

Thoughts on the Daily Word

4th Week of Advent. Monday 23rd December. Readings: Malachi 3:1-4,23-24; Psalm: 24; Gospel: Luke 1:57-66.

Malachi the messenger says that the sons of Levi will be purified before the coming of the Messiah. Purifying the priesthood to make the acceptable offering is the purpose of the Elijah figure. To me this reminds me that all of us are priests, we are a priestly people, just as we are prophetic and kingly. This purification is epitomised in the priestly figure of Zechariah. From being lifeless he becomes life giving, to his wife Elizabeth, and John is the result. From being dumb he can speak when he recognises the prophetic word of Elizabeth and says yes to her calling their son John. In that movement our own conversion seems to be symbolised. These two women, one old and one young, both of little significance in their world, challenge the men to conversion. Maybe that is the biggest challenge we face, listening to the little ones of this world.