the daily prayer of the Jews): *"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might."*

"The Christian who unites his own death to that of Jesus views it as a step toward him and an entrance into everlasting life."

(CCC, 1020)



This call to love invites us to cultivate a relationship with God that is deep, authentic, and transformative.

When the scribe asks Jesus, "Which is the first of all commandments?". Jesus responds with a call to love by connecting the love of God with the love of neighbour. This is the kind of commitment of love that Jesus is asking of us. Loving God not only calls us to be mindful of His presence in our lives, but also prompts us to reflect on how this love is manifested in our interactions with others. Jesus' teachings guide us to a deeper truth: that love is at the heart of our faith. This love compels us to act justly, show compassion, and seek the well-being of others.

So, we have to ask ourselves, do we reach out to offer support or help to the needy in our BEC or neighbourhood? Could we, perhaps take a copy of the parish bulletin or Herald to an elderly or homebound person or offer a word of comfort to someone who has lost a loved one or join in the 7-day prayers. Being regular for Sunday Masses but closing an eye to the needs of our neighbour is equivalent to living half of today's gospel.

As we contemplate the inter-connection of loving God and loving neighbor, we are reminded that our faith is lived out in community. **We are called not just to love in theory but to embody love in practical ways.** This is a call to action that can transform both our lives and the world around us. ✦

SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Deuteronomy 6: 2-6
Psalm 17: 2-4, 47, 51
Hebrews 7: 23-28
Mark 12: 28-34