

Thursday, Third Week of Eastertide

Acts 8: 26-40 John 6:44-51

REFLECTION

The central message in the gospel of today is the constant activity of the Father drawing everyone to himself: *'no one can come to me unless they are drawn by the Father who sent me'*. Everyone who comes to Jesus does not do so of his/her own accord: they are drawn to Jesus by God the Father. All, of us who have embraced Our Lord do so as a consequence of being drawn to him by the Father. The faith we have in Jesus is always the initiative of God the Father who leads us to His Son. God is constantly drawing us towards his Son and if we come to Jesus, God's Son, it is because we have responded to the movement of God the Father. God himself will establish a variety of ways to draw us to his Son. The best example is in the first reading where an Ethiopian court official comes to faith in Jesus. It is God the Father who draws him to the Scriptures, the Word of God. The spirit of God leads the official to open and read the book of the prophet Isaiah. As he reflects on what he reads questions arise in his heart and mind: *'To whom is the prophet referring, himself or someone else?'* Therefore, Scriptures are an important key through which God draws the Ethiopian official to his Son. Further down the line, the official engages with Philip and through the ministry of Philip, the questions he raised begin to find answers. In no time, as they come upon some water the Ethiopian asks Philip, *'Is there anything to stop me being baptized?'* Finally, God the Father brought the Ethiopian official to the point where he asked for baptism. He was immersed into the risen life of Jesus. All of us who have been baptized have been drawn to Jesus by God the Father. God continues to draw us to his Son through two realities: the scripture which is His Word but also through other people of faith, like Philip.