

Reflection from Fr. Colm on Easter Thursday

Audio posted to the Parish Website on Thursday 16th April 2020

Good morning everybody. I hope you're well. Gorgeous morning again, sun just blazing through the blinds here in my dining room. This week, four years ago, our parish pilgrimage was taking place in the west of Ireland. It was a lovely time, a great experience and I'm reminded of a saying from the west of Ireland, I picked it up yesterday actually from one of these reflective talks given by a mystic and poet. He talked about leaving a pub one night walking a long way home but with a friend. And the friend turned to him and said to him "*John, shorten the road.*" And John didn't know what in the name of God he was talking about. Then he realised that big Mike was saying to him "*Tell him a story. Tell him your story John. Shorten the journey.*" I think it's a lovely expression because it sums up in so many ways how we can be so supportive to each other in pilgrimage, in our journey in these days especially.

And I find it very ironical that the very opening chapter, opening verse, opening lines of the Gospel of today we're told by St Luke that "*The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.*" The disciples told their story. Yes, a story, communication, contact. In these times especially they can lift the spirits, can't they? Perhaps we're finding we're perhaps going a little bit more in depth into reading, music, listening to music, listening to all sorts of quality stuff, and that's how I'm finding it anyhow I hope you are too.

And so let us continue on our journey, shortening perhaps the day of those who may be lonely at this time by a phone call, a text, an email, even a knock on the door, just to say we care and never to underestimate how those short act of kindness, those short acts of storytelling can shorten the day profoundly of those particularly who are lonely. God bless.