



Such sharing of the heart, these sacred conversations, do not happen as often in our modern world, where we are pulled in many different directions. When we think about conversations, we often think about what we want to say. We prepare our points, our responses, our opinions. We think about how we want to be heard. However, the Lord invites us into conversation differently. It begins not with speaking, but with listening. Not just being present. Not simply waiting for our turn, but listening as a sacred act.

To listen in this way is to recognise the heart of the other as holy ground. As Pope Francis reminds us, each person is to be received as "holy ground", a place where God is already at work (*Christus Vivit*, 67). What they carry, their questions, their stirrings, even their uncertainty, may be where the Spirit is already at work. And when we listen with our whole heart and spirit, something shifts. There is a quiet conversion, not only for the one who shares, but also for the one who listens.

Because in that moment, we are no longer outside the story. We begin to carry it together.

We often speak about the call to initiate, to step forward, to begin something new, but there is also a call to receive, to accompany, and to support. We are not all called to lead in visible ways at every moment. There are times when we are invited to stand alongside, to strengthen, to help bring to life what another has begun. This does not diminish our place in the Body. It reveals it (Eph 4:11-12).

Perhaps this is what it means to grow into a culture of listening. It is not just about making space for voices, but recognising the sacredness within them. It is not just about sharing ideas, but discerning together how the Spirit is moving among us.

Therefore, we ask ourselves quietly: Are we ready to listen in this way? **Are we open to recognising the holiness in one another? And are we willing to give of ourselves, so that what God begins in one may be carried forward by many?** ❖

NEWBEC

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH | 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time | 14 June 2026

WALKING TOGETHER TOWARDS A SYNODAL AND PROPHETIC CHURCH

A People for Missionary Discipleship

MONTHLY FOCUS: CHURCH: Living Synodality



Recognising the Heart as Holy Ground

Every person who feels a stirring to initiate, to respond to God's prompting, carries an arduous task ahead. From the moment that initial spark arises, it is not easy to sustain it. What begins as a quiet stirring can easily fade unless it finds a space where it is received, held, and allowed to grow. Essential for this to take place, it begins within a community that knows how to listen, and to recognise that one shares from the heart.

SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Exodus: 19: 2-6
Psalm 99: 2-3, 5
Romans 5: 6-11
Matthew 9: 36 - 10: 8

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"Listen with
the ear of
your heart."

- St. Benedict