

## Reflection from Fr. Colm on Monday of the 3rd week of Eastertide

*Audio posted to the Parish Website on Monday 27th April 2020*

Hi everybody. Hope you're okay. Another lovely morning. Glimmers of hope, glimmers of light in the relation to lockdown perhaps we might see some positive news coming either today or over the next few days of a particular plan as to when this might be eased. However, let's not be too presumptuous.

Today's reflection is really about the power of eyes, the look, the gaze whatever you'd like to call it because it has that power. You of our schoolteachers know the power of the look. If you want to control a class, particularly a disruptive pupil or class will know that power.

Today in the Acts of the Apostles nowhere else do we find that word intently. Somebody looking intently at another as in the Acts of the Apostles. The word intently is used 31 times in the Bible going right back to the book of Job right into the New Testament of course, Jesus in His compassion. We hear of the woman looking at Peter in a very accusatory way but intently. "He's a friend of Jesus," she was saying.

So, these instances are there very often, that power of the gaze, the power of the look. And today in the Acts of the Apostles we have the Sanhedrin looking at Stephen. They looked at him intently and what did they see? They saw the face of an angel. Sometimes it takes that real intense gaze and look to discover that sense of focus of concentration that is so required of us in life.

The likes of mindfulness and Buddhism is they're all part of the same tree as such, yeah, they focus on that for great therapeutic effects but really the compassionate gaze is something different altogether. And that sense of love and compassion that comes from that gaze is incredibly healing.

The negative side of it we're going to see in the Acts of Apostles where they could see this angelic presence in Stephen, but they couldn't cope with it. Whatever was in them, the ego, the sense of power struggle that was going on within them, they just couldn't handle that. So how, this is all about interpreting how we see things today. Good morning.