

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

34<sup>th</sup> Week of the Year. Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November. *Readings: Apoc. 18:1-2,21-23,19:1-3,9; Psalm: 99; Gospel: Luke 21:20-28.*

Just as the Exodus story is the bottom line of all the events of the Scripture so the Exile in Babylon, also built on Exodus, is also at the root of the symbolism of the Scripture. It is possible that the mention of Babylon in the Apocalypse is partly a protection against treason charges but mainly a code for the initiated to understand. The appalling destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70AD had a huge effect on Jews and Christians alike, most scattered over the Mediterranean world. In our Gospel of Luke, we have Jesus predicting disaster on the city just as Jeremiah and the other prophets did in the 6<sup>th</sup> Century BC when the Babylonians destroyed the city and wiped out the nation of Israel. The Apocalypse predicts the fall of Rome, symbol, and source of the suffering of the Christian community. The question for us now is just what does that symbol of domination mean for us today? It is the personification of evil and corruption so where does that lie today? For many that could be seen in the evils of our time, certain forms of political oppression such as communism or fascism. Or perhaps the economic structures that impoverish so much of our world. Perhaps the liberal culture that promotes abortion, euthanasia, or eugenics. It is too easy to pin the name Babylon/Rome on our pet hates. Maybe it is also something within each one of us as we all take part in structures of injustice, racism, and many others. Even the Church itself is not immune. Not easy answers and lots of prayer needed alongside the hope that the Apocalypse invites us to share.