

Thoughts on the Daily Word

25th Week of the Year. *Friday 27th September. Readings: Ecclesiastes 3:1-11; Psalm: 143; Gospel: Luke 9:18-22.*

There are two words for time in Greek. There is chronological time, which is the passing of time and seasons. Then there is 'Kairos' time. This is the time when appropriate action is taken. Action or non-action requires decisions. It is really appropriate at this time of pandemic when we have both the scientific evidence and the need to make appropriate and timely decisions whether to act or not. It is urgent in these times but really it happens all of the time. These concepts of time really go together but discernment is needed to know just how they work together. It can be described as a kind of rhythm that can change suddenly. Watching for that rhythm is the work of true discernment. The Scripture provides tools for that process and that is lived out in the life and tradition of the community we call Church, those who are called out by God to share that wisdom with our broken world. Often, we feel the challenge of when to move but also, we need to know when to let ourselves be carried. The Church's liturgy provides something of that base rhythm that just carries us in a yearly cycle of prayer and reflection. Today's Gospel shows Jesus in the need of prayer and then revealing what he sees will come, rejection, death, and new life. This will demand action, the need to be ready when the time comes. The disciples struggle with that. They are on a roll and don't yet understand how to see the signs of the times. Vatican 11 reminded us that our important task was to seek the signs of the times and be ready to act. That needs constant prayer.