

Thoughts on the Daily Word

15th Week of Year. Wednesday 15th July. Readings: Isaiah 10:5-7,13-16; Psalm 93; Matthew 11:25-27.

We are back to the personal again. When I struggled, many years ago, with Pope John Paul II, I delved into his story to discover just what made him tick. I was very moved to discover his commitment to the personal in terms of what we might call morale. The ability of the human person to become who they were truly called to be. His own personal journey was amazing and extraordinary and his survival through Nazi and Soviet rule made him the man that he was. Too often we seem to move into the area of the impersonal that destroys our sense of freedom and our ability to imagine something bigger. This lies at the heart of Isaiah and his prophecy about Assyria, the superpower of his time that lasted centuries. It was byword for cruelty for a millennium. And yet, it is described by Isaiah as a tool of Yahweh, the God of tiny, weak, Judah. Against this mighty force Judah can see itself as a winner in the eyes of its God. But only if Judah is faithful to that God and listens to his desire for authentic worship and actions for justice. It is the same pattern that we hear in Jesus. His relationship with God his father, and, in the face of human wisdom, a deeper knowledge of what God is doing. Available to the least and lowliest, the poorest and most ignorant. A personal relationship with the God of Israel and the God of Jesus, Abba.