

Thought for the week
21st Sunday of the Year (B)
25th August 2018

As the start of term approaches with one last bank holiday to enjoy, I am mindful that I have negotiated the Summer holiday with my teenage children with a fair amount of nagging. *“Go out and make the most of the hot weather, sunshine and your free time.”* seems to have been my battle cry.

I am very aware that my children spend too much time in front of screens — on their laptops, the x-box, phones and tvs—they seem to flit from one to the other and all take time away from everyday interactions and conversations. Even for those of us who do not play x-box, there are things that may have crept into our lives and we have allowed their importance to be elevated to a greater degree, so that our time is disproportionately taken up with them.

Whilst Joshua in today’s first reading talks about the Gods of our ancestors, I wonder are technology, the internet, Instagram and Facebook the false gods of the 21st century.

How much time do we devote to checking our emails, answering texts on our phones and clicking ‘like’ on our Facebook accounts — how many box sets or on demand episodes of our favourite tv series do we binge watch? Compare this to how much time we spend in conversation with God.

This weekend I am going to ask God to give me the grace to disentangle myself from the subtle worship of other ‘gods’ so that I may devote more time to serving the Lord our God.