

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

22<sup>nd</sup> Week of the Year. *Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Readings: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; Psalm: 118; Gospel: Luke 4:16-30.*

Paul today expresses the heart of his message, the proclamation of a crucified messiah, or Christ. It is a contradiction in terms. To be a saviour, someone who brings people to the fulness of life, who saves them from everything that diminishes their life, is himself killed! It is hard for us to overestimate the terminology and its meaning to the people of the time. To us they carry profound religious meaning. To the people of the time, they were mainly political expressions along with the very word 'evangelion' itself. A word used in Greek to describe the imperial or royal proclamations to their peoples of edicts or the ascendance to power. The Messiah or Christ figure was an expected leader who would free the people. 'Saviour' had these connotations as well as links to the sense of health and wellbeing. Crucifixion was linked to the worst kind of criminal, a traitor to the ruler and his people. It was right that these two names were put together for Jesus but unfortunate for our own time that they have been domesticated to an almost personal name for this man. They should be a proclamation, a mission statement as we would say today. This is what this madman, Paul of Tarsus means when he proclaims a crucified saviour, a revolution! How could the meanest, most despised and ridiculed become world shattering and world saving? This is the good news of Luke, a disciple of Paul, this is the Magnificat in real terms, a reversal. Hold on to Christ!