

Thoughts on the Daily Word

28th Week of Year. Thursday 16th October. Readings: Romans 3:21-30; Psalm: 129; Luke 11:47-54.

Being justified is more than a theological statement. It means being given a special status in the eyes of God and his Plan for the world. Being justified means fulfilling our vocation in life, all that we have been called to. Many years ago, on my first visit to Rome I celebrated Mass in the church of St. Callistus, whom we celebrated yesterday. Shortly after we were given a tour of the newly opened palace of the Emperor Nero. A palace that was built over after his death and only relatively lately opened to the public. We were able to stand and look out from where Nero looked over Rome. From there we could see the church of St. Callistus, built on the site of his house, the house of a slave. I couldn't help but be moved as we stood looking out. The house of a slave had become a beautiful palace to God over the centuries while the palace of the notorious emperor lay in ruins. Callistus gave his life that we might live, one of the first of many. As Paul was writing his letter to the Romans these things were just being lived out. The faith that Paul was preaching came alive and changed the world. We too can be 'justified', brought alive by faith and can change the world.