

Reflection from Fr. Colm on Monday of the 2nd week of Eastertide

Audio posted to the Parish Website on Monday 20th April 2020

Good morning everybody. Last Friday saw the death from coronavirus of one of the true legends of English football - Norman Hunter. Norman played for Leeds. They were a team that very much dominated a greater part of the 70's. Norman Hunter was the backbone of that team, born in Gateshead, Leeds United swooped for him at the age of 15, under the noses of Newcastle United and he remained with Leeds for fifteen years of his career. He became as I say a legend in the club and what perhaps was the greatest feature of Norman Hunter was his uncompromising commitment to the game. When I say uncompromising, he was a tough man. He was a tough tackler and became quite notorious in many ways for the hardness of his commitment to that game.

I'm comparing him and that commitment to the figure we're seeing in the Gospel today, that of Nicodemus. Nicodemus is in fact the exact opposite. Nicodemus is a man of the shadows. We always see him appearing in shadowy situations. He comes to meet Jesus by night, they discuss the Spirit and the movement of the Spirit and Jesus tries to open him up to be a freer individual, but he can't. We then see Nicodemus before the Pharisees and he's half-heartedly defending Jesus, asks a rhetorical question which leads nowhere and finally it seems he only can relate to a dead Jesus when we see his anointing of Jesus, the body of Jesus, after crucifixion.

This is the challenge for each of us today especially and perhaps it's probably going to be a challenge for us when we emerge from this lockdown, what kind of commitment we have to Jesus. Something to reflect on, I hope. Do take care of yourself. God bless.