

Reflection from Fr. Colm on the 3rd Sunday of Easter

Audio posted to the Parish Website on Sunday 26th April 2020

Good morning everybody. Hope you're okay. First of all, apologies for the late arrival of yesterday's reflection*. A technical hitch on my part. I pressed, simply pressed the wrong button so thank you Leanne for expediting that when you did last night.

Pressing the wrong button is probably an appropriate expression for today's reflection. We all know about pressing the wrong button, what it means otherwise it's not just pressing the button of a machine, of a voice recorder, whatever it might be, pressing the wrong button can also imply how we handle a very difficult discussion with some others and parents you will know all about this in dealing with your children how pressing the right and wrong button at the appropriate time is in fact a minefield at times to negotiate.

In the Gospel today Jesus is on His way to Emmaus with, or *Emmaus* whichever way you want to interpret that, it's a seven mile walk outside of Jerusalem, Emmaus to Jerusalem. We're told in the Gospel one of them is named as Cleopas but we're probably certain, Scripture scholars are probably certain that the other disciple was a female. Considering the amount of females that had been present with Jesus at the end, they were *certainly* clearly in great number. And we won't go into a need to ask the why they have been interpreted out of that for the moment but just to say that probably a couple, probably a married couple, could have been, and they certainly seem to imply by way of welcoming Him into their home that this was the situation.

Anyhow the story unravels with Jesus taking time to listen to their story, listen to their pain. And just listening to a psychologist this week in one of our discussions on Zoom, an extremely important point in the relation to the *catastrophic* sense of loss that's being experienced and the unprecedented type of loss that has been and is being experienced at this time in the moment in relation to COVID death inaccessibility of families to their loved ones. He said we've got to stick with the pain.

**The reflection Fr. Colm refers to as a late arrival was Friday 24th April*

We've got to stick with the pain, but he did add this is extremely difficult.

However, this is what Jesus is doing in this seven mile walk with the two disciples listening to their pain. That pain can come out in a ferocious anger which it does in this dialogue between Him and the disciples. Very often in our own journey in this particular time, in our understanding of faith, where we're going to come after this, what's going to happen in our church, what's gonna happen the actual practice of the faith, how will it emerge, how strong it might be? Better, weaker, well we don't know but it will be different.

The important thing is that we *listen*, and we listen to the at times perhaps frustration and pain of people either with ourselves, or with society, or with church we've got to listen to it. And this is when we reach a point of course, well actually, we've heard enough. And this is what Jesus does. He has intervened at the appropriate time after bringing down the history of His own Jewish tradition, explaining the Scriptures and on and on it went. They invite Him in for a meal and then - *bang* - He intervenes just prior to being brought into the meal. "You foolish, you foolish, you foolish individuals." You know.

So tough language there but we know the more appropriate language I'm sure to use within the context of who we're dealing with but there is a time when we have to actually take control of what we're believing in and be clear about it but at the right moment and you will know that better than I will. *Then* it seems to me that the recognition of the breaking of the bread takes place.

Yes, a wonderful reading, one of my favourites from the entire New Testament from St Luke. Breaking of the bread, it's a constant in St Luke both in his Gospel and in the Acts of the Apostles.