

Thoughts on the Daily Word

16th Week of Year. Friday 24th July. Readings: Martyrs of the Diocese. Readings of the day: Jeremiah 1:1,4-10; Psalm: 70; Matthew 13:1-9.

The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church. Today is a mixture, the beginning of the prophet Jeremiah and the festival of our diocesan martyrs, many of whom are either not or little known. whose famous role in the resurrection story is our Gospel today. I have kept the reading from the beginning of Jeremiah because it is the powerful story of the call of the prophet. Not just one prophet but a beautiful description of the call of all prophets. Jeremiah, like Moses and many of the prophets, feels young and inadequate to confront a dangerous world. And yet, like all the great prophets and martyrs, he relies on the grace of God to carry him through. It is a wonderful story of the most human of prophets who lived through the most disastrous period of Jewish history, the destruction of the Temple and the exile in Babylon. His humanity, with all its frailty, comes out so strongly. The Gospel seed is so vulnerable and frail and yet it will change the world with its life. The common line of frailty in both readings shows the faithfulness and strength of both prophets and martyrs. For Jeremiah it is a long lifetime, for many of the martyrs it is relatively short. Both reflect the faithfulness of the God of the Covenant who never abandons his People.