

'SOLITUDE AND THE DEEP CAVERNS OF FEELING WITHIN' – 22 JULY 2018

16th Sunday Ordinary Time. 22 July 2018.

TODAY'S GOSPEL: MARK 6:30-34

*'The apostles gathered around Jesus,
and told him all that they had done and taught.*

He said to them,

*'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.'
For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat.
And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves.*

*Now many saw them going and recognized them,
and they hurried there on foot
from all the towns and arrived ahead of them.
As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd;
and he had compassion for them,
because they were like sheep without a shepherd;
and he began to teach them many things.'*

SOLITUDE - RESTING A WHILE WITH JESUS

The first part of today's Gospel passage was placed in context last week in the homily. And this evening we have a special event as Sr Maeve takes us within a quiet place ourselves or as the Gospel reminds us – *"a deserted place"* with Jesus present to us. We come to *"rest a while"* with Jesus.

Life seems just so busy today.

The disciples nearly 2,000 years ago had times with *"no leisure even to eat"*.

Just when they thought that they would have that special time – alone with Jesus – solitude with Jesus, the crowds seek out Jesus.

*"and they hurried there on foot
from all the towns and arrived ahead of them".*

A LARGE CROWD – WHAT WERE THEY SEEKING?

DO THEY YET REALIZE WHOM THEY ARE SEEKING?

WHAT ARE THEIR EXPECTATIONS OF JESUS – WONDER WORKER? POLITICAL MESSIAH?

WHAT ARE OUR EXPECTATIONS?

In Jesus, our prayer life, our feelings, our thoughts, our actions are interrelated.

In Jesus we are made whole. In Jesus we are invited to be continually in love.

SOLITUDE IN JESUS

WHAT IS IT LIKE TO BE ALONE WITH JESUS?

Such solitude in loving.

In the 3rd and 4th stanzas of the poem [‘The Living Flame of Love’](#),
St John of the Cross writes

*“O lamps of fire!
in whose splendors
The deep caverns of feeling,
Once obscure and blind,
Now give forth, so rarely, so exquisitely,
Both warmth and light to their Beloved.*

*How gently and lovingly
You wake in my heart,
Where in secret you dwell alone;
And in your sweet breathing,
Filled with good and glory,
How tenderly You swell my heart with love.”*

HOW DO OUR OWN DEEP CAVERNS OF FEELING
GIVE FORTH WARMTH AND LIGHT TO JESUS OUR BELOVED?
HOW DOES JESUS DWELL ALONE IN EACH OF US?
HOW DO WE DESCRIBE THE GENTLE AND LOVING AWAKING IN OUR HEARTS BY JESUS?

MARY MAGDALA

July 22 is also the feast of St Mary Magdala.

We recognize the gentle and loving awakening in her heart,
especially through her courage, compassion and loyalty as a disciple of Jesus.
Jesus sent her to bring the Good News to the disciples that he has risen.

MOVED WITH COMPASSION

We view the context of the compassion of Jesus in today’s Gospel

*“he saw a great crowd;
and he had compassion for them,
because they were like sheep without a shepherd”*

We note the biblical Greek word [splaqchnizomai](#) used in today’s Gospel.
Jesus had a movement of compassion, a compassion from deep within,
a compassion that leads to movement/action,
or in a basic sense – a moving of the bowels.
Jesus is moved with compassion to act.

[Splaqchnizomai](#) – is from the caverns of feeling to which John of the Cross alludes.

HOW DOES JESUS ACT IN THIS INSTANCE?

– like a *‘shepherd’*

And the Gospel says:

‘and he began to teach them many things.’

A compassion that leads Jesus to teach the crowd at that moment.

A moving compassion for others is a deep feeling.

The first 3 Gospels use a few examples of this word where

- Jesus is “moved”
- and Jesus uses the word in parables he tells.

Our solitude with God can lead us to be moved with compassion for others.

REFLECTIONS

We might like to pause now and reflect upon this next question.

WHAT LEADS US IN OUR PRAYER OF SOLITUDE WITH GOD TO LOVE GOD AND NEIGHBOUR MORE DEEPLY? [Pause & Reflect]

LET US NOW PAUSE AGAIN AND IDENTITY THE MOVEMENTS OF GOD’S SPIRIT WITHIN US.
[Pause and name those realities for ourselves]

AND WE THANK GOD FOR THE CAVERNS OF FEELING AND OUR SACRED EXPERIENCES OF GOD. [Pause and thank God]

Let us conclude now with prayer for Sister Maeve who leads us later this afternoon.

Fr Gerry

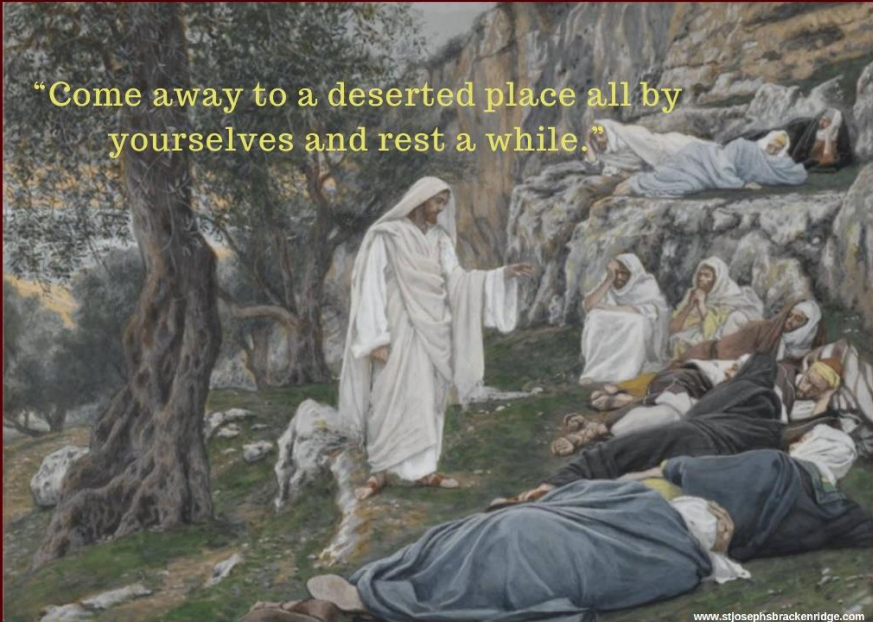
[Readings: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/072218.cfm>]

[Parish Facebook: <http://bit.ly/parishFacebook22072018>]

Other References: [The Living Flame of Love by St. John of The Cross](#)

GOSPEL OF MARK

HOMILY: SOLITUDE AND THE DEEP CAVERNS OF FEELING WITHIN



“Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.”

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Fr. Gerry