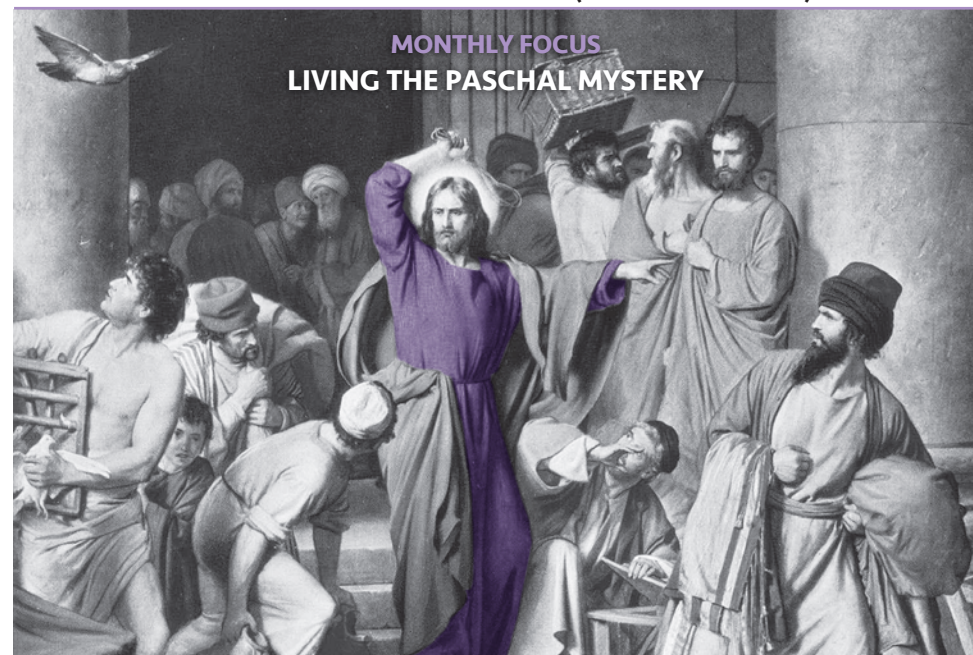


# newbee

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)



## The Cord of the Lord Is Mercy

Jesus does an audacious act by overturning the tables of the traders and money changers in the Temple. He charges that His Father's house has been turned into a market place. John's narrative of the cleansing of the Temple shows the divide between Jesus and the Jewish authorities.

**“As often as I look upon the cross, so often will I forgive with all my heart”**

*St. Faustina*



### SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Exodus 20: 1-17

Psalms 18: 8-11

1 Corinthians 1: 22-25

John 2: 13-25

And this incident provides an opportunity for the leaders to turn against him. They demand for a sign to prove his authority and Jesus gives them one: that of His Body as the Temple – which will be destroyed and be re-built in three days. Jesus' words are fulfilled by His Resurrection.

Lent provides us opportunities to encounter Jesus and to re-live the Paschal Mystery, especially in the liturgy. On this 3rd Sunday, the first reading brings us to the timeless passage of the Ten Commandments. These are the set of laws that God gives to His people. Over time, rigidity rules the day for it is impossible for people to follow the tenet of the law and to obey them. Stumbling at just one makes one guilty of breaking all of it. Moral impurities are defiling the people of God, and we see to some extent the defilement when Jesus confronts the traders and the money changers in the cleansing of the temple.

Today, the Lord wants to cleanse us, too. While the Ten Commandments serve as a compass, we have the Lord redefining them, and giving the ultimate Spirit of the Law when he says, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.' (Matthew 22:37-40)

In the context of love, the cord of the Lord is Mercy! **Let us allow the Lord to use his cord of mercy to cleanse and purify us.** We ask for grace to turn something less of God into something more of Him, little by little. Let us not ask for signs but proclaim Christ Crucified, for it is only in Him will we have eternal life. ✚