

Thoughts on the Daily Word

18th Week of Year. Monday 4th August. Readings: Numbers 11:4-15; Psalm: 80; Matthew 14:13-21.

Numbers begins with a census of the military might of this Hebrew gathering. The journey across the desert and the formation of a people rather than a slave rabble begins. We hear today of the immense and maternal love of God for this wayward people, children in all but name. It will take the rest of the forty years to form them into a fighting unit, able to survive and overcome their enemies. Rebellion, as always, starts pretty quickly. The rivalry of Aaron and Miriam adds to the rebellious attitude of the people. Sadly, it is the woman, Miriam, who gets punished, and healed. This is basically the human pattern of inability to work together or cooperate for the greater good. Everybody wants their share of the pie! No wonder Moses is exasperated after all that he has done for them. The Gospel gives the same pattern and shows how even the disciples of Jesus will eventually have a much better idea of what needs to be done. The famous saying on how to make God laugh, tell him your plans! Just as well God has a sense of humour.