

Thoughts on the Daily Word:

23rd Week of Year. Wednesday 9th September. Readings of day: 1 Corinthians 7:25-31; Psalm: 44; Gospel: Luke 6:20-26.

When I was a boy I remember seeing on television in black and white the outbreak of World War Two. People sitting in their homes listening to the radio as Neville Chamberlain announced that we were at war with Germany. I was fascinated by wondering just how they must have felt. I knew the outcome and all they had to go through to reach victory. But how must they have felt? It is a cliché now that this, once in a century, pandemic is like wartime, with everyone mobilised to win the battle with it. We have to think somewhat in those terms to understand what was happening to the Corinthians and just what Paul was trying to say. The ancient world was scary and unpredictable, seemingly under the control of strange gods and forces. The Corinthians were looking to this strange man who talked of the end of the world as they knew it. Even though the end did not come as quickly as expected, Paul was inviting them to live as if the end was coming. It was a different perspective on the world. Some were tempted to just enjoy themselves and throw away all inhibitions. Paul must challenge them about what the coming kingdom was about. How they had to live as if it was already here. His advice has stood the test of time, we are to live in expectant faith. The Lord is coming, be there to meet him.