

Reflection from Fr. Colm on Wednesday of the 4th week of Eastertide

Audio posted to the Parish Website on Wednesday 6th May 2020

Good morning everybody. How are you? I hope you're okay. Wonderful weather let's not complain. Despite this lockdown the weather has been extremely kind to us over these past few months.

The Gospel today is from St John and it's all about light, it's all about coming from darkness into light. *"I've come as a light into the world so that everyone who believes in Me should not remain in the darkness."* I think such a fitting reading for this time isn't it? We don't know what we're going to come out into. We see such significant changes even our appreciation of who we are and friends, our neighbours, our senior citizens, our young people. Even the people we meet on the street, the smiles, the kind benevolent greeting of hello and even in the distancing has all been done with great sensitivity and clarity and kindness. So will that remain? Well certainly I would hope so but there's lots more is going to change I feel at a broader level I think things will have to change very dramatically I'm talking about at a world level, not me, I don't want to get into politics in any form whatsoever but I do feel that we are going to be challenged to a very great degree at an international level.

If I can just quote some words from a very fine writer Arundhati Roy who wrote *"The virus has moved freely along the pathways of trade and international capital, and the terrible illness it has brought in its wake has locked humans down in their countries, their cities and their homes. But unlike the flow of capital, this virus seeks proliferation, not profit, and has, therefore, inadvertently, to some extent, reversed the direction of the flow. It has mocked immigration controls, biometrics, digital surveillance, and every kind of data analytics, and struck hardest – thus far – in the richest, most powerful nations of the world, bringing the engine of capitalism to a juddering halt. Temporarily perhaps, but at least long enough for us to examine its parts, make an assessment and decide whether we want to help fix it, or look for a better engine."*

That's one aspect as to the change but at a deeper level we are asked also, we can't really experience something like this as Christians without experiencing something more profound within ourselves. Final words left to St Augustine - *"Urged to reflect upon myself, I enter under your guidance the innermost places of my being; but only because you had*

become my helper was I able to do so. I entered, then, and with the vision of my spirit, such as it was, I saw the changeless light far above my spiritual ken and transcending my mind: not this common light which every carnal eye can see, nor any light of the same order; but greater, as though this common light was shining much more powerfully, far more brightly, and so extensively as to fill the universe."

Wonderful. Words of optimism, Thank God. Have a lovely day now.