

## **Thoughts on the Daily Word**

*10<sup>th</sup> Week of Year. Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June. Readings: 1 Kings 18:20-39; Psalm 15; Matthew 5:17-19.*

The Law is much more than a series of do's and don'ts, it is a way of life. After standing in queues for weeks during the pandemic waiting to get into food stores, I realised the power of the community. Despite standing for a while in the rain we wait patiently. One day I saw someone jump the queue and boy could you feel the hostility! We British know how to queue, it is part of our life and tradition. The first time I went abroad on pilgrimage to Lourdes there was almost open war between the British and the Italian pilgrims because the Italians just didn't seem to understand queueing! It is our 'Law', among many others. The Law or Tradition tells us who we are as a community. While we can often take it for granted sooner or later, we have to make a decision, to stay in line and respect the sense of what is right or make a decision to reject the community. Elijah challenges his community whether they will observe the Law of their God or go on another path. Ultimately, they would seem to choose that other path with terrible consequences for them. Jesus tells his hearers that he is not rejecting their community but, like Elijah, calling it to move forward to the fulfilment that is the promised New Covenant. That is the challenge that we face too, to be faithful to our Tradition or choose another path.