

## **Commentary on the Gospel for Mon, May 2nd 2011**

Nicodemus, a Jew, has to come to Jesus in the dark, but he is a sincere and thoughtful man, is seeking the truth and already believes that Jesus is a teacher, who comes from God. Seeing his interest and courage Jesus challenges him, saying: ‘unless a man is born through water and the Spirit he cannot enter the kingdom of God.’ There are no ‘kid gloves’ for Nicodemus! Jesus is inviting him to accept the challenge of believing in him and indicating that it won’t be easy, but he gives him and us the reassurance that the Spirit is at work in the world and in each of us, if only we listen to ‘its sound’.

We hear more of this conversation with Nicodemus in the gospel readings of Tuesday and Wednesday, then little more, but it is Nicodemus who provides the tomb for Jesus’ burial.

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