



“The relationship between the Risen Lord, the community of believers and sacred Scripture is essential to our identity as Christians.”

Pope Francis
(Apostolic letter
“APERUIT ILLIS”)

SCRIPTURE
of the DAY

Nehemiah 8: 2-6, 8-10
Psalm 18: 8-10, 15
1 Corinthians 12: 12-30
or 12-14, 27
Luke 1: 1-4, 4: 14-21

So apt are the readings this week to reflect Christian unity. In the first reading, Esra shows us the importance of God’s Word which is to be read, even to women and to children who could understand. After the exile, the people of God need to re-commit to the Torah as the Law is their identity.

How important it is for us Christians to keep our identity as we face enormous challenges in the secular world. That is why it is important to come together to strengthens one’s faith and builds the community. St Paul writes in Corinthians 1 of the Body of Christ, consisting of many parts, each part unique. He points to unity and diversity, and the need for co-existence. It should never be to each our own but we must mutually respect and take care of each part of the Body.

In the context of our nation of diverse religions and cultures, Christians have an important part to play. The gospel tells of Jesus’ proclamation of the Kingdom and his mission to liberate and heal. His work continues through us, the Body of Christ.

God’s Law always refreshes and guides the soul, giving us the wisdom to be simple, as the Psalmist prays. So today with simplicity of heart to receive Jesus, **let us remember we are baptized into One Body – the Church.** Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we must recognise our God-given gifts, and use them effectively for the love of God and of our neighbour. We are called to be a Merciful Church, to embrace everyone regardless of race, creed and religion.

The Lord sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, and to proclaim liberty to captives. Let us act on God’s Word and live out our faith. ✚

NEWBEC

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

26 January 2025

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Sunday of the Word of God)

CELEBRATING, LISTENING AND WALKING AS PILGRIMS OF HOPE

MONTHLY FOCUS & RATIONALE CHURCH - CALLED TO BE MERCIFUL

Unity in the Body of Christ

During the Week of Prayer for Christian unity, Christians come together. We are reminded of the prayer of Jesus for his disciples that ‘they may be one.’ Traditionally, this event is held between 18-25 January. The Dicastery for promoting Christian unity in Rome produces materials with its ecumenical partners for usage throughout the year to *express the degree of communion which the churches have already reached, and to pray together for that full unity which is Christ’s will.*

