

Thoughts on the Daily Word

Easter Octave. Tuesday 7th April. Readings: Acts 2:36-41; Psalm 32; John 20:11-18.

At this time in 1978 I was on a retreat at Ampleforth Abbey with fellow teachers. A monk arrived back from a retreat in Manchester for priests, given by Fr. George Kosicki CSB. The monk had a recording of a talk by Fr. George, beginning with this reading from Acts. As I listened, little did I know that this would become a turning point in my life that would eventually lead to the priesthood. I still have a copy of the tape and still listen to it; his voice still speaks to me about repentance. It began a journey into something that I had never heard of before, the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. It spoke of turning faith from a series of rules and things to believe into a real experience of the power of God, the Holy Spirit. I remember vividly thinking that this was what was needed for the teenagers in our inner city secondary modern school that I worked in. It changed my life forever, but not without kicking and screaming! A new relationship was possible through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Gospel story highlights the heart of that relationship. Jesus just has to say 'Mary', and everything changes. One of the most moving moments of the Resurrection stories. Each of us to have to hear our names spoken by the Lord and know that it is heart to heart, then we become alive in the power of the Spirit.