

### **Thoughts on the Daily Word:**

*33<sup>rd</sup> Week of Year. Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November. Readings of Day: Apocalypse 3:1-6,14-22; Psalm: 14; Gospel: Luke 19:1-10.*

I feel sorry for the churches mentioned in the Apocalypse. They have obviously been fired up and then suffered from persecutions, probably from fellow Jews and Roman authorities. They seem to have come through this and are possibly exhausted. They are tired and perhaps have lost that first fervour that goes with something new and exciting. We have all been there. What does it take to revive our fervour? It is the same in all human activity. The present storm engulfing the government seems similar. The enthusiastic drive to win Brexit and elections and then getting down to the basic, bread and butter, of government even in the midst of pandemic. The enthusiasts turn to discipline and in-crowd authority. Then it all goes wrong. You could hear people saying to these new Christians, pull your socks up, do what we tell you, be disciplined or else. In other words, back to the law and fear. The confrontation in the life of Zacchaeus is similar. A successful entrepreneur, making money out of the business of collecting taxes. A dangerous and fearful existence during terrorism and Roman occupying brutality. A traitor living among his own people by his wits, hated by most. And what happens? While he is hiding up a tree Jesus sees him and invites himself to his house in full public view. Suddenly there is acceptance, warmth, and humanity. This is what fervour is about. If the churches in the Apocalypse want to rediscover their fervour then they have to rediscover their humanity, in other words, love.