

Thoughts on the Daily Word

30th Week of the Year. *Thursday 31st October. Readings: Ephesians 6:10-20; Psalm: 143; Gospel: Luke 13:31-35.*

Paul uses images of war and violence in today's readings. He subverts the use of weapons and violence by comparing them with the weapons of Christ. In the early Church it was largely unacceptable to be a soldier in the Church. It wasn't forbidden but was accepted that non-violence went with being a Christian. This moved on in the story of the Church especially when the Empire became Christian, then to be a soldier could mean defending the Christian community and it became seen as form of Christian service. Our Gospel story almost invites Jesus to confront Herod and misuse of power. Jesus does challenge Herod, and all those who will be revealed as being in collusion with him and Pilate. He does this like Paul, not by violence but by transforming violence and corruption into something different through the power of the cross.