

Thoughts on the Daily Word

9th Week of Year. Wednesday 3rd June. Readings: 2 Timothy 1:1-3,6-12; Psalm 122; Mark 12:18-27.

In the summer 1968 I was on my first holiday with three friends walking in the Lake District. One evening in a pub we were joined by a very large group of Czech students on their first visit abroad. This was thanks to the Prague Spring of that year. During that day we had just learned that the Russians had invaded Czechoslovakia to snuff out the Spring. I have never forgotten the emotion of us all that evening as the students were deciding whether to go back or to choose freedom. To us it was an academic choice, to them it was life itself. Paul describes himself as an apostle of life in Christ and describes God's gift as the Spirit of 'power, and love, and self-control'. In the gospel reading the Sadducees, the rich priestly elite of Jerusalem, present a traditional male dominated pattern of power. All intended to keep wealth in their families based on materialism. Essentially squeezing the life out of people. Jesus presents an image of a living God in relationship with all of humanity. It is not just about life after death but life in its fulness. All are alive to God. What a wonderful commitment to life in its fulness! It presents us priests, particularly, with a challenge to be on the side of life in all its challenges.