

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

22<sup>nd</sup> Week of the Year. *Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September. Readings: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Psalm: 32; Gospel: Luke 4:38-44.*

Jesus acts with a natural authority but he is faced with people who have a natural selfishness and self-concern. They want to hold on to Jesus. It would appear from the Gospels that Capernaum desired to become a great city. In fact, it would shortly disappear off the face of the earth, something which Jesus prophesied. This desire to hold on to things, especially when they could give us access to wealth or power, bedevils even the early Church. Listening to Luke in Acts we sometimes get the impression of a wonderful, united and loving Church. The Pauline letters, which are the earliest Christian writings, tell us a different tale. Of frail and struggling human beings fighting amongst themselves for power and control, competing with each other, often in groups. Paul is challenging that rivalry among the Corinthians, and there will be more to come! Paul is telling them to focus on Christ, not on all the other things that could destroy the new community. For that is what Jesus is doing, rebuilding the People of God, not pandering to small group politics, to which even the Church is always prone. The mission of Christ is our mission Paul is telling the Corinthians, as it is indeed ours.