

## **Thursday 12 September**

Today is Thursday the 12 September, in the 23rd week of Ordinary Time.

Entering into prayer today, I begin by recognising that I am in the presence of God ? not a God to be scared of, but a God of compassion and love, in whose presence I am safe, in whose presence I do not have to defend myself, in whose presence I can be still. I place myself, my worries and my hopes, my whole life, in the hands of my loving God.

Today's reading is from the Gospel of Luke.

Just when it looked like Jesus was about to declare war on the rich who exploit the poor, we get this outrageous command to love our enemies. Imagine the confusion of the disciples fired up by Jesus' option for the poor who then insists that we must love even those responsible for their plight.

The theologian Walter Wink has an interesting commentary on this business of turning the other cheek and giving up your shirt when your coat is taken from you. For him, it is nothing to do with passivity in the face of unreasonable behaviour but a creative non-violent resistance to evil: Option for the poor AND love your enemies! This Jesus is really very interesting. What do you want to say to him today?

Listen again, and you might just imagine the disciples hearing this for the first time.

You too are a disciple. How do you respond to this Jesus?