

Thought for the Week
28th July 2019
17th Sunday in Ordinary time

The readings this week are filled with messages we need to hear in the turmoil of the modern world. The boundless mercy of our God, the magnified reflection of our own humanity, the indication of what we should be.

For me, the first reading has always had an air of, *'give me a reason not to do this thing'*. God willingly accedes to Abraham's humble pleas – He does not want to rain down terror – He wants His people to live in His light and hold to His path. The psalm too speaks of His answering a plea made to him, whilst the second reading explains a little of just how much God wants to show us His love - and receive ours in return.

The Gospel gives us the template for our petitions – that we should first praise, then ask for our needs. Note the final phrase in this version – in a week that has seen news reports that test us, whether it be the reaction to the new Prime minister or the greater concerns over levels of persecution Christians face, in some parts of the world, we should hold fast to the knowledge that God knows, loves and protects each of us. He works always for our good (Romans 8:28), even though we may not see it at the time.

How will you respond to this weeks readings? Will they create a self-satisfied glow, or will you use them as a springboard, a call to action to share His love for you with those around you?

God shows us boundless mercy and endless love. He calls us, each of us, to do the same. If during the coming week, you feel angry and want to respond in anger, think of Abraham's pleas and God's response. If you feel in need of support or help, remember the psalm and turn to God (and to each other). If you stumble, remember God loves us so much, He became man, and died for us, so that our sins might be forgiven.

Finally, in all things, give thanks to God, before you ask, and after He answers. (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Hold fast to Him, whatever you face in the coming week – He will not fail you.

A Parishioner