

**Thoughts on the Daily Word**

*17<sup>th</sup> Week of Year. Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August. Readings: Leviticus 25:1,8-17; Psalm: 66; Matthew 14:1-12.*

Leviticus is a reminder that the whole story of Exodus is the story of freedom from slavery. The law of the Jubilee is set in place to ensure that every fifty years the ownership of land would return to those whom God has given it. Time and time again the exploitation of peasants meant the loss of their land and their livelihood. Virtually enslaved in debt they were reduced to slavery and poverty. This would be the recurrent theme of protest throughout the Old Testament. It is an experience still common over most of the world and something that we still struggle with even in our western economies. Zero hours and so-called modern slavery have a lot in common and are endemic. The gap between rich and poor is growing rapidly with no sense of the need to return to other models of equality and justice. This is what the prophetic voice of John and Jesus is all about and this is why, ultimately, both have to be silenced by those in power.