

Reflection from Fr. Colm on Thursday of the 4th week of Eastertide

Audio posted to the Parish Website on Thursday 7th May 2020

Good morning everybody. A lovely morning again as we continue our journey of lockdown and isolation and I just want to talk today briefly about feet - yes feet.

A Dominican priest, wonderful spiritual writer once wrote " The feet are the lowliest part of the body in a literal sense, and the farthest away from the head. And they are the most truthful because they are farthest from the mouth. They are willing to go where hands would disdain to go; and when we touch something with the foot, we haven't really established any personal contact with it. Yes, the feet are the most disowned part of the body. Yet they are our most fundamental and on-going contact with reality. And they are not the insensitive clods that they may appear to be they are so highly sensitive that a foot-massage affects the whole body. "

Wonderful lines these. I'm reminded of a foot massage I once had and I was kind of surprised and taken aback when a large piece of wood was taken out by the individual who was doing the massaging, it was a professional too, and I thought really I didn't expect this to be part of the game or part of the massage but in compressing that piece of wood into the foot the person in question the lady who was massaging the feet was able to tell the state of my health with extraordinary accuracy.

So, this is feet and my God today how we certainly realise the importance of them don't we? When there's no physical handshaking, there's no embracing there's no kissing, there's no physical contact whatever for fear of contamination. The feet are there for us as ever. They carry us.

And it's no wonder I suppose within the Gospel today we find Jesus washing the feet of His disciples. We realise in *His* day they would have had even far greater importance because of the limited mode of transport. Jesus reminds us in the Last Supper, this wonderful ceremony and how I certainly have missed this ceremony in our Holy Thursday at St Godric's. Over the past recent years, we've been inviting members of the congregation to wash each other's feet - not as a gimmick - but as a real sign of solidarity and some have really taken to it and it's wonderful to see it. It's a reminder to us that indeed feet washing takes place every

single weekend in some of the Christian denominations, particularly the Eastern Churches.

And so, this morning as we listen to the Gospel this one act in the Last Supper, Jesus washing the feet of His disciples let us indeed end by taking to heart the words that He give us. *“If I do this for you, so should you for one another.”* And indeed, the washing of feet stands symbolically for every lowly service we can perform for one another. God bless you.