

Thoughts on the Daily Word

17th Week of the Year. *Tuesday 30th July. Readings: Jeremiah 14:17-22; Psalm 78; Gospel: Matthew 13:36-43.*

In the midst of suffering and disaster there is hope, Jeremiah tells God's people. Matthew has the same message to the small group of Christians struggling to live their faith in a Jewish context. The darnel is all around us, but our task is to hold on to our hope, that is Christ, and God will triumph. Amid the temptation to despair the psalm ends with a promise of those who are faithful to Yahweh to continue to give thanks and praise. This reminds us of our principal task as God's People, what we call liturgy. Literally the service of prayer and praise. So often we resort to these things only when we are on the point of losing hope or even faith. Our principal task is what Vatican Two called the 'source and summit' of our Christian life, the Liturgy. Whether it is joining in the Liturgy of the Hours, the Liturgy of the Eucharist or simply lifting our hearts in prayer and praise, it is the ground of our faith. Not a manipulation of God but simply knowing that he is there for us, and he has a plan!