



They encouraged the disciples there, organised them, appointed elders in each church and entrusted them to the Lord. It was to ensure that they could support each other in their faith. They urged the disciples to persevere in their belief in the face of difficulties so as to be able to enter the Kingdom of God. They testified to what God had done with them and that His kingdom is open to all who have faith. By their example, it is also our mission to share our faith with others.

“It is easy to love the people far away. It is not always easy to love those close to us. Bring love into your home, for this is where our love for each other must start.”

*St. Theresa of Calcutta*

John’s vision in the second reading gives us hope. We are assured of God’s constant presence among us as pilgrims of hope. He saw a new heaven and a new earth, and a new Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. God also proclaimed that His dwelling is for the human race. He will be our God and we will be His people. He will comfort us and there will be no more suffering. The old order will give way to the new when there is no more evil or suffering in the world.

Jesus spoke of himself being glorified in God and God in Him in the Gospel reading. It was at the Last Supper that He was referring to His impending death and resurrection. Then, He gave the apostles a new commandment, to love one another just as He loved them.

What is new is ‘just as I have loved you’ which raises the bar to the meaning of love. In this there is sacrifice, the need to walk the extra mile when we do as He commanded. This will be how others will know us as His disciples. **By our love for each other in our families and communities, others will know that we are His disciples.** ✦

**SCRIPTURE of the DAY**

Acts 14: 21-27

Psalms 144: 8-13

Revelation 21: 1-5

John 13: 31-35

# NEWBEC

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH | 5th Sunday of Easter | 18 May 2025

CELEBRATING, LISTENING AND WALKING AS PILGRIMS OF HOPE

MONTHLY FOCUS & RATIONALE

FAMILY – CALLED TO ACCOMPANY FAMILIES FACING CHALLENGES

## The Heart of Discipleship is Love

We are called to accompany family and community with love and care amidst challenges and difficulties.

Paul and Barnabas were relentless in spreading the Good News to the Jews and Gentiles. At the end of their mission after the city of Derbe, they revisited all the communities that they had established.

