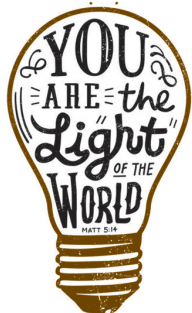


*“As stewards of God’s creation, we are called to make the earth a beautiful garden for the human family.”*

*Pope Francis*



**SCRIPTURE**  
*of the DAY*

Isaiah 35: 4-7

Psalms 145: 7-10

James 2: 1-5

Mark 7: 31-37

They must have spoken up for the man, knowing that Jesus was special person. Their faith and conviction in Jesus must have impressed the Lord. He takes pity on the man and performs the miracle for the one who cannot do much for himself.

St James speaks of the distinction we sometimes make between people who cannot do much for themselves and for those who can. Sometimes, we too make a contrast between the “have’s” and the “have-not’s”. It happens even within church circles. The ones with the influence, power and popularity often get the attention and have a “voice” whether in the family, church and society.

**Our faith in Jesus must ensure that we become the “voice” for those who are voiceless** and for the ones who cannot do much for themselves. We know that certainly the Lord wants to help everyone, and especially the weak, poor and marginalised, just as he did when he walked on earth.

This is the attitude we too must possess and demonstrate, to tell those who are weak, as written in Isaiah, *“Say to those who are broken-hearted, do not be afraid, your God will come and save you”*. We become more like Jesus when we stand up for the lowly or those burdened by weakness and even failure. People need second chances.

Instead of sitting back and judging others, we too can take people to Jesus as we lift them in prayer and in service. We can make a difference and can give them another chance. So many around us need to experience a little healing or to hear someone say, “I am sorry” or “I care”. So many of our hearts need to ‘be opened’. This is what Jesus is asking of us as his disciples.

Indeed, this is his command, to love till it hurts. ❖

Published by: Archdiocesan Pastoral Institute (API) | Email: [api@archkl.org](mailto:api@archkl.org)

INTERNAL CIRCULATION ONLY  
BUL 36/2024

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

8 September 2024  
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

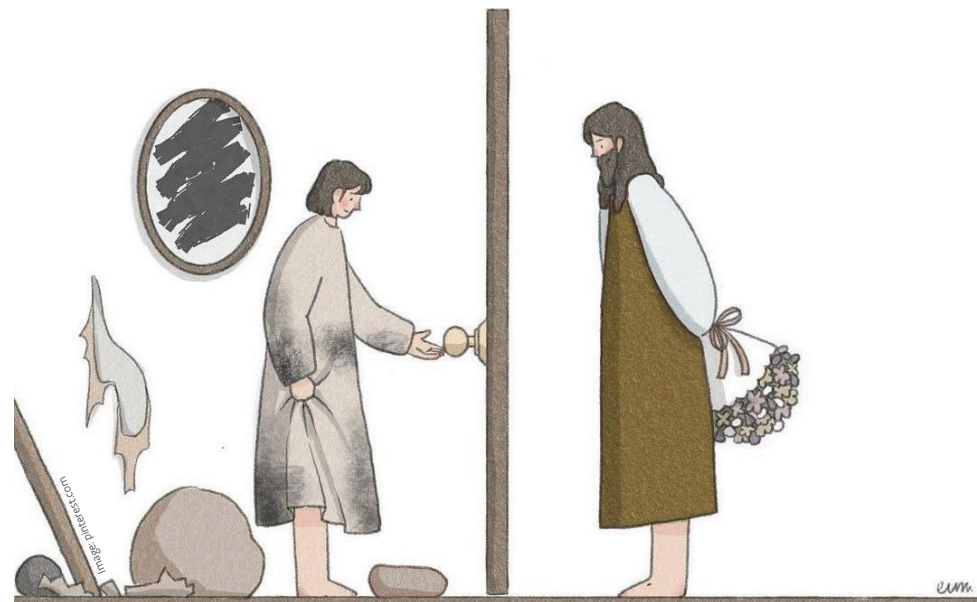
# newbee

**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).**

**MONTHLY FOCUS LISTENING TO THE CRY OF THE EARTH**

## May Our Hearts Be Opened

**“Ephphatha...Be Opened.”** With a single command Jesus heals the deaf and dumb man. *“His ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly”*. But this man couldn’t ask Jesus what he wanted himself. Others had to bring him to the Lord.



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