

### **Thoughts on the Daily Word**

21<sup>st</sup> Week of the Year. *Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August. Readings: 1 Corinthians 1:17-25; Psalm: 32; Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13.*

Watching the chaos on the streets of some American cities and the underlying ethos of individual rights, even to carrying weapons, reminds me of the Wild West. To those of us who grew up on the black and white films of cowboys and Indians plus the old wartime films of good versus evil, white hats versus black hats it sounds so familiar. What those old wartime films represented was the struggle for individual liberty as against fundamentalist despotism, of both fascist and communist kinds. The real secret in wartime was the ability to work together whilst defending human dignity and freedom. It is a permanent human struggle. Played out vividly today between Ms. Harris and Mr. Trump. Each calling the other a threat to human freedom, each with their own version of how to work together. Paul is engaged in the same struggle in the Badlands of Corinth, a kind of capitalist wild west. He is trying to get them today to focus on Christ, his death and resurrection and what it means for them. For Paul it is the secret of real human fulfilment through the community of the Body of Christ. The cross is the centre of their faith, a love beyond anything that they can really comprehend. The Eucharist is the place where it is lived out, a surrender of love, broken and shared. The Gospel story has these girls on the edge of the mystery of love, the bride and groom, Christ, and his Church. The girls have a choice, to be prepared to light the fire of love with the oil of the Spirit or not. All of us have moments of sleepiness, but when the time comes to come alive with love, are we ready?