

Thoughts on the Daily Word

5th Week of Year. Saturday 14th February. Readings: 1 Kings 12:26-32,13:33-34; Psalm: 105; Gospel: Mark 8:1-10.

I believe that it was G.K. Chesterton who said that when people cease to believe in God, they do not just become atheists but rather they believe in anything. How true that is seems so obvious in our day. The bewildering range of beliefs today is frightening. The Q Anon conspiracy theorist to the anti-vaxers who believe an evil cabal is placing surveillance tech into our bodies. It just goes on and on. If these were just harmless beliefs, we wouldn't be so worried about the fractious culture wars that seem to be consuming our western civilisation. What we believe or not has implications for all of us. Just what kind of society we live in. Sadly, this is what wars are made of with immense human suffering. This unfolds in the break-up of Israel once more. All the hopes and dreams of David are lost for centuries with untold suffering. It is Jesus who brings back a message not only of unity within the Jewish people but also of the whole human race. The number seven in the Gospel represents the entire world, including the Gentiles. Jesus calls his followers to open wide their hearts to a new kind of world. We are still working at it!