

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

Audio posted to the Parish Website on Tuesday 28th April 2020

Good morning everybody. Hope you're okay. Yesterday I received a text, an old friend, John is his name and he is an ex-priest and pops up every so often by way of an odd text or a phone call or certainly at Christmas etc. I hear from him. The text simply said "*Tested positive for coronavirus. I'm in hospital now and feeling very dizzy. Stay safe.*" and thus ran the text. Now I had known that he had just come through a first bout of coronavirus, he phoned me about that a few weeks ago, so I was very dispirited to hear that he had gone into hospital now with seconds, I don't know what the cause of this is.

However I'm mentioning him for a simple reason, not just because we want to pray for him but also because of his life story which was summed up to me in a very brief conversation we had many, many years ago when he told me about himself coming out as gay.

He said "*I had to go to my father, I had to tell him. My father raised us, five children on his own. He was a big, strong, burly farmer.*" And he said, "*when I stood before him and I told him I was gay,*" and he said, "*there was a pause. And I didn't know whether he was going to strike me or to tell me to go.*" So, after that long pause his father said to him "*You are my son. I love you.*" and left it at that. It was a very powerful moment for John, and it was something that was, to use a word like healing would be totally inadequate. It was an expression of I suppose an unconditional love for him from an unexpected source. He never had a great rapport with his father.

Today, we listen to extraordinary words of Jesus which are perhaps some of the most profound expressions of His unconditional love for each one of us. "*I am the bread of life, who comes to Me shall not hunger.*" "*I am the bread of life, who comes to Me shall not hunger.*" A reminder to us of the power of the Eucharist. God bless you all.