

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

*Audio posted to the Parish Website on Tuesday 22nd April 2020*

Good morning everybody again another lovely day, thank God we're having a bit of sunshine in these challenging times. Change indeed is very much a reality in our lives. We anticipate change especially after we come out of this lockdown. How it'll be we don't know. How the Church will be we don't know but please God it'll be a time of real positive growth. Change, I'm reminded of, in the sale yesterday, that went on sale yesterday, just an ordinary piece of paper, lined piece of paper and written on it are the words of a very famous song by Bob Dylan called "The times they are a changing."

Dylan was a very prophetic figure in the 60's and 70's and his words of, at times, were prophetic and frightening such as "*Come gather 'round people wherever you roam and admit that the waters around you have grown.*" Well they have for us, haven't they? The waters have grown around us at this point in time. But Dylan was also a man of great encouragement as well and that's why his success and his popularity are indeed very high to this day.

In the Acts of the Apostles this morning we see and meet another such encouraging figure in that of Barnabas. I think it's lovely that the disciples, the apostles, decided to give him a surname. He was named Joseph, he was a Cypriot Jew and they added the name Barnabas to his name, Joseph Barnabas which means son of encouragement.

If anything is required of us in the context of our faith at these times when there is real need for encouragement. We are asked just to pray for each other, phone each other. I've spent an enormous amount of time on the phone and it has been a real pleasure. But the only word that sums up every phone call that I receive, or take is encouragement. So, let us encourage each other, continue to encourage each other wherever we are.