



“Our only desire and our one choice should be this: I want and I choose what better leads to God’s deepening life in me.”

St. Ignatius Loyola

It is easy, especially when we achieve a measure of success—as ministry, parish or diocese—to begin believing that our way is the best way, or worse, the only way. This mindset can subtly lead us into a dangerous pride, thinking we have all the answers, or that others must follow our path to righteousness.

In Jesus’ time, many religious leaders fell into this trap. They saw themselves as separate from the crowds of “sinners” around them, believing that their strict observance of religious practices guaranteed their place in God’s kingdom. But Jesus warned His disciples against this attitude, pointing out that many will fail to enter through the narrow door. His words challenge us to realize that it is nearly impossible for us to earn ourselves a place in Heaven by following the righteousness of the Law. He invites us to recognize that we need God’s mercy, and that outward success—in wealth, status, or religious practice—is not the true measure of righteousness.

The second reading reinforces this, telling us that God corrects those He considers His children. His discipline, though painful, leads us towards a peace and goodness that surpasses what we could achieve on our own.

**This is what the Church is called to discern in the coming week – to examine ourselves and ask if what we are currently doing for our parishes, our ministries and our dioceses are truly what the people need and what God wants for us?** This may mean considering ideas that challenge our assumptions, or rethinking how we love and serve others – especially in the duty of catechesis that we are all called to – so that we may remain faithful to the teaching and open to new ways of catechising.

Let us pray for the grace to be like children before God, accepting His correction with openness and humility as he guides us to new insights and new ways of living our faith. ✠

**SCRIPTURE of the DAY**

- Isaiah 66: 18-21
- Psalms 116: 1-2
- Hebrew 12: 5-7, 11-13
- Luke 13: 22-30

# NEWBEC

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH | 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time | 24 August 2025  
CELEBRATING, LISTENING AND WALKING AS PILGRIMS OF HOPE

MONTHLY FOCUS & RATIONALE  
**SOCIETY (PROPHETIC)  
CALLED TO VISIBLE  
COLLABORATION**



## Discernment In Our Faith

As we begin the Peninsular Malaysia Pastoral Assembly this week—gathering clergy, religious, and laity from the three dioceses—it is timely to reflect on our journey as a Church in Peninsular Malaysia. With our 69th Independence Day approaching, this assembly is an opportunity for us to discern God’s will for us.