

GOSPEL: Fr Steve Sinn^[SEP] *John 14:1-6*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled, Trust in God still and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father’s house; if there were not I would have told you I am going now to prepare a place for you and after I have gone and prepared you a place I shall return to take you with me so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going. I am the way, the truth and the life.”

The Gospel of the Lord

ALL: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

Fr Steve’s Homily (transcript)

I would like to share with you three images. Des would speak of his father Paddy. He dearly loved his father and mother. His father was a very popular man, just like Des. Every Saturday he would go to the pub. He would front up to the bar and sat there and order his Guinness. He’d sit there in the pub with the dog next to him, and he’d like singing. Des was a footballer, and all the footballers after the game would want to come back to the pub where dad was and be with him singing.

The other image I have is of Des talking about his mother, He spoke about an angel looking after her, and he in the last days he was saying now that she’s gone, she’s got to be able to work for me now. He said she was an elegant person. They say that men marry their mothers I did think at the time that Des married his mother, but Des married June.

As Ray said, you only have to see Des and you’re happy. There’s the smile; instant connection, and fun. Funny enough a private man. Maybe the Irish are in a way. He was so hospitable; he so enjoyed company of others and made us feel at ease.

I used to think, I was visiting someone in hospital, I’d better do my job, and I should do what a priest does; but I don’t think I ever did. I realized that actually I didn’t have to. There was communion in our relationship. Wherever Des was there was a gathering, a eucharistic gathering; people were brought together. Having said

that, he was very nervous being anointed and prayed over. So, there's that image of his father at the pub, and his mother, and also a loving photo of Des sitting on a chair surrounded by all his girls. And he had his dog next to him too. And he looked very happy. So, there weren't footballers around him. He was very happy in their company.

I'm glad there are many rooms because there are rooms for all of us in my Father's house. There's no one way. It's interesting to hear that story. 'When I told you that I'm going to prepare a place for you'. It's a lovely stanza, 'He's gone before us and he's prepared a place for us, each one of us. If I've gone to do that, I will return and take you to myself, so that whereby you also will be'. So that again is a lovely image that He can't be without us.

And it's a kind of image that we kind of had a taste of that with Des. He had gone to prepare a place for us, whether it was around a BBQ, around a bar, so that where he is, we are. We've had a little taste of the future.

And the one who said that He has been through death and promised to take us to himself to the place he has prepared for us. When that promise says, 'but we don't know where we're going', he says, 'you know the way'. We say 'we don't know the way', but then we do. There's no book. The way is the relationship. 'I am the way'. There're no descriptions, no rules. It's a relationship we have with one another. It's the way. *We know that in our hearts, and Des embodied that. He was priestly. He showed us the way. He showed us the power of communion; the power of relationships; the power of being together.* So this is the truth. This is the way. This is what life is. And so I just thank Des for showing us the way, and the truth and the life.