

Thoughts on the Daily Word

4th Week of Easter. Wednesday 29th April. Readings: Acts 12:24-13:5; Psalm 66; John 12:44-50.

One of the unusual things about the story of the early Church is the important role of prophets. Before our settled pattern of bishops, presbyters and deacons was established it would seem that the principal role, after the apostles, was that of prophet. Prophets, like apostles, often travelled from community to community, building up and guiding the local churches. It was the Second Vatican Council that renewed the call of all Christians to be priests, prophets, and kings. This baptismal calling was for all and was to be expressed in different ways by the different ministries in the Church. The priestly ministry, actually recalled to the primitive name of presbyter or elder, was described as serving the priestly ministry of all the God's faithful people. The People of God didn't serve the priests but rather the ministerial priesthood was to serve God's People. We are slowly recovering the prophetic ministry in the Church. In fact, it has always been there, in the guise of many amazing saints, canonised or not! We are also being reminded that we are all apostles and that the ministerial apostolate, the bishops, are at the service of the apostolate of all God's People. We are all intentional disciples, called and gifted to evangelise the world.