

Friday 5 Lent  
JN 10:31-42

In this time of Lent called Passiontide, it's been a roller coaster of a week just in terms of the Gospels:

1. Monday's gospel of the woman caught in adultery with the paparazzi scribes and Pharisees on one hand, and Jesus, with His penetrating presence and penetrating gaze on the other.
2. Tuesday's gospel where they think Jesus is going to commit suicide on the one hand, and a calm, convincing Jesus on the other, telling his listeners that He and His Father are one, so that many came to believe in him.
3. Wednesday's gospel where they pride themselves in being sons of Abraham on the one hand and Jesus being illegitimate on the other
4. Thursday's gospel where they are sure Jesus is possessed and try to stone Him on the one hand, and Jesus telling them that He is glorified by His Father and that Abraham rejoiced to see His day on the other.

5. And today's gospel, two chapters later, where they are trying to stone him yet again, on the one hand, and Jesus pointing to the miracles He has performed as testimony that He is God's son, and again, many people came to believe in Him on the other.

And it's been a roller coaster of a week right here at home. Social distancing and self isolation has been extended for the month of April. The pandemic is getting much closer to home with numbers in Burlington County rising like the rest of the country, people we know being tested positive. And breakthroughs reported in the media with more being learned about the virus, private industries stepping up to the plate, and help is arriving as soon as possible. And slow the spread seems to be working but numbers will get worse before they get better. And then there is the economy . . . It's a roller coaster and that first hill on the graphs we're seeing on the news is a doozie!

Also this week, I began another book, The Power of Silence by Cardinal Sarah. It's a deep read so far, to go deep into silence. And what's been sort of silent is my

daily devotional. But I need to be good with that. Perhaps Jesus is speaking to me, to you through the silence?

When I was on my leave of absence and living in Roanoke, VA, since I didn't have 24/7 access to the Blessed Sacrament, my favorite place to pray was on the balcony off my bedroom. My bedroom balcony overlooked my front yard and across the street was a park. And that was my favorite place to pray, especially at night. Find your favorite place to pray. And be silent there, as if you were silent before the Blessed Sacrament, and let the Lord calm your heart. It worked for me for the years I lived in Roanoke. In a way, in the silence of that balcony, I prayed my way back to the active priesthood. So pray your way back to being peaceful during this less than peaceful time.