**Tuesday of 4th Week of Lent**

Hearing about water evokes a picture of a little brook frolicking down the hillside. The water is lively, bubbly, and jumping about, joyfully spraying anyone who comes too close. As it tumbles along, it reflects the light in a multitude of directions, twinkling with all sorts of different colours and hues - a delight to behold. All too quickly it merges with the great river which moves much more sedately, even regally; speaking of power and strength, yet always moving, always changing, and yet, in some ways, always the same. What better image is there of the way God interacts with our lives. No wonder, then, that we associate water with life, with bearing fruit, with cleansing and why water is one of the best allies we have against the virus. It is interesting, too, that the Jesus story today mentions the healing qualities of water, even though Jesus does not take the man to water but heals him on the spot. Isn’t it ironical that the man, paralysed and unable to move, is given new life and begins walking as if he had never been paralysed - certainly not for over thirty years? We, on the other hand, have been *confined to barracks* and told to stay at home – the reverse. However, it gives us an opportunity to identify with the paralysed man before his healing. Once this imposed curfew has been lifted, we will be even more joyful at our freedom than the man by the Sheep Pool. For your three concelebrants, your spiritual presence at Mass has become even more important. Let us take the opportunity to use our confinement as an opportunity to identify with (and pray for) all those imprisoned for their faith, those imprisoned unjustly, and those suffering from life-long forms of immobility and total dependence on others.

A further thought: Composers spent many, many hours in confinement and produced the most beautiful, expressive and moving music of all time!