

Thoughts on the Daily Word

6th Week of Easter. Tuesday 12th May. Readings: Acts 16:22-34; Psalm 137; John 16:5-11.

Many years ago, when I was about 13 years old, I was aware of a desire to be a priest. I had no idea what that would entail. I was in 'B' stream in a Secondary Modern School with little educational prospects. My Parish Priest and my parents, sensibly, did not take me seriously. At the time I just felt something of a failure, but I also felt an inner voice for the first time. I did not really know about the Holy Spirit, known as the Holy Ghost in those days. This voice said that you will know when you are 17. I'm not sure I believed the voice, but it helped me to let go and trust. Just wait and see. Sure enough, totally unexpectedly I had an overwhelming experience of God's call and a great love of the Mass when I was 17. It would take me a long time to be ready to enter the priesthood but in all that time I knew that God was real and was communicating with me, in a way I just didn't understand. It wasn't until I was 30 that I discovered the Holy Spirit as a living power that brought me into my present ministry. Jesus spent a long time preparing his disciples to listen and trust the voice and power of the Spirit. It often takes a lifetime for us to trust his presence and to know that he is the voice of Jesus in our lives. Jesus today is preparing us for that voice and that trust.