

Thoughts on the Daily Word

25th Week of the Year. *Thursday 26th September. Readings: Ecclesiastes 1:2-11; Psalm: 89; Gospel: Luke 9:7-9.*

The readings today seem to continue the challenge to accepted wisdom. Tradition had it that Ecclesiastes was written by Solomon, considered to be one of the wisest monarchs of his time. In fact, it was probably written about three centuries before Christ, much later. It does, however, question accepted wisdom, the wisdom of the powerful. In the Gospel reading we hear of people seeking answers from the accepted pattern of authority and power, priests and prophets, stories from the past. Even Herod, who has executed John the Baptist, wonders who this could be and even seems to wonder whether it could be him back to life. Perhaps, rather, a boast that he could deal with any threat. There is, perhaps, a clue in the word 'vanity' used in Ecclesiastes. According to experts the original word denotes the breath of wind that comes and goes. Perhaps we are back in the realm of the Spirit, the wind that blows as it will. Something new and radical is happening by the power of God's Spirit. Jesus is not simply a continuation of the past but a Messiah who ushers in a new world order. An order based on the Divine Spirit of Love.