

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

*1<sup>st</sup> Week of Lent. Monday. 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021. Chair of St Peter. 1 Peter 5:1-4; Psalm: 22; Matthew 16:12-19.*

The first full week of Lent is interrupted by a significant feast. It is the celebration of the unity of the Church. The cathedra or chair is the symbol of the unity of the Church. Every bishop has one, but the Petrine Seat is the most significant, a sign of unity of the whole Church, founded on the rock of Peter. This might seem an interruption in the season of Lent but in fact it really emphasises what Lent is all about. The first Sunday of Lent also challenges us to be ready for the battle for unity and today points in the direction of the Church and the means of that unity, the Primacy of Peter. The battle that we saw in the desert yesterday often circles around the role of Peter. The humanity of Peter, and his successors, planted in a real symbol of secular power, is the real challenge for unity. It tells us that we are frail human beings but that by God's grace something special and unique can be accomplished in that humanity. A very fitting reminder for Lent.