

## **Reflections on the 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time 21B.**

*Mass: Isaiah 50:5-9; Psalm: 114; James 2:14-18; Mark 8:27-35.*

It is still all about change. How do we make a better world? Where did we fail in Afghanistan? We are individualistic and we tried to make that country the same. We tried to create an elite in the shape of our world. We think that this is where the world is heading. Jesus challenges this presumption of change. He tells us that change can only happen together. It is not black and white. The togetherness of the Taliban is not the togetherness of the Gospel. The individualism of the West is not the same as the individualism of the Gospel either. As always in the Catholic tradition it is both and, not either or. The West called it nation building without understanding what that means. It means building community from the ground up. Much of our Anglo-Saxon world does not understand this. In the pandemic we have struggled to recognise that change has to start from the bottom up. It starts from local people taking responsibility for their own communities, with support from us all. This is the kind of community that Jesus is building in our Gospel story today.