

6th Sunday Easter – 21-5-17
Acts 8:5-8.14-17, Peter 3:15-18, John 14:15-21

This weekend all our churches on the north-side have baptisms to be celebrated and I think that's an amazing thing. These baptisms have coincided during the week with Sr Carmel Pilcher and Fr David Orr sharing with us what it means to live out our baptismal call. Over these next weeks' I will share a little of what they spoke about and how we as a community can really look at what it means to be baptised.

So what does it mean for you to be baptised?

To live out the call to be: a **chosen** race, a **royal** priesthood, a **holy** nation!

As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet and King, so may you live always as a member of Christ's Body! Christ's Body who is chosen, royal and holy! That is, each of you are chosen, royal and holy. Do you think of yourselves as such?

We hear the word priesthood in the baptism and the call to live out your priesthood in baptism. Now we understand the priest has their role and people tend to leave the holy stuff up to them. There is also the priesthood of the faithful, which is somehow not understood or thought about because the word priesthood for many tends to mean the person of the priest! That is, ME. Yet in a moment, and in every baptism, the sacrament of baptism, no less, we hear these words: *As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet and King, so may you live always as a member of Christ's Body! Christ's Body who is chosen, royal and holy!*

So this 'priesthood' it is very much about the baptismal priesthood which is at service to the world. We get hung up on the ordained priesthood and forget what it means to live out your baptismal call and role. Both are about service and both cannot do without each other.

You as parents live out your call of priestly service in so many ways: just look at the things which you do for your children. The sacrifices you do, the self denial so that the kids can have it instead, the love and commitment to them in so many ways. For all those who are baptised your lives daily have moments, experiences, of service and care for people in your lives: This is your priesthood of the faithful, your priestly service of the world.

The Vatican II Documents have say to us all: **'The faithful, on their part, in virtue of their royal priesthood, join in the offering of the Eucharist. They likewise exercise that priesthood by their participation in the sacraments, by their prayer and thanksgiving, with the witness of a holy life, by self-denial and charity.'** LG 10

You as parents, you here tonight live this out in so many ways.

Our readings today have three very simple messages which are at the heart of what baptism is for us. **Proclaim Christ in all we say and do; reverence Christ in our hearts and live the hope that we believe, and in our Gospel Jesus says that he will send an Advocate that is with us and indeed Jesus says that is in us.**

What an extra-ordinary message – simple and to the point. Scripture shows us a way forward. It can take away our blindness and help us to see our world differently again. It can help us to focus again on Christ and to recognise that is indeed what our Baptism is calling us to do and live.

Reverence Christ in your hearts our second reading says. The question we can ask ourselves is: Am I ready to do this and live this out in my life as my baptismal call as chosen, royal and holy! Let us all pray that we can truly live out our royal priesthood of baptism. Amen.

Fr Matthew Moloney