

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

Audio posted to the Parish Website on Friday 24th April 2020

Good morning everybody. Hope you're okay. Beautiful morning outside. Thank God this weather does make life a lot, lot more bearable particularly as we are in isolation. Anyhow, it reminds me of the first and only time I was to the Holy Land. I say it reminds me because today's Gospel has particular significance to me because each of the priests on the pilgrimage that I was on we took it in turn to say at Mass, at our presided Mass, at a particular location and for me, I was fortunate to preside at Mass on the location of this very important Gospel today from St John.

Feeding of such a large number of people with such a small amount of food. Clear, greater indications as to the pointing in the direction of our Eucharist, our Mass. However, there's another important feature in the Gospel today that is very powerful and very profound. Jesus tells the disciples "Get them to sit down." What does He mean by that?

What He simply means is "I want them to be open to what I'm going to offer them. And the only way they're going to be open to what I've got to offer them is that they really feel the earth. Are earthed. Are earthed and they know exactly where they are and who they are and what they need. And what they need is Me and what I've got to offer them."

To me it's a fantastic Gospel in that context, it's a Gospel for these challenging times and perhaps a time for re-appraising our own values in relation to what we have done by way of a consumerist society.

On the 27th March, just gone, Pope Francis issued his *Urbi et Orbi* and he described today as our judgement. He praised in the ordinary people who've come out in fore, to the fore in this crisis, helping the sick and the vulnerable. Pope called on our society to get our lives back on track. And then he added, "*Greedy for profit, we let ourselves get caught up in things, and lured away by haste. We did not stop at your reproach - meaning God's approach - to each one of us, we were not shaken awake by wars or injustices around the world, nor did we listen to the cry of the poor or our ailing planet. We carried on regardless, thinking we would stay healthy in a world that was sick.*"

Yeah. Wonderful words, very poignant and powerful today. God bless you all.