

**Thoughts on the Daily Word**

*1<sup>st</sup> Week of Lent. Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February. Readings: Jonah 3:1-10; Psalm: 50; Luke 11:29-32.*

Lent is the testing and sealing of our conversion to following Christ, becoming a Christ figure ourselves. In Jonah we see someone called to be a prophet, to proclaim God's Word but he refuses to do it. This is very understandable in Jonah's case! He will put his life on the line. The Assyrians are renowned for their viciousness and cruelty. Also, they were much hated by the Jewish people for the first deportation of the people of the Northern Kingdom, Israel. Put in the context of the early Church in the midst of vicious persecution it is a warning to remember that the call to proclaim God's Word remains, as a Christian, imperative. To go out and evangelise is the root mission of the Christian. It is not a personal conversion only but a call to change the world. The story of Jonah is humorous but placed again at the beginning of Lent it reminds us of the implications of Baptism.