

Thoughts on the Daily Word

10th Week of Year. Thursday 11th June. Readings: 1 Kings 18:41-46; Psalm 65; Matthew 5:20-26.

The Law can be seen as simply external relationships, what I do to those around me and what they do to me. Jesus challenges us to go deeper into relationships such as even going to court with hate or contempt for others is destructive of community. The issues that we are facing with racism or bigotry in all its forms are challenging us with precisely this issue. Our civil laws no longer allow us to discriminate against others yet somehow racism or discrimination certainly still exists. The new protests are not as simple anymore which is why statues seem so much more important. They are symbols of what is going on inside us, things that we don't always want to recognise. The Catholic Church is rich in symbolism but sometimes we don't recognise their power to become idols. Instead of helping us to change, symbols can just make us comfortable in our sinfulness. Removing statues can have the same effect as they did in the Reformation time, it can just drive things further underground and can make it easier to hide what is going on inside. Elijah's prayer for water is a prayer for life. Harboring contempt or hatred of others leads to death, in me as well as those around me.