

## Reflection from Fr. Colm on the feast of St Barnabas

*Audio posted to the Parish Website on Thursday 11th June 2020*

Hi everybody hope you're okay. My morning walk completed. Interesting walking around the houses locally here, some of them absolutely wonderfully kept, front gardens especially, a great pride ornamented, signs in the windows of course *"Thank you NHS"*, the rainbows of course in many of the windows but it's the decor, the decor of the lawns that are so beautifully presented to the public, everything is well painted, everything is well looked after and then the heart sinks when you know you're passing a property owned by landlords who don't do the locality any good by their neglect and indeed I'm sure they don't do the morale of the students that they look after, supposedly look after, any good either.

However, that's part of the day and that's part of our observation, I think we're observing I think a little bit more, now aren't we? In the context of having to slow down, get things in perspective and it's within that context I find.

Just coming across the plight of classical music at this time. One heading says "UK classical music could be devastated say conductors" and those two conductors are of course knights of the realm Sir Simon Rattle and Sir Mark Elder and while yes of course very anxious about the plight of the arts and music in particular I found what they had to say so pertinent to where we are as Church at the moment in our hoping to get together again as a worshipping community.

Simon Rattle said that *"What we may do individually over the internet in these months is all well and good but the living core of our work is live communion, a sharing of space, art and emotion which is both vital and healing."*

And I thought *"Good God!"* that is indeed what our churches are about a gathering together of so many different races, so many different peoples, different backgrounds which we in our parish I think have prided ourselves in being that sense of multiple ethnicity coming to our churches and we do miss it. We miss it very much and on a day like today when we're hearing this wonderful act now for the Acts of the Apostles

we're told just in case we thought that we were converting those Africans, we have real news for you this morning from the Acts of the Apostles because we're told "*In the church at Antioch the following were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen, who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.* "

Now talk about diverse community, they are very clearly at the core of the beginnings of those early Christian communities which we know really evolved even right up to one of the greatest theologians in the history of the Church St Augustine who we do know and was probably of mixed race Roman and local African. Some thoughts for us in these very tense times to think about. Good morning all.