

## Reflection from Fr. Colm on Easter Wednesday

*Audio posted to the Parish Website on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2020*

Good morning everybody. Wednesday of Easter week and I had a phone call this morning and the caller was, it was to do with church issues, and the caller then just said to me "You know Father, I feel flat." And I thought well I can identify that, and I know why the flatness is there with many of us at this point in time. We've just come through a season of Lent, of kind of supposed deprivation, isolation to some degree, and we could emphasise, we could understand it within the context of where we are now but there's a certain flatness I think because we haven't been given the opportunity to celebrate as community, the celebration of Easter, the rejoicing of the risen Lord.

And turning on the radio this morning listening to the usual litany of woes from around the world and they are tragic woes, horrible stories but you just feel "Oh my Lord, how much more can we experience, how much more can our senses actually absorb this?" Switching from news to Radio 3 to some classical music. Unfortunately, the music being played didn't exactly lift the spirits either.

It was then that I read an article by, it was just simply an account, by a junior doctor who had to go on leave because she herself had come down with coronavirus and it was a wonderful, wonderful article and it really lifts the spirits, certainly did for me. And at home she was going through this whole idea of the sense of guilt and shame she felt not being in with her colleagues to help out.

*And she said: "Most of the time I just long to be in the hospital because it is the best distraction. As a result, my colleagues have become my family. The doctors, nurses, administration staff, porters, cleaners. They are brave and they are brilliant, and they inspire me to be the same. Beyond the fear, exhaustion, uncertainty, loneliness and tears we somehow still manage to smile every day. We smile mainly with our eyes because covering our faces with masks has become the new norm. The pandemic has united us in ways that I can't describe. It is hard to find words strong enough to describe the pride I feel to be a part of the relentlessly compassionate organisation that is the NHS. To anyone who has thanked us or named us as heroes ... please know that to me it is both a privilege and an honour."*

And so those words echo in my mind and heart today as I also read the Gospel of the wonderful Eucharistic Gospel of coming together ironically breaking bread together -Emmaus. And I hear the words "*And their eyes were opened, and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight.*" Our eyes are open in the small and big ways, yes Jesus vanishes from our sight to be rediscovered elsewhere. So, let's journey, continue our journey of rediscovery of where He is in our lives today.