

## **Reflections on 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Year A.**

*Mass: Isaiah 55:6-9; Psalm 144; Philippians 1:20-24,27; Matthew 20:1-16.*

Jesus was a revolutionary. He wasn't a moralist or a preacher of wisdom, even though all of these things are there in his stories. We have tended to domesticate Jesus over the centuries, to make him fit into what is socially acceptable. We live in a zero hours culture that we have grown to accept, just as the until the last two centuries, we accepted slavery. We also accepted men waiting at the factory gate or the dock entrance every day hoping for a few hours of work to feed their families. That is the starting point of today's story. I grew up listening to terrible stories of my grandfather having to beg for a job outside Vickers on Scotswood Road. Of having to pay a part of his meagre wage to the foreman to get that job. This is the real challenge of today's Gospel. Jesus describes a God who wants human beings to have the dignity of work and enough money to feed themselves and their families. One denarius was the accepted daily wage. The story also confronts human envy and greed that allows such situations to exist. We have to accept that it exists in every human heart, comparing myself with others and seeing them wanting. Not accepting with gratitude this generous God who wants all to have the opportunity to live.