

Thoughts on the Daily Word

2nd Week of Lent. Wednesday 4th March. Readings: Jeremiah 18:18-20; Psalm: 30; Matthew 20:17-28.

Once again, the disciples of Jesus are competing with him. He has told them that he is leaving, the passion prophecy, and they are probably competing for who would succeed him. We see this time and time again in history and politics. Despite the doom that would seem to be coming they want to know who would be top dog next. Service is not something that seems to come naturally to us in the sense of either suffering or humility. The disciples just ignore what Jesus is saying and focus on an opportunity. Even their mother gets in on the act! Jesus warns them that they will have to drink a cup, which, in the light of his prophetic words, they must understand as sharing in his suffering. This is not what they are after. Even Jeremiah, one of the most moving of the old prophets, recognises the difficulty of serving God and his people. Lent puts us in the place of both Jeremiah and the disciples in sharing God's Word and serving his people.