

Thoughts on the Daily Word

1st Week of Advent. Saturday 6th December. Readings: Isaiah 30:19-21,23-26; Psalm: 146; Gospel: Matthew 9:35-10:1,5,6-8.

‘This is the way, follow it.’ Right at the beginning of Advent we hear the word calling us to go forward. The vision is there but it is of no use unless we follow the directions to reach it. It is a journey of faith to reach that vision. We see Jesus in the Gospel moving around the villages and towns inviting people to follow him in what he is doing. In the midst of poverty, disease and suffering he is calling people to follow him. It is where we start from that matters. This was a point made so powerfully in Liberation Theology. If we start from a position of privilege, we will never understand where the Gospel is leading us. Identifying with those who are struggling, and suffering is the place from where we can see the vision and hear the words, ‘This is the Way, follow it’. Remember that the original name for Christians was the People of the Way. That is difficult for us in our relatively prosperous western world, which is probably why the Christian faith is declining here and growing among the poor of the world. There is still hope though if, as Pope Francis told us, we focus on mercy, and all that flows from it.