

Thoughts on the Daily Word

1st Week of Lent. Tuesday 24th February. Readings: Isaiah 55:10-11; Psalm: 33; Matthew 6:7-15.

The Lectionary in Lent doesn't just follow the Gospel or other readings. It forms themes that create the Lenten rhythm. Today might just seem a reminder to pray properly. Isaiah though gives us a clue in his description of the power of the Word of God. The Word is the Plan of God, his purpose for each one of us. It tells us at the beginning of the Season that what follows is the plan of God to bring us, through the Paschal Mystery, to the fulfilment of our calling or vocation, his Plan. The Lord's Prayer invites us to say 'yes' in obedience to his Will. Lent is the stage that the RCIA calls Purification and Enlightenment. This is stage three and in the early Church would not have happened for several years after becoming a Catechumen, the second stage. This third stage is the testing stage when the Catechumen is challenged to see whether they are ready to put their lives on the line for Christ and his Church. To be a full and trusted member of the Church in Baptism. Lent for us is the renewal of our vocation as a member of the Church, the Body of Christ. We are tested again to see where our priorities are. Is Christ and his Body at the centre of our lives. We can be reassured that God's Plan for us, his Word, is being fulfilled in us now. This allows this time to be a joyful season.