

## Reflection from Fr. Colm on Tuesday of the 4th week of Eastertide

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Hi everybody. Overcast today but nonetheless News tends to be a little bit more positive isn't it? With regard to being unlocked. Anyhow let's hope next Sunday will bring news of certainly from the government in relation to that unlocking of particularly the business side of life over the coming weeks.

Today I'm given great comfort by the reading that we have in our first reading from the Acts of the Apostles where St Luke describes a wonderful person, a wonderful character, one of my favourite characters in the entire New Testament - Barnabas.

We're told that Barnabas was a man of, he was a good man. He was a *good* man. That's very important. We're told also that he was filled with the Holy Spirit. We're told also that he was a man of faith. I would have thought actually one meant without the other but maybe not because we know in our own lives goodness that certainly comes from people and they're outside our faith, outside our church and thank God for that too. And also, we know that with regard to the Holy Spirit, filled with the Holy Spirit, there are so many filled with the Holy Spirit isn't there? And they are wonderful people as well.

Then of course he's filled with, he has faith. I don't know perhaps what this implies. Does it imply he's faithful to the church? Probably so, but there is a real buzz about this man, as you can probably sense the buzz about the room because a wasp has just got itself into the room and as they normally do gather around the bulb above.

I divert for a moment but this is leading onto Barnabas then perhaps going to his greatest challenge I would imagine because St Paul must not have been an easy man to negotiate and not only negotiate but to bring him right into the heart of the Christian community and that's what we're seeing this morning. Paul is also leaving lockdown and he's being assisted. Perhaps from our own experience when we too are being led out of lockdown it will be an adjustment. We hear a lot about fear, of people going out etc. but that's the challenge for us, to help each other to be unlocked, to go back out into the world again which will be different, thank God, it'll be better. Good morning.