

Reflection from Fr. Colm on Thursday of week 12 in Ordinary Time

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Good morning this intensely warm day and we won't complain about the heat but it is very, very warm and a young blackbird sits on the windowsill outside this room here hugging the glass for whatever reason just looking at its own reflection I think. And the bird life generally I find is quite thirsty so it's important to have an abundance of water available for them. However, today we're talking about the abundance of words that we use in our life.

Emily Dickinson, the American poet, wrote " *A word is dead when it is said, some say. I say it just begins to live that day.*" The Gospel today Jesus is clear about the use of words and the clarity with which we need to do that, and the Gospel is of course is about the building of the house on sand. The sand can be the words we use at times that have total or little or no content whatsoever and so today He says " *Lord, Lord,*" *who will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the person who does the will of my Father in heaven. When the day comes many will say, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy etc etc....Then I shall tell them to their faces: I have never known you; away from me, you evil men!"*

"*How odd I can have all this inside me and to you it's just words*" said David Foster Wallace. Jesus is talking about not just saying, He's talking about today what we really say. What we really mean. He's talking about soul talk. Soul sharing. We can see that with a skilled helper whom may have that ability of insight and discernment to know when a particular or issue needs to be addressed be it in the form of counselling or spiritual direction. It is a huge skill, the more skilled the person seems to be the less words they tend to use.

And so, we have the real challenge today in our lockdown and time to reflect on the use of words indeed " *A word is dead when it is said, some say. I say it just begins to live that day.*" Good morning.