

# *Words and Word*

- 1     **The Power of Words:** naming the Creation in Genesis; how words become precious and charged with power over us. Poetry as the conscious treasuring of words.
  
- 2     **Shared Words:** community creates the echo-chamber in which words grow in power. “Shared language springs from shared lives.”
  
- 3     **Preaching** demands that we share the life of our hearers, to find the words which mean the most, which will warm hearts as well as enlightening minds.
  
- 4     **Foreign tongues**, mystification, clericalism, big words: “contradicting the Incarnation”.
  
- 5     **Scripture and Translation:** Jesus’ words come to us *in translation* (the Gospels are in Greek). His words are contained in documents written years after his earthly life. This means that from the beginning we are immersed in *interpretation*, always listening to the voice of the Church which is called *tradition*. We are inheritors of this tradition, and play our part in interpreting the Scripture by our shared lives. We are anointed in Baptism to be sharers in the work of Christ the Prophet; ordination brings us something more.
  
- 6     **The Work of Faithfulness:** to eliminate ignorant and facile readings of the Word of God: to know all we possibly can; to work with the superb tools of literary scholarship and archaeology, linguistic study, the various paths of criticism which help to unfold the meaning of the holy books; to pray constantly for the Holy Spirit to guide us, to *give us the right words to speak in his name*.
  
- 7     **Some Books:** Biblical Dictionaries, Concordances, Commentaries
  
- 8     **Creating Your Personal Resources** - and something to start you off

