

Thoughts on the Daily Word

6th Week of Easter. Friday 15th May. Readings: Acts 18:9-18; Psalm 46; John 16:20-23.

We have lived through a time of lockdown, unheard of for many years, probably since the war years. Before my time! It does remind me, however, of the ‘three-day week’ in the early 70’s when a number of strikes, mainly the miners’ strike, if I remember rightly, brought the country to a virtual standstill. I was at teacher training college but living at home and running our college bar. We only had a few hours of electricity in different areas each day. Most of my time was spent reading up on rules and regulations as to where and when I could eat, drink beer and keep warm. Looking back, it seemed like fun for students but a real battle for everyone else. We do live by rules and regulations in our society, but we fool ourselves that we are free. We are of course freer than many places in our world. The essence is that we choose to live in accordance with certain moral imperatives. The challenge is whether we see the need to protect others. The gift of joy is a gift of the Holy Spirit to all of humanity. It flows from the freedom to choose rightly, or morally. Jesus wants to let loose that joy in our world. It really isn’t a battle between doing what you want and law. It is finding the freedom to choose what is right, that is also what faith is all about.