

Thoughts on the Daily Word

Thursday after Ash Wednesday. 19th February. Readings: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm: 1; Luke 9:22-25.

Lent is a time of choice and decision. Right at the beginning we hear from Moses that the Israelites have a choice. This choice time is modelled on the journey through the desert we call the Exodus. The Israelites constantly grumble about leaving the fleshpots of Egypt for the struggle in the desert. In the desert journey they learn to trust God and become a nation. From a rabble of ex-slaves, drawn from the flotsam and jetsam of the Middle East, they become a people with a mission. This is the plan anyway! Time and time again they fall back into their old ways and abandon their God and time and time again God allows them to suffer the consequences and then calls back a remnant. Every Lent we become again that remnant. Not the victors, masters of all we survey, but weak and vulnerable and totally dependent on God. So Lent is not a success story of great achievements but a recognition that it is in our failure that God reaches out to us, and all we need is to trust in him. That is the real journey of Lent.

