

Reflection from Fr. Colm on the feast of St George

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Good morning everybody. Hope you're okay. Today we celebrate the feast of St George, Patron Saint, martyr, and that word martyr of course has a ring to it that many of us will be familiar with, might have an unpleasant ring because of its association more recent years with suicide bombings etc. However within our own tradition, our Catholic tradition, certainly from my own background I was educated by the Marist Fathers and the school was called after St Peter Chanel he was a Marist martyr who died in the south sea islands so from an early age you are certainly filled with the sense of giving of oneself and the martyrdom and the romance attached to it indeed that there can be.

However, martyrdom is something far more basic isn't it? Rosamund Hodge is an American Catholic writer and a true bit of irony on the whole subject, a young lass she is, and she said *"The problem with martyrs is that they're all dead. What do they have to do with us that are simple enough to still be alive? Should we just give up and want to die because death is better than dishonour? But suicide is a sin too, so we really are damned if we do and damned if we don't."*

The reality of course is that martyrdom is something that we see in the most ordinary of circumstances isn't it? It's something whereby we are asked to, in these days I suppose especially, we're asked to dig deep into ourselves and that is where it is to be located, I feel, deep within ourselves. And to exist and co-exist with each other, I'm on my own here, but I know there are circumstances around the parish and that are totally different that don't need statistics to tell you of incredibly fearful rise in the various social problems that is being thrown up in relation to domestic violence etc as I say that list is endless.

However, if I can just conclude with a line of again a young lady who's a writer. And she said, *"I'm trying to write a poem in which I'm neither a monster nor martyr."* *"I'm trying to write a poem in which I'm neither a monster nor martyr."* I think that's we're all trying to do isn't it, each day? Write the poem. Live to die, live the life, live the day, live the hour in which we're neither monster nor martyr. God bless everyone.