

Reflection from Fr. Colm on Easter Sunday

Audio posted to the Parish Website on Sunday 12th April 2020

Good morning everybody. Happy Easter to you. Another lovely morning. Last night I said Mass at around 9 o'clock. Mass of the Easter Vigil. Lit the Paschal candle, listened to the Exsultet on a recording, read the readings - not all of them - just the first, the reading for St Paul and the Gospel and there's a psalm I listened to "In Christ Alone" what a beautiful hymn it is.

I reflected on the distance that was a part of our present society today and I suppose the tragic distance between family and their loved ones who are either sick in hospital with the virus or indeed have passed away. One of the great tragedies of this entire plague that has fallen upon us is that inaccessibility of family and friends that are loved ones. Very poignant watching a son being interviewed last night on television and thought he spoke beautifully and very well about his father's death and there's beauty in such things. There is beauty in what we're celebrating in this wonderful day of Easter. I always feel we own this unlike Christmas; this is ours, this as Christians, this belongs to us.

However that distance was very much a part of last night, and I suppose I could identify with the distance that many relatives do feel too today and distance is something I'm sure the early Church and indeed Mary the mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, the early followers who remained faithful to Him till the end that sense of distance must have been so painful and difficult for them. To see this whole act unfolding before their very eyes and they couldn't do anything, they couldn't go near Him, they couldn't access Him. And yet this is the Easter story, and this is what it's all about, the stone rolled away. That stone simply was symbolising the heart in which all of us have that anguish of uncertainty and grief and loss rolled away. Healing, forgiveness, all these wonderful words take on a real powerful meaning in the context of the stone being rolled away.

This morning I woke and listened to Something Understood and Rowan Williams, such an eloquent speaker, such an eloquent thinker and such a profound person did speak about the real gifts of Easter where everything is transformed, everything is changed, *everything*. Nothing is impossible. Do listen to it if you have a moment, it'll fill in a half an hour for you today, it's very worthwhile.

And I did think of course also of that distance and that "From a distance" that beautiful song of Nancy Griffiths some years ago. God is watching us; God is with us. And that's what today is about so we'll pray that for each other this day that we will support from a distance each other in prayer and love. God bless you all.