

Reflection from Fr. Colm on the 6th Sunday of Easter

Audio posted to the Parish Website on Sunday 17th May 2020

Good morning. Hope you're okay. 6th Sunday of Easter heading towards Pentecost and the Spirit, yes, the Spirit. We see the Spirit in the readings very much today. I was just looking out this morning at the blackbirds, it's wonderful to see them in the morning as they attentively and very cautiously move around the garden, they're listening, they're waiting before they can pounce for something to eat and for their young. That's probably an analogous of our waiting on the Spirit, we have to wait, we have to watch, we have to listen. Thank God though one of the gifts of the Spirit is wisdom, and so we're given that wisdom to know when to react, when to say, when to speak, when not to speak etc and the reading, and particularly the Gospel Jesus reminding us about the power of the Spirit, you know, He talks about the advocate and the spirit of truth.

The literal meaning of the Paraclete means advocate, someone who is there to comfort us, to defend us and why do we need that? Well, I think we have a natural tendency within us to go the other way. We cover it up in all sorts of crazy ways but the accuser is not called Satan for nothing, however we stick to the positives and the fact that we are celebrating the Spirit and the importance in the role of the Spirit.

It's not that we didn't always do that, but I think in more recent years particularly since Vatican II greater emphasis has been given to the role of the Spirit. *"I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate,"* Jesus says. Sadly, unfortunately many Christians feel that Jesus too is their judge rather than their defence lawyer.

Take two contrasting emphasis on the Church and the role of the Spirit. Pope Pius IX wrote *"The beginning, root and indefectible source of the unity of the Church is the supreme authority of Peter and his successors in the Roman throne."*

However, Paul VI wrote *"It is the Holy Spirit who animates and sanctifies the Church. The Spirit is her divine breath, the wind in her sails, the principle of her unity, the inner source of her light and strength, this Spirit is her support and consoler, the source of her charisms and songs."*

Her peace and her joy, her pledge and prelude to blessed and eternal life." I think that's gorgeous.

Yeah, that's the Spirit and certainly since Vatican II I would like to think that we have been able to be more free in expressing the power of that Spirit. And let's pray more, especially in this week, this special week, the Ascension this coming Thursday is dedicated to world communications day. The Spirit is the great communicator. Let us keep that up in these difficult, difficult times. God bless.