

# newbee+

SALT OF THE EARTH AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD:  
CELEBRATING, LISTENING AND WALKING TOGETHER IN A SPIRIT OF COMMUNION  
PARTICIPATION AND MISSION. (MATTHEW 5: 13-16)

**“Only trust in God can transform doubts into certainty, evil into good, night into radiant dawn.”**

Pope Francis



### SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Gen 22: 1-2, 9-13, 15-18.

Ps 115: 10, 15-19;

Rom 8: 31-34.

Mk 9: 2-10.

However, in obedience he carries out what God has commanded him. However, just as Abraham prepares to strike his son with a knife, an angel stops him. God is pleased with Abraham’s faithfulness. As a result, Abraham was told by God that his descendants will be multiplied and by his offspring shall all nations on earth bless themselves.

Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem. He knows that, in that holy city, he will experience suffering and be put to death. Meanwhile, his disciples still fail to understand why he has to die. It seems so pointless to them. Then, somewhere along the journey, accompanied only by three disciples, Jesus climbs to the top of a high mountain. There, he is transfigured and the voice of God, the Father, is heard, “This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him”. It is a reminder to the confused and discouraged disciples that Jesus has been given a difficult mission by his Father – to suffer and die for the sins of humanity. Yet, the death of Jesus will not be in vain. He will rise from the dead. And salvation is offered to all humanity.

Both scripture readings begin with a sense of confusion and discouragement. They end, however, with a message of true hope. Through Abraham, a nation will be born and through Jesus, a descendent of Abraham, salvation will be gained for the whole of humanity. The readings have a lesson for us. We are reminded that, regardless of the circumstances of confusion and discouragement that may exist in our homes, society, nation and the world, **the sacrifices that we sincerely make, for others and to remain faithful to God will never be in vain.** “With God on our side who can be against us?” says Saint Paul. Let us trust God always! ❖



## *“I Trusted, Even When I Am Solely Afflicted”*

Abraham is asked by God to sacrifice his only son, Isaac. We are not told what Abraham was feeling or thinking as he led his son up the mountain. Surely, he must have been confused and discouraged. It’s hard to imagine - a father having to sacrifice his son. He must have wondered why God had asked him for his son’s life.