

**Thoughts on the Daily Word**

34<sup>th</sup> Week of the Year. Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November. *Readings: Apoc. 20:1-4,11-21:2; Psalm: 83; Gospel: Luke 21:29-33.*

Often, when I choose readings for funeral services, I choose the last part of this reading from the Apocalypse. It always fills me with hope, a hope that we will come together no matter what the cost. The new Jerusalem is such a powerful vision of us all coming together again. Our faith that none will be lost except those who choose to be lost, and who chooses to be lost? It is a vision of God's amazingly powerful mercy that can transform us into wholeness. The reading is a story of victory over suffering and a witness to the power of God to overcome our brokenness. The victory of the martyrs is a victory of those who witness to the love of God in the face of evil. Jesus says that when we see that witness, we will know that the kingdom of God is real and present. It will happen in every age and generation if we but have the eyes to see and ears to hear!