

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)

MONTHLY FOCUS

LIVING THE PASCHAL MYSTERY

God's Goodness Shines Through Us

Laetare Sunday – the Church gives this impetus to keep us going in our Lenten endeavours. A shot in the arm, if you like. Let us unpack today's readings to see what the Lord is teaching us.



“The true way to advance in holy virtues is to persevere in a holy cheerfulness”

St Philip Neri



SCRIPTURE of the DAY

2 Chronicles 36: 14-16,
19-23

Psalms 136: 1-6

Ephesians 2: 4-10

John 3: 14-21

2 Chronicles shows a pitiable sight, with the chosen people adding infidelity to infidelity. They committed all kinds of heinous acts, and heeded not the warnings of the messengers of God. A terrible punishment fell upon the entire people, and the Temple and palaces were razed. Those who survived were exiled to Babylon. There, the exilic people lamented; they sat by the streams and wept. Many years later, God sent King Cyrus to liberate them, sent them back to rebuild their lives and the Temple. They got a second chance to make things right!

The theme to the gospel text is John 3:16 – God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so everyone who believes in him might have eternal life. King Cyrus had an important mission to liberate the captives. But the gospel tells us that Jesus comes for everyone. The plan of God's salvation unfolds as Jesus tells Nicodemus the Son of Man must be lifted up, even as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert. For the Son to be lifted up and to enter into the glory of His Father, Jesus readies himself for the Cross.

Are we ready to accept God's love? St Paul tells us that though we are dead in our transgressions, by grace we have been saved through faith. All the Lord asks of us is to live the truth. To turn away from darkness and walk toward the light. When we do that, and live in integrity, God's goodness shines through us. We will be called the salt of the earth, and the light of the world. **We can be the instruments of God like Cyrus and Moses, who led God's people out of darkness into the light.**

Rejoice, it's Laetare Sunday. Be joyful as we continue our Lenten commitments to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. ✚