

Fr KEVIN DILLON'S HOMILY DATED 23.09.18

That first part of the gospel of Mark, we see that Jesus was born into a certain area and a certain people. And even we know that at the cross, Peter, because Peter spoke with a Galilean accent, he was recognised for that, by the chief priest servants. In the same way we would expect that Jesus spoke with a Galilean accent as well. And at Capernaum, which was his hometown, he asked them, “what were you arguing about on the road?”. They were arguing which of them would be the greatest, and then he explains to them, greatness is in our lives when we are servants of all, and he gave them the example of a child; “Anyone who welcomes this child, welcomes me, and not only me, but the one who sent me.” The child has greatness because they are open, because they have a presence and because they love, and these are the qualities that Jesus is talking about for anybody who wants to work in the kingdom.

And we, you great people gathered here to celebrate the presence of Christ in the Eucharist, this is the greatness that you have as people, as individuals who as number one, you are open to the presence of Christ, you all love Christ, that’s why you will come and you believe, and you believe in Jesus, and because of that belief, you know that life in the kingdom is not a competition, we’re not competitive with others, we do not see ourselves as better than others, and we do not recognise others because they may be powerful and in power or whatever. They are ordinary people trying to do their best for the community – that’s what Jesus was about. And in our homes, we must be open to every person in our family. We’re not in competition with any other member of the family. We’re not in competition with our parents because we are gathered by Jesus in a community of love, a community of giving, and a community of praising and encouraging, and a community where we say to one and other, “Well done”.

I grew up in a family of eleven, and I’ll always remember that there was nobody jealous if somebody got a new jacket or whatever it was we needed, and if the older ones always said to us when we’d put on our new suit or whatever it was, their first reaction was, “Well wear”. They were so grateful that we had got something new

and there has to be the newness always in our lives, like the newness that your faith has tonight by coming here, and you are not coming here as a replay of last Saturday night, you are here because you know and you believe there is a new experience of the presence of Christ for you. That's what He wants, all the time, every moment. And I mentioned the cross before and last Sunday's gospel brought that out and in the mass we celebrate again the cross. Jesus in the mass is again, there's no past and there's no future with God, God's mind or heart.

And therefore, there's always the present, and as a result of that, Jesus hangs eternally present on the cross, redeeming the world and He continues that act of redemption in the face of God for the whole world, so you and I are here leaving competition away, but concentrating on the fact that we are servants of Jesus and we are servants of one another and therefore, we are servants of the community and the nation. A person who celebrates the Eucharist must be a person, a good citizen, because we have to look after all the good people and call them to Jesus. And when you go back to the child, a child will smile at you, and because they feel so secure, they feel loved, and they feel that somebody cares. In the same way Jesus cares for us and He gazes on us tonight just the same as the child would and He believes and He is so grateful that we have come, and He's so grateful that we will leave this mass and make His presence known, make His presence known everywhere we go throughout the week.

And in that way, we are servants of Jesus, same as Jesus Himself, I have come with that where all the service is for the children. The same way with their schools, and then the Parish, where we serve one another and we will mention in the Eucharistic prayer that you hear so often, where we say we thank You for counting us worthy to be in Your presence and minister to You, and may the way we minister to God, Jesus, is by ministering to other people. Therefore, as I have already observed, the ministry that people carry out, whether it's reading or anything else, for the good of the whole Parish, that's the ministry of Jesus.

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