

Lent Second Sunday B

“Then when suddenly they looked round, they saw no one with them anymore but only Jesus.”

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That has got to be one of the funniest and most ironic statements in the entire Gospel

Only Jesus

Only the creator of the stars and sky

Only the salvation of humanity

Only the love of God made flesh

“Then when suddenly they looked round, they saw no one with them anymore but only Jesus.”

My auntie Mary was a source of loving kindness in my life. Always loud, and politically incorrect, and proud, and loyal, and good.

Her home it was that my mother and I would end up at on Christmas day, after visiting brothers and sisters, and in-laws, and all. Hers was the home where after any number meals and snacks the obligatory ham sandwiches would be presented. Hers was the home where my very Irish mother relaxed and was at peace. Auntie Mary, or as we knew her Mickie was quick to lose her temper, and quick to express her love.

Did I see all this when she was living

Well to an extent, but I see it all too clearly now she has gone

“Then when suddenly they looked round, they saw no one with them anymore but only Jesus.”

When I was a student, and extremely good looking

I had three month long holidays. During which time our glorious government paid the likes of me the dole. But still I had a number of jobs. Working on building sites where I knew nothing, but was paid by my uncles a fortune. Working on a dustbin round where I got a view into the backyard of lives

I had only ever read about before.

Free to explore the studies I now have to struggle to find time for.

Free to play the role of the rebel without any responsibility.

Did I see how blessed I was at the time

Well to an extent, but I see it all too clearly now she it is gone

“Then when suddenly they looked round, they saw no one with them anymore but only Jesus.”

One of the symptoms of my being tired is the cruelty of losing my diary, or keys. A concern turns rapidly into a panic as the usual corners of the home do not produce the item. I repeat the process of searching each room. Eventually finding myself on the floor hoping to see the item hiding under a chair, or behind a desk. I pray with great earnestness to a clearly amused divinity. Until final the relief of spotting the object of my fear and clutching it too my breast.

Do I now understand how wonderful it is to feel the keys in my pocket, or see the diary on my desk.

Well to an extent, but I see all too clearly that I take them for granted

“Then when suddenly they looked round, they saw no one with them anymore but only Jesus.”

Lent is a period when we attempt to learn to see

At some point in the day

Write down five blessings no matter how trivial

At some point in the day write down five things that have been important

At some point in the day

Write down five things that you like and are good about your family, your home , your life

Choose one of these

It will not be easy after the second or third time

But learn to see what is there before you

“Then when suddenly they looked round, they saw no one with them anymore but only Jesus.”