

Thoughts on the Daily Word

28th Week of Year. Wednesday 15th October. Readings: Romans 2:1-11; Psalm: 61; Luke 11:42-46.

We live in a time of so-called, ‘culture wars’. This is hard to grasp for most of us, I think. It seems to me to be about judging others all the time. We judge others by the colour of their skin, their fashion, their music and even where they come from. Judging is an important faculty for all of us, it keeps us safe and allows us to make, hopefully, wise judgments on how to live our lives. It is at the root of religious faith, deciding what is right or wrong and choosing the good path in life. It is what allows us to hold on to the truth, as we perceive it. Our whole legal system is built on making judgments, as Jesus points out to the lawyers or scribes. Judgments alone can, however, be dangerous. This is why our faith encourages us to always relate judgment with mercy. The first can lead to pogroms and genocides. The second allows us to see the humanity of our brothers and sisters. The first alone can lead to exclusions the second to inclusion, Jew and Gentile.