

Thoughts on the Daily Word:

2nd Week of Year. Wednesday 18th January 2023, Readings: Hebrews 7:1-3,15-17; Psalm: 109; Gospel: Mark 3:1-6.

The foundational figure of the Covenant is Abraham. It is his response to the call of God to leave his homeland, in modern day Iraq, that begins the journey of the people God has chosen as his own. It is a very fragile journey, with many twists and turns, successes and failures. A very human journey, revealing the very best and the very worst of human relationships. We also must repeat the story of Abraham in our own lives, listening to God's call to leave comfort and safety and set out to fulfil God's dream for his world, of which each one of us is an essential part. Even Abraham has to recognise his limitations so as to learn how to trust in God. Melchizedek is the symbol of his limitations, even Abraham must bow before this strange figure while hearing the prophecy of the future king from his progeny. This is an empowerment prophecy that will be seen as preparing the way for Jesus who will be a 'king of peace'. This is meant to be an empowerment too for us as we take on the mantle of this king. Our Gospel reflects this empowerment in the healing of a withered hand. Hands, especially the right hand, depict power, especially in relationships. A withered hand can signify withered capacity to relate. This 'withering' depicts the effects of rule keeping on human relationships. How true!