

Reflection from Fr. Colm on Monday of Holy Week

Audio posted to the Parish Website on Monday 6th April 2020

Good morning everybody. I've been asked to put a few more thoughts on record particularly over these coming few days and so let's just reflect and pray for each other as we enter into this holy, Holy Week. I hope the weekend has gone well for you and that whatever Mass you tuned into was relevant and meaningful to you.

For myself I said Mass, just me and Ellie the dog. I blessed some palms and I read the readings in isolation. Sadly, the virus continues to blight us of human company. A car passed me on my morning walk today and all three occupants had face masks reminding me of a Bonnie Clyde movie, but it looked certainly very eerie.

However, these are the times we're living in now - not yesterday, not tomorrow. Jesus is clear about the importance of today in the Gospel of today. He says "This day, this message is being fulfilled in your hearing"

So where are you today?

I am continuing to receive calls and messages from friends, parishioners, family. Some of the messages unfortunately contain news of cancellations be it of holidays, which in the context of what we're living now aren't that important, however there are weddings being cancelled, indeed we know ourselves about cancelled pilgrimages. A wedding indeed that I was to attend the week after Easter has been cancelled and the bride has said "We'll do it again, we'll do it again, we'll get married." Such optimism is great to hear, such a positive spirit. And that same spirit is needed now, this now, this day.

Sadly, this weekend saw the passing of one of the great songwriters of modern times Bill Withers. One of his enduring ballads was called "Ain't no sunshine when you're gone". The song is an anthem to loneliness and heartbreak all of which are a part of us today perhaps more than has been for some time. For many it's our now, that heartbreak, that loneliness.

However, as I speak the sun is shining outside, though for many it doesn't. Let us pray that both the sunshine within our own faith, within

our own hearts will overcome the darkness of this present time we're going through. God bless you.