

Thoughts on the Daily Word

3rd Week of Easter. Thursday 8th May. Readings: Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 65; John 6:44-51.

There are two symbols in play during Eastertime, water, and bread. These are the symbols in this part of the ancient world of life, the two basics that make life possible. In the Church they are described not as things but as actions, life giving actions. Baptism, in our great ‘Geordie’ dialect, means the process of being ‘dunked’! being submerged, immersed in a powerful and decisive act. Being pushed under the water so that you have to fight to come out gasping for breath, truly alive. The eunuch in Acts today, in this lovely story, is a symbol of lifelessness. Philip offers him a new kind of life. Eunuchs were not allowed to be members of Israel because they could not be life givers in a physical sense. They were welcomed into the Church because this was a new kind of life. The eunuch hears about a Saviour who comes alive through suffering, as in the Isaiah’s Song of the Suffering Servant, he then asks for this life for himself. Our Gospel stories are about the Eucharist. Not a thing but an action, of giving thanks. Bread broken and offered. Consumed it becomes life giving.