

Thoughts on the Daily Word

15th Week of Year. Thursday 16th July. Readings: Isaiah 26:7-9,12,16-19; Psalm 101; Matthew 11:28-30.

When I was a young teenager, for some reason I was always attached to the title of Mary as ‘Seat of Wisdom’. It was many years before I understood what it meant but somehow it always attracted me. Perhaps because I always knew that I needed wisdom! It was only many years later that I came to the biblical sense of what wisdom meant. I’m still no expert on it but wisdom does seem to be something lacking in today’s world. We look for the best science, or more facts, or just wealth and power. Our education system seems to be similarly distorted at times. Fixated on skills and knowledge sometimes and missing out on truth and moral virtue for its own sake. That may be a gross generalisation and unfair to many good teachers, but the system itself seems to be built around achievement rather than the personal. Wisdom, to me, demands much more than knowledge and skills, important as they are. It comes from the person, the inner being. It leads to good decisions, in other words, moral choices. Personal morality, in its wider sense, that forms who we are, including our mistakes and failures, is the source and direction of our lives. I think that we have always known that a disordered personal life, something that we all suffer from, while it can teach us a lot, fundamentally makes it difficult to make wise decisions. Jesus talks about his ‘yoke’ in today’s Gospel. Essentially a yoke gave direction, its weight depended on what you had to pull. Jesus offers us direction, in other words, wisdom, emanating from the Holy Spirit. His yoke is light because it is essentially us, we are pulling or forming. It is who we are, the more we resist that harder it gets.