

Thought for the week
Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

My power is at its best in weakness. 2 Corinthians 12:9

The readings this week are again rich in messages for contemplation. The urging to be God's messenger in the first reading; the advice to turn our eyes towards God in the psalm; the Gospel message that we should not be blind to the greatness of those everyday, familiar encounters. I have chosen to focus on a phrase in the Epistle that gives me great hope and strength when I need it – that reminds me of how much I need God.

Paul has been given a wonderful experience, and then grounded by a '*thorn in the flesh*'! Despite his pleas to be rid of this '*thorn*', he is told that God is best served when Paul is weak. God is not being cruel – He is the God of Love after all – but, rather, is calling on Paul to rely on Him. The weakness is not that of sinfulness, or wrongdoing – it is of fragility and humility. Paul explains that he is '*quite content*' to endure '*insults, hardship, persecution and ...agonies*' for his Lord.

These are the weaknesses that allow God to strengthen His servant. In accepting these actions on the part of others, Paul is not being arrogant, or relying on his own wit to rebut insult or persecution. He is not running away from his faith to protect himself, he is not taking the easier path. He is humbly submitting to the will of others so that he can better serve God's will – and thereby allow God's power to show.

We are told to turn the other cheek, to trust in the Lord when all around us is seemingly chaos, to '*let go and let God*'. This is the weakness He seeks. The human weakness to say your will, not mine. The human weakness to acknowledge that we are nothing, we accomplish nothing, without God's saving presence and God's perfect love.

Today, and every day throughout the coming week, why not follow Father Michael's beautiful suggestion to the children after Mass at school - take a moment to be silent and just let God love you. Let God's power '*stay over*' you. Let God fill you with His strength. Let His strength support your weaknesses; and make you content.

A Parishioner