

Thoughts on the Daily Word

18th Week of Year. Thursday 6th August. Readings: Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord: Daniel 7:9-10,13-14; Psalm 96; Gospel: Mark 9:2-10.

Speaking truth continues. Jesus is a Teacher, someone to whom God requests that we listen. Compulsory schooling has, in many ways, crippled the vocation of teaching. When I was studying to be a schoolteacher, we studied the effects of compulsory schooling that began in the middle of the nineteenth century and was essentially training of children for the new industries of the Industrial Revolution. We are largely back to that now with education seen simply as preparation for work, to keep the economy going. Teaching and learning had a much wider sense of developing just who we were in times past. The revelation of Jesus is revealing just who he is and listening to him points us to who we are. In Daniel, written about two centuries before Christ, though set in the much earlier past, the Jewish people were facing an identity crisis through occupation and persecution by the evil empires that followed the conquests of Alexander the Great. The crisis largely lay in facing the dominant Greek culture of the time. Today's feast then is not just a memory of Jesus preparing his disciples for his death by a preview of the Resurrection. It is a pointer to showing us how to discover just who we are, both individually and as a Church/People. Being taught by Jesus, walking in his footsteps, allows us to share his new life, Resurrection, and ourselves fully revealed.