

## **A few Words on the Readings Patrick White**

The Old Testament readings are from two of the Prophets , Isaiah, and Malachi and from Nehemiah who is in charge of the rebuilding of Jerusalem when the people return from exile

9 Jan. **Isaiah 43:1-7** Gods promise of salvation. *Do not fear for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name you are mine.*

16 Jan. **Isaiah 62: 1-5** God's promise of love. His people, represented by Jerusalem, will know that he loves them *for the Lord delights in you.*

23 Jan. **Nehemiah 8:1-10** God's revelation to his people through his Word. Nehemiah is present as Ezra reads from the Scriptures and he reminds the people that the *Joy of the Lord is your Strength.*

30 Jan **Malachi 3:1-5** Malachi speaks of how God will look at the inner thoughts of his people and will purify them. He will bring justice to the marginalised in society.

The first New Testament reading is from Acts and the others from Paul's first Letter to the Corinthians.

9 Jan **Acts 8:14-17** The Apostles send Peter and John to lay hands on new converts in Samaria. The first 'Confirmation'. The new converts receive the Holy Spirit.

16 Jan **1 Corinthians 12:1-11** Paul teaches about the Holy Spirit at work in the lives of Christians. *There are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit.*

23 Jan. **1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a** Paul continues his teaching by using the image of a body to show how each member of the church has a role *-for in the Spirit we were all baptised into one body.*

30 Jan **Hebrews 2:14-end** The writer of the Letter to the Hebrews stresses the way Jesus shared our sufferings and therefore was able to make a sacrifice of atonement for our sins. *He had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect.*