



*After hearing it, many of his followers said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this disturb you? What if you should see the Son of man ascend to where he was before?'*

*'It is the spirit that gives life,  
the flesh has nothing to offer.  
The words I have spoken to you are spirit  
and they are life.'*

*'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset who did not believe and who was to betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me except by the gift of the Father.' After this, many of his disciples went away and accompanied him no more.*

*Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we have come to know that you are the Holy One of God.'*

## John 6:60-end

*'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the message of eternal life...'*

## Wednesday 2nd week in Lent

John reinforces his recognition of the eucharistic elements as the tipping point between faith and unfaith. The scene in which the disciples find Jesus' language intolerable and unacceptable reflected the reaction of many in John's community – as it does still in our contemporary world. The words of Jesus that follow recognise that there is no way of reaching such people with rational argument or any kind of witness. They have to be left to go their own way.

Jesus then turns to the remainder of the disciples and asks them why they also do not leave. In responding to the question, Peter's confession of faith does not contain the kind of intuitive leap that the synoptic gospels record. Rather, speaking on behalf of the remaining group, he says in effect, "We don't understand but we trust you and we'll stick by you." With that, many of us can identify. We, too, do not understand. The mystery of who Jesus was and is remains beyond our comprehension. Yet we 'know', we trust, we worship – and we continue to follow.