

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

*2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Year. Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2023, Readings: : Hebrews 9:2-3,11-14; Psalm: 46; Gospel: Mark 3:20-21.*

Mark's Gospel is usually considered the first and most primitive. In other words, perhaps closest to not only the time of Jesus but also reflecting the experience of the primitive Church. Mark sees the division between Jesus and his family as a reflection of the experience of the first Christians, especially those in the gentile world. Separation from the Jewish community left these first Jewish Christians experiencing isolation and perhaps desolation.

Remembering that in the ancient world family was everything, even life itself. The story of the Temple worship was also about life. Temples were like abattoirs in that world and provided meat for all, usually at a cost. The story of true worship is about the Eucharist ultimately and it is about how we come to a deeper life. The Eucharist was not a meeting of isolated people, as is so often today, but a gathering of those who would lay down their lives for each other. This was a different kind of life the Letter to the Hebrews is trying to describe. It is not a ritual but a matter of life and death and risen life.