

Thoughts on the Daily Word

3rd Week of Easter. Wednesday 7th May. Readings: Acts 8:1-8; Psalm 65; John 6:35-40.

In Acts we hear of the pattern of the Paschal Mystery being played out in the early Church. Persecution begins, people suffer and flee, the Church comes alive. This persecution, beginning with Stephen, will be the making of the Church as a mission. The flight of the early Christians from Jerusalem forces them to see the new community in a bigger perspective and opens them up to the gentile world. The Samaritans, hated enemies of the Jews, become converts, an important new addition to the early Church. Again, it is Philip, a deacon, who so ably proclaims and witnesses to the Gospel. The Gospel of John too proclaims a Jesus who welcomes all who come to him and who does not lose anything that his Father gives to him. We begin to see the 'catholic' dimension of the Church. It will be a struggle to let go of tribal customs and attitudes, but it will be Saul himself who spearheads that victory. Once again it is the Paschal Mystery that triumphs.