

Thoughts on the Daily Word

Christmas Season. Monday 6th January. Readings: 1 John 3:22-4:6; Psalm: 2; Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17,23-25.

The light shines out from yesterday across the world. Today's Gospel takes us into the realm of the cockpit of Israelite history. Galilee was a place of invasion and division in the story of Israel. Known as 'Galilee of the nations' because of the many traditions and histories of the peoples of the area. The kingdom that Jesus is proclaiming is not a sectarian movement but an embracing of all the peoples of Galilee and reaching out even to Syria and Lebanon. This is a new kind of renewal movement. John echoes this in the first reading when he emphasises the human nature of Christ. This is not an ideology or a rule book but a relationship. The light is ultimately a light of peace between people and nations. John warns his community that the test of humanity must be the basic test of the spirits.