

**Homily 2022.04.03      5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, in Lent (Year C – but using year A readings)**

Link to Last Sunday's Gospel 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' The crowd are still not satisfied. Something more is needed.

Third of the trilogy of Gospels from John to be used on these Sundays when a parish is preparing for Adult baptism at Easter:

1. The water of life
  2. The light of life
- and today, the big one:
3. The resurrection to new life, and to eternal life.

Our mortality is the motivation for our spiritual life.

The drama of Baptism: life, death, and resurrection.

The font is at the back so that it is near the door – the sacrament of entry into the church.

We repeat this action when we begin a Requiem Mass, greeting the coffin at the door with the water of baptism: 'In the waters of Baptism (*name*) died with Christ, may they rise with Christ to eternal glory.'

Not always popular with parents preparing for infant baptism that the baptism is partly about death. But as Christians we do not partake in secular society's denial of death and refusal to look at death until it's absolutely unavoidable.

For us death is the gateway to eternal life. Not in a way that denies that death is scary, unknown and possibly painful. But we come at it with a different meaning.

In the current rite of baptism when I ask parents what they ask of God's church for little Jimmy the answer is 'Baptism'. In older rites the answer was 'Eternal Life', which is the more dramatic answer and request. It's more than just a membership card.

In particular by being baptised we have, in part, already died with Christ and have begun to live the resurrection (see Romans Chapter 6)

We take this opportunity to wonder at the magnitude of what Baptism means. We do not flee from our mortality. But we are made for the glory of heaven and eternal life with Jesus Christ.