

Thoughts on the Daily Word

Christmas Season. Thursday 8th January. Readings: 1 John 4:7-10; Psalm: 71; Gospel: Mark 6:34-44.

The need to eat is one of the most basic of human needs. Hunger, literally, gnaws away at us, reducing us, very quickly to nothing. This appears to be what our readings are affirming in these days. Just as John describes love of one another as one of the most basic human needs so the Gospel sees Jesus responding to the poverty of the poor in their hunger. Both stories reach back into the history of salvation, not as an ideology but as a connection with real people experiencing real suffering and a God who reaches out in love. The Exodus story of manna in the desert is the most basic and take us back to that pattern. Soon we will see Jesus being baptised in the river Jordan emphasising the first stage of the Exodus story and the beginning of the entry into the Promised Land, a home still in the making, as the destruction of Jerusalem once again will show in 70 AD. The journey is not just geographical or historical but real for each one of us now.