

Thoughts on the Daily Word

26th Week of Year. Thursday 2nd October. Readings: Nehemiah 8:1-12; Psalm: 18; Luke 10:1-12.

I am reminded, in this story, of my early schooldays. We had to learn the catechism by heart, along with all the rituals that Catholics were used to in those days. Every year an inspector would come to the school to test us. This visiting priest would go around the classes asking questions of random children. When this torture was over, we were given the day off, hurrah! The law for us was simply the catechism, learnt by heart. Alongside this was the liturgy of Mass and Benediction that we were also trained to know when to genuflect, kneel and stand. We lived by the law of the Church even arguing as to whether swallowing toothpaste before Communion was a mortal sin! It did make us a tight and self-conscious community of the 'other'. I would not have recognised the bible if I had been hit over the head with it. The law was enough. In the Gospel Jesus was sending out his disciples to live out and proclaim freedom. Peace means all the broken pieces made whole, a form of healing that frees people to respond in love. A different kind of community that we are still struggling to make a reality. Our synodal journey will help us to form that community of faith, hope and love.