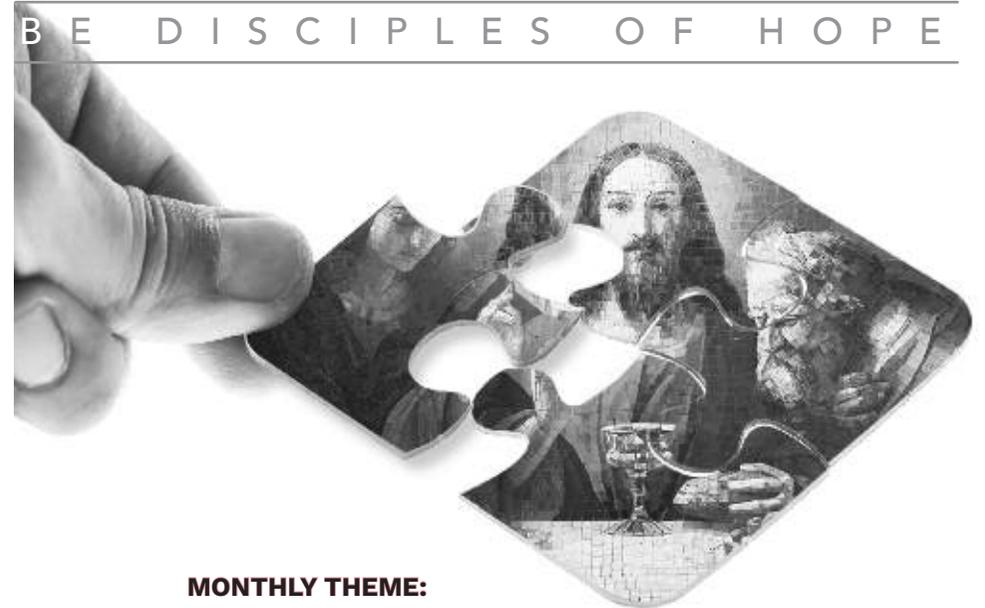


Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH **CORPUS CHRISTI**

B E D I S C I P L E S O F H O P E



MONTHLY THEME:

Take, Break and Give in Christ

A Promise Fulfilled

Prophet Moses sacrifices and sprinkles the blood of young bulls on his people to make a covenant with the God of Israel. It was a promise with a sacrifice, for the people to obey with a clean conscience. Fast forward to Christ and Jesus is getting ready to become a new promise, His Divine Sacrifice now becomes the new Tabernacle. Therein lies the fulfilment in the coming of Jesus. This was God's prophesied Son, the mediator of

the 'New Covenant' drawing the world unto The Father, through The Son.

The Blood that Jesus shed promises forgiveness of sin, something unheard of until Jesus came into the picture. Imagine the angst of the scribes then! The Bull was blemished. The Messiah is unblemished. The blood of the bull cannot mediate with God. Our Redeemer can. The bull cannot plead for us. The Saviour does. The bull has no inheritance to give, The Son has a Kingdom! The bull is temporal and of the earth, Jesus is from The Father, His sacrifice is timeless, eternal, once and for all.

A striking passage is when Jesus asks 'where is my guestroom so I may eat the Passover with my disciples'? It is a 'furnished' upper room, strangely 'ready' for the Master. That same furnished room today stands anywhere the Holy Mass is celebrated, ready with a promise. God is also waiting there, ready for our sacrifice. Through generations, this Sacrament is the source and summit to victory, because of Christ's passion, His Body & Blood. It is also a message of suffering, for without the cross there cannot be resurrection and if there is no resurrection, you cannot wear a crown.

Partaking in this celebration is to also become the Body & Blood for others. **Jesus expects big things from us**, in the small everyday instances of life. 'I AM the sacrifice'. The promise of the Eucharist, invites our participation, to love, to forgive and to radiate a generosity of spirit. The promise works two ways, Jesus sanctifies a grace to those who are ready in the furnished upper room. Are you ready? †

Since Christ Himself has said, "This is My Body" who shall dare to doubt that It is His Body?

- St. Cyril of Jerusalem

Weekly
WORD

Jesus expects big things from us

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NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

10TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

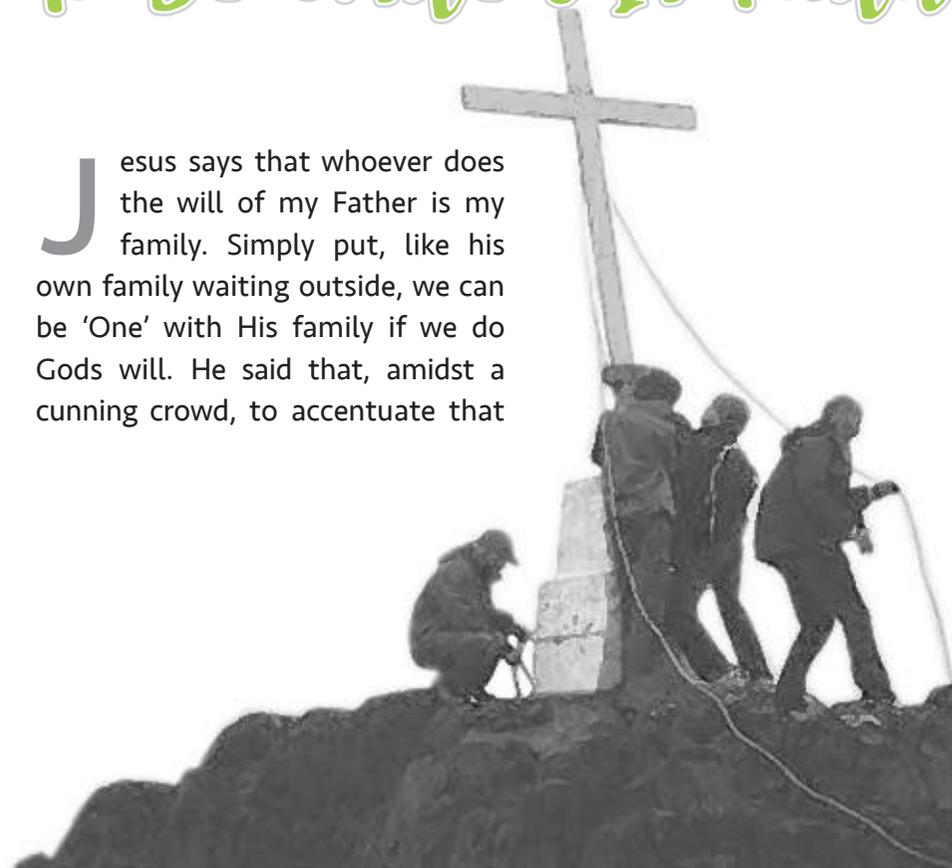
B E D I S C I P L E S O F H O P E

MONTHLY THEME:

Take, Break and Give in Christ

To Be United In Faith

Jesus says that whoever does the will of my Father is my family. Simply put, like his own family waiting outside, we can be 'One' with His family if we do Gods will. He said that, amidst a cunning crowd, to accentuate that



Unity grows along the way; it never stands still. Unity happens when we walk together.

– Pope Francis

God wants you to believe in Him through His Son and what the Son does. The Son is the Word. The Son shows the Father's Love. The Son is the promise. Jesus goes so far as to say that if you believe this, you will not be condemned. Jesus asks us to demonstrate this unity, that no one can take this away from us – 'if a house is divided, it will not stand'. The Father, Jesus and The Spirit are One, we need to be One too, through The Son.

Israel couldn't comprehend how this special man could drive out demons and do so much. *"He must be possessed"*. Jesus was showing them clear visible signs and they were still looking for the invisible. St Paul contrasts their view as 'momentary' against the backdrop of the 'eternal'. They wanted miracles but could not see the greatest of all. They came for the favours but didn't believe the biggest revelation of all time – Jesus! We ourselves sin against His Spirit when we sometimes choose to whitewash this truth.

The Bible paints a frightening image of the serpent who led Eve astray. The punishment was to crawl on its belly. God seems clear about this sin – that if we fail to believe in Him, there are eternal consequences. Our faith, professed in unity, ensures that our house is never divided against itself. When we profess this, as we do, God is pleased. We are not transitory people but eternal believers, even in the unseen. **We are never in chaos, especially when we are united.** We are with the Father in all things, because we believe in His Son. This unity as 'one family' allows us to walk in Spirit and Truth and always say as the Psalmist, *"with the Lord there is Mercy and fullness of Redemption"*. †

Weekly
WORD

We are never in chaos, especially when we are united.

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NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

B E D I S C I P L E S O F H O P E

MONTHLY THEME:

Take, Break and Give in Christ

To Walk By Faith, Not Sight

On numerous occasions Jesus describes the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus always seems happy to share these parables, He came from *that* Kingdom and our Lord says that we can get there too. He gives us two examples this week; one

Give something, however small, to the one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could.

- St. Gregory Nazianzen

demonstrates that we are the seed that is planted and grows with His Hand, till harvest, only to let others replace us and grow as well. Then Jesus says that the Kingdom is also like the little mustard seed, yet by the time it becomes big, that tiny seed is shade for many. Jesus likens our growth in **faith and action** that makes us who we are, baked, fed and fulfilled, till we are no more.

Softly, Jesus also whispers to us that our time here will come to an end and there is a hidden message about our 'shelf-life'. We know what we have to do, but we sometimes procrastinate. We want to get to Heaven but we hardly think of our end. Perhaps this is because we cannot see too far into our distant future, so we need to rely on walking by faith, not by sight. We know we have to face our own harvest times, yet, sometimes we treat life as if we will live forever.

St Paul imprints the reality that the body and life is temporal, we leave it to go to appear before Judgment, that the Lord will have the final say about how we made our tree grow to help others to grow. Once we accept that this temporary body is heading for a new destination, we will be able to see Jesus in our neighbours and thereby help them grow, even bigger and better than us. **For at the end, we must sow, that others may reap.**

The Reading says it all as it exhorts us, *"God can bring low the high tree, lift high the lowly tree, wither the green tree and still make the withered tree bloom"*. God can do that! Take heart, no matter your situation or station....walk with faith, grow in faith, and live by faith. †

Weekly
WORD

For at the end,
we must sow, that
others may reap.

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NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

BIRTH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

B E D I S C I P L E S O F H O P E

MONTHLY THEME:

Take, Break and Give in Christ

TO BE WONDERFULLY MADE

God evidently planned every minute detail of His Son's coming, Indeed, He loved the world so much that He gave us His Son. God also planned to have a messenger, Elizabeth's son John the Baptist to herald the coming of His Son. People then lived sprawled and



If you are what you should be, you will set the whole world ablaze!

- St. Catherine of Sienna

scattered, the messenger was especially very important as he prepares and gathers them before the coming of 'Someone' far GREATER - Jesus. The people were intrigued by John's life from his birth, especially after his father Zechariah wrote his son's name on a tablet and regained his speech. People watched how John would be different, knowing that he was a person set apart.

Contrast this with Jesus's coming. His was foretold from as early as Abraham and Jacob, and then David. Jesus was the capping of Gods work, God reveals His glory. We now know what Isaiah meant, *'I will make you a light of the nations, My salvation shall reach to the ends of the earth'*. See how a mighty God makes everything come to bear, as everything he makes is truly wonderful.

Now, what about our life? We didn't just emerge from nowhere. **The same God who fashioned John and Jesus, fashioned us**, knew us before we were in the womb. He is always at work, He makes it seem easy, as His burden is indeed light. John knew what his humble role was, to prepare the way, he would say, 'I am not worthy to undo the straps of His sandal'. Jesus legitimately knew Who He was. Jesus was the Great I AM.

What about us? Have we pondered on who we are and what we are called to do? If you haven't figured it out yet, a good place to glint this awakening is to echo the words of the Psalmist and say, *'I praise you Lord, for I am wonderfully made'*. When we do this, we put everything in God's hands, the same Hands that made John so holy, the Hands that made Jesus our King and brother and the same Divine Hands that fashioned you and me. †

Weekly
WORD

The same God who fashioned
John and Jesus, fashioned us.