

Thoughts on the Daily Word

31st Week of the Year. Tuesday 5th November. Readings: *Philippians 2:5-11; Psalm: 21; Gospel: Luke 14:15-24.*

The pandemic year seemed to have had two principal effects on me. The first is the most obvious, loneliness. A realisation of just how important it was to have friends around me to share with. The second for me was not so obvious. Introversion. The time that that I spent trying to read, think and pray plus the hours of walking and cycling on my own. So much time in thought essentially about me and what I am up to and suffering. Me, me and more me! I really feared that once all this was over; I would be so self-focused that I wouldn't be able to function at all. In Luke's Gospel, so different from Matthew, the parable of self-obsessed people who can't act with generosity to someone who wants to invite them to a great party. Sometimes now I wonder whether I could cope with a party, I am so out of practice! So inside myself that I might be too terrified to go out. It is easy to point the finger at these people in the story but behind this there are people like us, unwilling or unable to engage because they are too busy sorting out their lives. Philippians is the challenge to look outside of oneself. The one good thing about the walking along the riverside is that with nature you can feel drawn out of yourself into this beautiful creation. Carried along by something bigger than me. Letting go of my self-concern and allowing the big picture to hold and carry me. Maybe that is the Word made flesh.