

Thoughts on the Daily Word:

33rd Week of Year. Monday 16th November. Readings of Day: Apocalypse 1:1-4,2:1-5; Psalm: 1; Gospel: Luke 18:35-43.

In 1999 I had a conversion moment on the island of Patmos. I was on a three-day retreat with about 20 people from all over the world. All drawn together by a prophetic Greek lady called Vassula. I only went to support an amazing priest called Fr. Tom Cass who sadly had just lost his brother priest, Fr. Dick. I didn't like foreign holidays or the heat of the Aegean in those days, so I went really kicking and screaming and eaten alive by mozzies! We spent time in the monastery and cave where St. John received the Book of Revelation. It was a very moving experience to witness especially the deep faith of the Greek Orthodox monastery. However, it was having an afternoon break with Tom, floating in a bay, and experiencing the incredible beauty of creation that I realised that I had missed so much in life. The sense of peace and the closeness to creation and God made me realise just how narrow my life had become. From then on, I decided that I had to embrace the world and whatever God had to offer me. My little world expanded to visits to America and above all to Italy where I was blest with so many holy places and countless saints. My favourites were St. Catherine at Siena, Sts. Francis and Clare at Assisi and especially St. Benedict at Subiaco and Monte Cassino. What a world opened up to me. I also looked on the Book of Revelation with new eyes and new hope. Truly my blindness was healed.