

Reflection from Fr. Colm on 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Audio posted to the Parish Website on Sunday 5th July 2020

Good morning all, it's a gorgeous morning outside with a howling wind but that gives a sense of freshness to today, I think. So, we pass with flying colours the end of lockdown. Soho in London gave the impression last night of carnival time, in fact, I was stunned watching the news report from a lively carefree congested street of friendly revelry. Social distancing was most definitely not the norm and here lies mine and many others' I think problems.

Children are returning to a most unnatural state of social distancing where painful efforts on the parts of school staff to maintain this social distancing is being implemented to the letter. A child struggles to be separated more than us adults and in particularly to physical separation, it's essential to their very wellbeing. Their openness to the everyday eventualities is one of their most wonderful characteristics. The protective bubble pioneered in Denmark seems one way but certainly, no bubbles were evident last night other than the bubbles of celebratory bottles opening. Perhaps like much of what we now experience it's going to be a slow untested way forward that will pan out as we move forward. Like us all, children too also crave to get back to normality and we, parents and teachers especially, hope and pray that they will understand this. The new norm as it has been described is now with us for the foreseeable future. As one teacher remarked, "*the journey back to normality will continue long beyond the summer break and into the Autumn but it has to start somewhere.*"

Perhaps it is with children that we discover our own journey back to normality we would not be the first to discover that they possess the keys to normality. Jesus seems to perceive this so well and with such clarity, He's very clear indeed particularly in today's Gospel about this truth. "*I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children.*" And then He adds "*Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest.*" Perhaps now as we re-enter some form of normality let us pray that we will have a childlike awareness of the presence of God in our lives that we perceive in the marvellous openness that are in the eyes of a child. Good morning everyone.