

## **Thoughts on the Daily Word**

*2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Lent. Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March. Readings: Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm: 1; Luke 16:19-31.*

It seems, in this sequence of Lenten readings, that we are being challenged to see things in a different light. Things that we took for granted or assumed as acceptable, are not what they seem. The distance between the rich and the poor could be found on any street while the ideology of the day simply said that they got what they deserved. It remains an ideology that defends the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer. It asks us to see our lives in a different light. To ask the difficult question as to why? Even when he is in Hades the rich man still considers Lazarus a servant. Perhaps this is the root, when we think of others as different from us. Many years ago, when I was teaching, I accompanied a group of 6<sup>th</sup> Formers on retreat to Holy Island. The first night we went to the pub and stayed singing and making music with a group of yacht owners who happened to be staying. My young people were all from the poor part of Newcastle, but the night was a great celebration, with everyone mixing well. The next night the yacht people turned up expecting another night only to find our youngsters quieter and wanting just a sociable night with their new friends. When the rich yacht people didn't get what they wanted they treat our young people with contempt, insulted and then ignored them. It was not a pretty sight and the divide between rich and poor struck me deeply. With God's grace our youngsters behaved with dignity and courtesy and simply left. A lesson I have never forgotten.