

Thoughts on the Daily Word:

3rd Week of Year. Wednesday 25th January 2023, Conversion of St. Paul.

Readings: Acts 9:1-22; Psalm: 116; Gospel: Mark 16:15-18.

The story of the conversion of St. Paul is still one of the most moving images of Paul's life and ministry. This is literally metanoia, the turning around from one direction to another. The full conversion would still take time before he was ready to undertake the amazing work of evangelising the gentile world and changing the nascent Church forever. Paul changed from violence to being a peace maker. Like Jesus he would lay down his life again and again rather than lift a hand in anger. This seems to me the most remarkable part of his conversion. He personally sought out the followers of Jesus, the Way, seeing them being punished and perhaps, like Stephen, being killed. Perhaps he too threw stones. His strength would become something different, risking his own torture and death to proclaim and live out the love of Christ Jesus. Maybe that was the bit that took him so many years to reach.