

Reflection from Fr. Colm on the feast of St Athanasius

Audio posted to the Parish Website on Saturday 2nd May 2020

Good morning. Saturday. A gorgeous morning outside. My elderly, arthritic dog, unfortunately, has been walked. And the walks are shorter, they're slower and generally it affords an opportunity for me to perhaps converse with people whom I see fairly regularly, obviously at a distance and one such conversation took place this morning and this gentleman I see regularly, I know he's looking after his wife who has serious dementia and we just have these little subjects and indeed people to talk about, briefly.

But he did tell me this morning, he told me that he had been up to B and Q - this was at half past 7 - and he said the queues, he said, were quite, astonished him. And he said *"Yes, indeed, and the sooner we get back to normality the better."* and I then said *"Well I presume all of the queues will be for DIY stuff which I'm sure there will be a huge increase in."* And he said *"Yes, indeed"* He said, *"Of course, you'll be hoping to get people back in there"* and he pointed to the church. And I said *"Yes."* My response humoured him a little bit when I said, *"Well as long as those who come there,"* pointing to the church, *"don't suddenly go DIY as well."*

Now what I mean by that is Do-it-yourself faith expression and community etc in isolation of the larger body. This is all the testing times that I suppose await us in the post-COVID and please God, and when that does happen, we will be a *stronger* community but that's going to be the test isn't it? A huge test for us, just to see how we come out of this.

Judging how the community, the parish has gone into overdrive by way of reaching out to others I would be hopeful, but it is a test, it is a test. As the world will not be the same, indeed our Church will not be the same, and please God and I do have every faith and hope and belief it will be a much stronger Church. Good morning everybody.