

Reflections on the 26th Sunday Ordinary Time 24B.

Mass: Numbers 11:25-29; Psalm: 18; James 5:1-6; Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48.

We are hearing about party conferences at the moment, especially that of the Labour Party. Divisions galore! The far left challenging the Prime Minister and demanding pure socialism. In Afghanistan the Taliban are now divided and quarrelling with each other about who has the 'pure' doctrine. The environmentalists are divided as well with some gluing themselves to roads to insist on the 'purity' of their protests. To top it all the Church is divided in some parts of the world about the Holy Father and what kind of synodal Church he wants. All because some are in possession of the 'pure' or 'right' doctrine to believe in. It seems that every group that wants to change the world becomes divided and challenged. Jesus is teaching his disciples about how to be a true community of the kingdom and immediately they want to reject someone without the 'right' qualifications, 'they' are not one of 'them'. The answer of Jesus is the ultimate embrace of the kingdom, 'anyone who is not against us is for us'.