

Thoughts on the Daily Word

7th Week of Easter. Wednesday 20th May. Readings: Acts 20:28-38; Psalm 67; John 17:11b-19.

It took me over three years of teaching in Walker before I began to understand the possessiveness of Jesus and also of Paul. In my fourth year of teaching, I suddenly discovered that these were my kids. How that happened I am not sure, perhaps Fr. Michael Conaty eventually getting through to me! The words don't do justice to the feeling that began to sweep over me that I had never really felt before. I just cared. I was the first in and often the last out, especially if we were running a disco! For the first few years afterwards, I just thought that it was just those kids that I had fallen for, with all their problems and gifts. Then as I moved school, it happened again. It was during that time that I knew that I was called to be a priest. Other members of staff were even better at it than I was but somehow, I knew that it was my call to let go and be a priest. I even tried to convince the bishop that I could stay and teach in Walker as well as be a parish priest. He was very understanding! Somehow, I knew that 'possessiveness', had to be at the root of ministry and community life. 'Mission to Communion', Pope St. John Paul II described it as in 'Christifideles Laici' back in 1988. It has been my passion ever since and my struggle. It is partly gift and partly cross for someone like me, sometimes all gift and sometimes all cross. Today Jesus is at the Last Supper, sharing his very life with his disciples, so that they know that they will not be lost, no matter what. Paul pours out his life for his fellow disciples. This is what Eucharist is all about I think, it is us pouring out our love, our passion, for each other. Not easy in anybody's language. We need the Holy Spirit.