

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

*6<sup>th</sup> Week of Year. Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021. Readings of Day: Genesis 6:5-8,7:1-5,10; Psalm: 28; Gospel: Mark 8:14-21.*

The flood story has always fascinated people. Only a few months ago I caught a program on TV revealing the possible whereabouts of the Ark. The power of the sea probably lies behind this fascination, perhaps like the story of the crossing of the Red Sea by Moses. The historical record of Ice Ages and continental shifts are possibly imprinted in our brains as well as the sheer power of water. Many of these stories came from Mesopotamia with its massive flood plain between the mighty rivers of the Tigris and Euphrates. For the Biblical writers water is a life sustainer, a symbol of life itself, a gift of God, but also a means of carrying out of God's retribution. Yeast has similar implications. Before yeast was purified it came from decaying bread that was then placed in a batch of new dough to rise. So, yeast became a symbol of decay and of new life. Before the feast of the Passover all old yeast had to be cleared from the house to make room for the new life of the Passover meal. Again, the symbolism is of death and new life. Fitting symbols as we begin tomorrow the journey through Lent to the Paschal triumph of Christ. Water and yeast bring us through the Exodus story once again.