

I first met Fr Sean at a renewal conference early in 2005. To be honest my initial reaction was that of fear. He seemed to be very powerful in his ministry. I remember hearing him sing for the first time at the beginning of a healing service, his voice boomed and seemed to send vibrations right through me. The ministry which Pat Kennedy and Fr Sean shared together has had a significant impact on my life and my faith journey. Three particular examples are:-

1) My husband and I were having great marital difficulties and despite our efforts we were struggling to find a way forward together as a married couple. We were invited by Pat and Fr Sean to come for some prayer ministry. We arrived feeling very nervous and despite our confidence in prayer we had little hope of being able to save our relationship. Before the prayer Fr Sean asked my husband to explain our difficulties. I had heard what he said many times before. When he finished talking Fr Sean spoke back to him what he had heard and identified with. It was new perspective. He spoke to my husband not really as a priest or teacher as we had seen him minister before but as a man. He shared honestly about himself and showed a huge depth of compassion. As I listened I realised how much I had misunderstood the situation we were in. Fr Sean was bringing things about our past into the light which I had never realised before. Fr Sean reached out to my husband in a way I had been unable to. I had become stuck in unforgiveness and Fr Sean recognised that in me. When he advised me on a way forward his words were very direct and perhaps harsh but necessary. They spoke to a place deep inside me. As he laid hands on our heads and prayed over our marriage and our love for one another I felt the hardness inside of me melt, I was filled with hope and confidence that I could follow Fr Sean's example and show compassion and forgiveness to my husband. It was a real turning point for us.

2) I was at a healing service led by Pat and Fr Sean. The Blessed Sacrament was exposed on the altar during the service. After the teaching Fr Sean brought the Blessed Sacrament around to each person. He asked us to think of one thing we needed help with and to pray about that as we knelt and touched the monstrance. I reached up and touched it and I received a very powerful healing and blessing from the Lord in the silence of my heart. I felt so close to Christ, it was the most accessible I had ever felt Him. I was struck by the boldness of Fr Sean's faith. He stood in the gap that evening and helped a lot of people touch Christ and so be touched by Him.

3) I was listening to a talk by Fr Sean but I was reluctant to be there as I felt hurt, let down and frustrated by the church and quite unwilling to continue practising as a Catholic. As I listened Fr Sean said very clearly "If you have questions for the church, don't walk away **be** the answer." I felt convicted on the spot. It is a truth which has stayed with me. Though I continue to struggle in my walk as a Catholic each time I find myself wanting to walk away these words ring again in my head. His teachings have taught me that I won't find my answers by walking away. I heard a clear calling from the Lord to remain in the Catholic church and I hope that will always be so.

I do consider myself different from listening to Fr Sean's teachings and from being ministered to by him and I am enormously grateful. I have learnt perseverance in prayer. I have witnessed the power of God working through him and I have taken great confidence from that. I have learnt by example to reach out. I have learnt that there are times to be bold and to speak with authority in prayer and times to listen and be gentle. His perspective has widened the perimeters of my sight. I have learnt to seek and to use wisdom to safeguard people and ourselves when we pray with each other. His teachings have taught me to be dedicated to reading the Word of God and to be rooted in it.

My abiding memories of Fr Sean are; him sitting in his chair at home swivelling from side to side as he listened or thought things through. Also I will always remember the fluidity of the Holy Spirit working between him and Pat when they ministered together, I felt one gave the word and the other broke it. Finally I remember his frailty the last time I saw him at mass on Pentecost this year. It reminded me that no matter how great the grace and power of God is in us, we are all human and suffer the same human weakness and frailty.