

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

30<sup>th</sup> Week of the Year. *Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October. Readings: Ephesians 4:32-5:8; Psalm: 1; Gospel: Luke 13:10-17.*

I was quite a shy and lonely child. Friends were things other people had. Looking back, I realise that I did have some friends, but they just weren't close friends or good friends. It took me some time into my teens before I understood how to make good friends and keep them. How to be faithful in friendships we often have to learn the hard way. Looking back over my life I realise that I often just walked away when something or someone new happened along. I do remember how precious it was when I found friends. I always remembered what it was like not to have them. In my time as a priest, I have been blest by many kind and loving friends wherever I have been. The sadness has been having to move on to new parishes and start all over again, often losing contact with old friends. I am aware of Jesus calling his disciples his friends and this has seemed to me the root of who we are as Christians. Paul invites us to be friends with one another and then describes what that friendship looks like, to be children of light, in other words to see properly. That insight into others and their needs is so visible in the approach of Jesus to this unknown woman, bent with suffering. Jesus sees the need and reaches out to touch and bring healing. Surely that is what friendship is all about, to see the need for the touch of healing that brings wholeness.