

## **Reflections on 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Year. 25C.**

*Mass: Amos 6:1,4-7; Psalm 145; 1 Timothy 6:11-16; Luke 16:19-31.*

There is a rhythm in the Church's year of readings, I always think. That is, they fit into the seasons of the year and can express the deepest needs of the times. We are in the harvest times now and coming towards winter. For most human beings for most of the centuries this would be a time of fear. Can we survive the winter? Today we forget just how vulnerable most people were in time of shortages. Many vegetables were not known in ancient times and people had to rely on storage, much of which was vulnerable to weather, war and disease. In today's Gospel there seem to be two images. Present life, with the rich enjoying themselves and the poor, who made up over 90 per cent of the population, waited for handouts. Today we call it 'trickle down' economics! The second is the Kingdom of God, which Jesus was preaching about and which he taught was already beginning. The poor man is treated with dignity, escorted by angels, think of the late Queen's funeral! He has position in the bosom of Abraham! The reversal is based on need in God's Kingdom, not on wealth, family or power. The rich man claims power in the Kingdom, son of Abraham, he claims! This is traditional family connections at work. He tries to get Lazarus to act as his servant, running after his needs. Abraham tells him that he should have listened to Moses and the prophets but most certainly would not listen to the voice of one risen from the dead. A sobering thought at any time.