

## Reflection from Fr. Colm on the Thursday of the 7<sup>th</sup> week of Eastertide

*Audio posted to the Parish Website on Thursday 28th May 2020*

Hi everybody, hope you're okay. Nice morning outside. One of the finches has a nice morning shower or bath in the water bowl in the garden. On my stroll around this morning in the usual loop that I go in with the dog, having a very distanced conversation with a very lovely lady whom I often see who has also got a dog and so we have that common ground. Shouting across the street she opened up the conversation by saying *"Isn't this awful?"* And I said *"Yes, it is."* and she said, *"I don't know when it will end."* "Oh," I said, *"it'll end soon I hope."* We of course, we were talking about the lockdown and then she said *"It'll be a while. It's going to take a long time."* and I said, *"How long?"* "Oh, it'll be a year or two," but then she added *"It'll never be the same again,"* and then saying by way of adding onto that *"We were greedy. We were greedy."* and that's as far as our conversation could go because the traffic was getting heavy but I suppose in those short statements I was greatly challenged in the context of the Gospel of today which is from St John and it's a very powerful Gospel as all of St John are.

Jesus said, *"I ask you only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who will believe in Me through their Word, that they may all be one."* However, as we know the ego wants above all to separate, to go its own way, on its own terms. We see this so often played out in public life. We see it so often in the cult of personality and we see the sense of oneness that they all be one perhaps on a human level most painfully experienced by our own isolation, forced isolation at this time and the one thing that we miss most despite Zoom, despite Teams, despite the marvellous access to the webcam and Masses around the world is that coming together in flesh and blood, human beings, one to one as community that they may all be one and it can never be otherwise.

I came across via a recommendation from a very fine modern spiritual writer, Catholic priest and the man recommended was Alain Badiou whose a French philosopher and he said in relation to love, *"If we want to open ourselves up to difference and its implications so the collective can become the whole world then the defence of love becomes one point individuals have to practise. The identity cult of repetition must be challenged by love. Of what is different, love of what is unique, love of what is unrepeatable, love of what is unstable indeed, and love of what is foreign."*

That's how love thrives, not the other way around. Good morning.