

Thoughts on the Daily Word

1st Week of Lent. Thursday 26th February. Readings: Esther 4:17; Psalm: 137; Matthew 7:7-12.

Like Jonah yesterday, Esther faces a challenge. She is probably safe, as the wife of the king, but her community is heading for destruction. She has a choice, just like the aspiring Christian. Baptism places the new Christian in a place of responsibility, a ministry and a mission, two ways of describing the vocation of the Christian. Esther puts her life on the line, a seemingly crazy decision, that only makes sense with a real commitment to her community. For her that community comes with birth, for the Christian it comes with call and response. The beginning of the journey that we now call Advent is a listening to that Word, spoken in our hearts, the beginning of the dialogue of faith. The second stage is building into that community of faith and absorbing the Word. Now the third asks for and tests our decision of faith. The Gospel is about that dialogue with God. An encounter that leads to an intimate relationship that God respects, hence he leaves it to Esther and to us to initiate that dialogue. God of course holds us in the palm of his hand, but he needs us to grow in a relationship of trust and love, to step out in faith. Esther and we take that mighty step of trust, and, as the story unfolds, God reaches out to us, changing the world in which we live and breathe.