

Thoughts on the Daily Word:

23rd Week of Year. Wednesday 8th September. Birthday B.V.M. Readings: Micah 5:1-4; Psalm: 12; Matthew 1:18-23.

So many times, Our Lady has entered my life in the most unexpected times. Sometimes to give direction but mostly just to encourage and support me. She has been always in the background of my vocation to the priesthood. When I struggled with a calling as a young teenager, she promised me that she would journey with me and told me that my next change would be when I was 17 years of age. Sure enough, much to my surprise, because I couldn't really believe that this could happen, at 17 I had a conversion experience. Shortly after I felt so close to Our Blessed Lady that going to Mass one morning, on this feast day, it stays in my mind vividly, I approached our Parish Priest and asked whether I could sing a hymn to her during Mass. He very gently declined, there were only a few old ladies and me there! Nevertheless, I sang in my heart on this feast day, and it has been special to me ever since. Our readings speak to me of a belonging and a family that only a mother can really bring, despite much of it being about fatherhood, apologies to Joseph here! They tell us that God has a plan for each one of us that is better called a mystery. Really an unfolding drama of love beyond our understanding.