

**Thoughts on the Daily Word**

*21<sup>st</sup> Week of Year. Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> August. Readings: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Psalm: 139; Matthew 23:23-26.*

In the first reading Paul attests to his unjust suffering in order to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. He explains his prophetic calling as a desire, not for honour, but as a mother caring for her children. We see that same image of care described in the Gospel as mercy, justice and faithfulness. Paul's love for his community reflects that of Jesus in his concern for his people. At the root is a desire to set people free from the bondage of hypocrisy, an idolatry that leaves people enslaved to sin.