

Thoughts on the Daily Word

13th Week of the Year. *Saturday 6th July. Readings: Amos 9:11-15; Psalm 84; Matthew 9:14-17.*

We live in divided times, or 'culture wars' as it is known. Populism or liberalism are just one way of describing this division. The Church worldwide is not immune to this. There are those who see our Pope as dividing our church, symbolising two different kinds of Catholicism, divided by different ways of looking at Vatican 11 or even rejecting it. To describe them as cultural divisions is a way of saying that our divisions tend to cluster in patterns, which is why we often describe them as left or right. A way of describing extremes dating back to the French Parliament in the late 19th century where members sat in a fan shaped pattern. Instinctively they sat as far as possible from their supposed rivals. Amazing how history embeds our divisions through language and symbolism. A superficial reading of Scripture can embed the same kind of division when we hear of judgments and condemnations. As we are in the midst of divisions over abortion, we need to keep in mind our need to heal divisions while holding on to the truth. The prophets always seem to be able to balance the judgment of God with promises of blessings. Even in Amos who savages the idol worshipping and injustices of the Israelites still proclaims the promise of God for future blessing. Jesus does the same in his controversy with the pharisees. Despite harsh words he still likens the kingdom to a coming wedding feast. Just as Amos prophesies copious amounts of wine, so does Jesus, in leakproof containers even!