

**Thoughts on the Daily Word**

*4<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter. Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April. Readings: Acts 11:19-26; Psalm 86; John 10:22-30.*

At the centre of the Gospel is again the idea of ‘oneness’. The Father and I are one. This is again the Catholic sense right at the very root of the Gospel. It breaks out of the separateness of its Jewish matrix. So powerful is this sense of oneness that it cannot be contained in the symbols of Judaism, such as the Temple. Eternal life takes on a new dimension. More than just an unending life but a life that embraces all things. Resurrection, Ascension and Pentecost are all needed to embrace this eternal life. It is explosive and forces the leaders of the early Church to send Barnabas to check it out. We have already had Peter having to explain breaking food laws and reaching out to gentiles. This wasn’t easy for the early Church. It is precisely this explosive nature of Catholicity that would up-end the whole understanding of what God’s People was all about. Something new was emerging that would require a new name. probably originally intended as an insult it quickly became a badge of honour.