

Reflections on the 31st Sunday Ordinary Time 24B.

Mass: Deuteronomy 6:2-6; Psalm: 17; Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 12:28-34.

Jesus is now in Jerusalem and gathering his disciples around him, continuing to form a new community of faith centred on God's kingdom, not some human creation. The scribe and Jesus agree on what is at the heart of the Jewish faith, a total commitment to the God of Israel. Loving God is the prayer every Jewish person would use every day. This is about the community, not some sentimental or devotional exercise. Our culture sentimentalises the expression of love but to the old world, pre-Enlightenment, it meant belonging. Jesus is moving away from the old world of division to embrace a new community, God's People. We name it 'catholic' so that it embraces everyone. Loving says God and our neighbour belong together.