

Reflection from Fr. Colm on Wednesday of week 14 in Ordinary Time

Audio posted to the Parish Website on Wednesday 8th July 2020

Good morning everybody. Yesterday the Gospel was from St Matthew's and it spoke of needing labourers for the harvest. How coincidental it was that I should come upon these iconic lyrics from a wonderful song called "Harvest for the world" and the lyrics go *"All babies together, everyone a seed, half of us are satisfied, half of us in need, love is bountiful in us, tarnished by our greed, when will there be harvest for the world"* This song written by a group called the Isley Brothers in the early 70's was in the follow up to the assassinations of Bobby Kennedy and Martin Luther King. It was their response as they said, *"We had just lived through the assassinations of Bobby Kennedy and Martin Luther King and we wondered what was going to happen. We wanted to write about what was possible. The world today is at least as turbulent as when we recorded this song. There is a great amount of fear. The only way things will change is if people come together in peace instead of war."*

The song obviously condemns power and greed and in listening to the interview with the two writers, the two brothers, I was interested to find out that both the Beatles and Stevie Wonder whenever they wrote what was known as an album, one of those platinum things of yesteryear, wonderful sound, that they always tried to include a song of social conscience. This is a very powerful song of social content and a reminder to us indeed if we needed reminding of the fear that is part of our world today and the need for reaffirmation and faith.

And I think it's a very powerful message to us in the context of today's news which I heard sadly on the News this morning that the Trump administration were preparing to sever their support and vital financial aid too in the struggle against COVID-19 to the World Health Organisation. Now for whatever reasons they may have for this, it seems to be symptomatic of the current world tendency to fragment rather than unite. The American Academy of paediatrics said, on the decision of the Trump administration that, *"The Trump Administration's decision to withdraw from the World Health Organisation carries grave risks for the world's children during an unprecedented global health crisis, risking a surge in polio cases and an increase in deaths of children from malaria. Withdrawing support from the World Health Organisation not*

only harms the global response against COVID-19 but undermines their response to other major health threats impacting children."

Today's Gospel is also a Gospel of hope "*Go proclaim the Good News, the Kingdom of Heaven has come*" concludes today's Gospel. Let us pray for resolutions to these divisions and a sense of clarity and perspective particularly to the leaders who feel threatened and uncertain that they may at all times keep the health of the world and indeed particularly children as a priority. God Bless.