

Thoughts on the Daily Word

Christmas Season. Friday 9th January. Readings: 1 John 4:11-18; Psalm: 71; Gospel: Mark 6:45-52.

The contrast in today's readings is between fear and love. Ghosts in our culture at the moment seem to symbolise this kind of fear. There are so many programs and channels on tv that seem to capitalise on our fears of the unknown, perhaps an existential fear that strikes at the heart of our identity. The response of the disciples of Jesus is that same question, 'who is this man?'. We are now confronting the question of baptism. There is no mistake in the story of crossing the water and the disciples struggling on their own. The images of Exodus and baptism are pointing towards questions of just who we are. John's baptism was reinserting Jews into the old story, necessary but limited, this baptism will release something that our first reading recognises as the love of God or the Holy Spirit. This is a new identity for us as children of God, co-heirs with Christ.