

## **Reflection from Fr. Colm on Monday of week 2 in Ordinary Time**

*Audio posted to the Parish Website on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021.*

Good morning everybody hope you're okay. Everywhere around me here in Gilesgate is quiet, one might say it's a little bit like a ghost town that's because we're all bunkered in and we're all coming I would hope to a very important final stretch by way of overcoming the virus but what also is giving us tremendous an ability perhaps to rise above the tough self-isolation or isolating that many of us are having to do and the sacrifices that we have had to make particularly for some of us, access to the Sacraments is the knowledge that we're in solidarity with so many others in our neighbourhood who are also trying to stay home and with a view to the vaccine which is being rolled out at a great rate now which is wonderful news right across Europe, right across the world and so there's lots to be hopeful for.

Last week I watched Countryfile and Matt one of the presenters who is a farmer himself was visiting a pottery industry it was a father and son business and he was being guided through particularly by the son to learn the process of creating a pot. And what came very forcefully through from all of it was that once the centre implodes you have to start again completely. You can't rehash the material that you've already had as say with making bread you've simply got to start again completely.

This reminds us I suppose of the Gospel today Jesus is talking about the new wine, it reminds us also about the after covid. How are we going to be? Well, it's not going to be the same and that's a good thing. We're going to prioritise things it's got to start and come from the centre.

Yesterday there was a lovely, lovely line in the book of Samuel in relation to Samuel lying in the temple, lying in the sanctuary. What a beautiful description of a man just waiting for God to come, listening, listening, listening but it is the position that he was in. Priest friend of mine many years ago he was a form of a mentor to me when I was a student, big burly country farmer from farming background I should say and who ended up out in Alabama in the United States was a very wise man. But I was astonished to find one night while talking to him, one night we were chatting and he said to me his form of prayer is to lie before the Blessed Sacrament at night in the silence of his own oratory in his presbytery and in the building in which we were as students part sharing with the centre the Catholic marriage advisory council which he was the director.

I just I never lost that image because it reminds me also that in these times we're invited to be alone and discover new ways of finding God and finding Christ other than what we might have been experiencing in the past pre-covid so lots of things there really to be optimistic and hopeful about.

I came across those famous words the other day of the Roman poet Terence who memorably wrote: *"I am a human being and nothing that belongs to humanity is foreign to me."*

This has been an opportunity for us to simply stop and listen as the Gospel yesterday invites us to do. *"What do you want?"* Jesus says to His disciples. Come and listen. And they were with Him for we're told until the tenth hour which was four o'clock. An opportunity for us today to reflect on those who can't do that I'm talking about those wonderful health workers, doctors, nurses. Those involved in so many aspects of the NHS who are overworked, overrun and at times indeed judging by recent reports massively distressed and you know labouring under huge and enormous demand at the moment that's having a knock-on effect into their own lives so let's remember them in a very special way as we have an opportunity that they don't have. Take care.