

Thoughts on the Daily Word

18th Week of Year. Saturday 8th August. Readings: Habakkuk 1:12-2:4; Psalm 9A; Gospel: Matthew 17:14-20.

I am amazed but slightly troubled by the amount of history there is on the Second World War. It seems to be an obsession of ours still. It would still seem to frame our mindset, how we look at the present and plan for the future. Just note how lockdown brought back images of wartime austerity and control, even to Vera Lynn and the White Cliffs. The struggles with China and Russia that are emerging have similar echoes. The Cold War didn't stand on its own, it grew from a very hot war. Habakkuk lived around the time of Jeremiah, remembering the destruction of Israel, destroyed by the Assyrians. The continual threat, followed by that of the Babylonians, leads Habakkuk to challenge God and speak his reply. Hold on to the vision, that is what faith is all about, says the God of the Covenant. It reminds me of the many programs of Britain standing alone and Churchill's vision of the future uplands leading to victory and triumph. This is what Jesus is saying to his disciples. Faith means holding on to the vision of the Incarnation, the God of the New Covenant who comes to us in our weakness, heals our brokenness and leads us to new life.