

Sunday Reflection

◆ **First Reading:** *Acts 3:13-15, 17-19*

◆ **Second Reading:** *1 John 2:1-5*

◆ **Gospel:** *Luke 24:35-48*

.....I suppose most of the Commonwealth was tuned into the funeral of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh! Indeed a sad occasion for the nation and I would say, especially for Queen Elizabeth, that's her dear husband gone, they had been married for 73 years, that alone is a wonderful achievement!, how did they manage for 73 years as husband & wife?, the same as all other married couples who put their heart and soul into their vocation in life day after day. To have your beloved spouse taken from you due to a heart condition, old age or something worse is painful, what happens? the sting of absence kicks in with a heavy blow ; In the weeks and months ahead Queen Elizabeth will surely feel that awful absence as her husband is no longer around ;

How often do you and I stop and ask ourselves "what would my life be like without the presence of my friends, my spouse, my family and others whom I love dearly?" Are we inclined to take for granted the love we receive from others whoever they may be?

Jesus Our Saviour needed the love and support of his family and friends to see Him thru' the trials of life ;

His parents supported him in his growing up years ;

During his public ministry Jesus had the support of his mother Mary or better said, Mary was never far from her Son ; Jesus had the apostles, he had women friends, the sisters Martha & Mary, also I'm sure Jesus had friends among the Pharisees, some believed in him as the Anointed One of God, the Messiah ; After being resurrected, Jesus met his friends again, their reaction was joyful, as it says in the Gospel reading

this Sunday **THEIR JOY WAS SO GREAT THAT THEY COULD NOT BELIEVE IT, THEY STOOD THERE DUMBFOUNDED..**as in, the greatest friend they ever had LITERALLY come back from the dead ; Unfortunately you and I won't ever have the same joy of seeing our deceased loved ones in the same way they saw the Resurrected Christ, we'll have to wait 'till we reach Heaven and see them in their glorified state. What can we do in the meantime with those who are still close to us at home?, in the work-place? or close by on the other end of the phone when we need them? the ones who support us and love us as we are with our imperfections.....??

We must continue to love them, let them know that we love them while they are still with us, because it's only when our loved ones are out-of-sight, gone or deceased, then the sting of ABSENCE kicks in with no mercy ; that ONE person in your life or the few people who love you, and you know they love you! these people are a blessing! , they love you NOT because of what you are, not because of what you own, more so they love you because of WHO you are ;

I'll leave you with these few thoughts, let us appreciate those special individuals in our life, they may not always be around, pray for them and express gratitude, and while we're at it, let us include Queen Elizabeth in a private intention as her beloved husband has departed this world after 73 years of climbing the mountain of life together as a married couple, the sting of absence can be painful indeed!

Fr Kieran A. Fitzharris SVD