

**Thoughts on the Daily Word**

*8<sup>th</sup> Week of Year. Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May. St. Bede. Readings: Ecclesiasticus 35:2-15; Psalm 49; Mark 10:28-31.*

This day is a feast day in our diocesan calendar with our own special readings. That means a special day to celebrate one of the great founders of our Christian heritage and community in the north-east. His life and work touched our English history as well as European civilisation. I have a special affection for this part of our history as my early years were spent holidaying on Lindisfarne, our Holy Island. It is a beautiful place that just seems to breathe the ancient Celtic faith of our forefathers and foremothers. My many visits to Jarrow and Monkwearmouth, enhanced that sense of connection with Aidan, Bede and Cuthbert. Bede's special contribution was to build the foundations of our history, both as a nation and a church. It was my discovery of history, especially British history from Winston Churchill and the story of the Church from Henri Daniel-Rops that brought me into teaching and ministry. Bede had a special place in both areas, laying the foundation for spirituality that enabled so much to be built. The 'story' is the root of our human life and the root of our relationship with God. Bede helps us to see that and grow in authentic relationships.