

Sermon: In the name of the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit... After the Baptism of his baby brother, poor little Sam sobbed all the way, back home, in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, Sam replied, 'That priest said, he wanted us, to be brought up, in a Christian home, but I want to stay with you guys. No doubt, after baptism children learn about their faith and practice in a Christian home, that will make them true believers. 'Baptism is not about how much faith we can demonstrate to the minister. It is about God's grace, as we sing, freely, freely, we have received, freely freely give.

Let me give you an analogy, that might help us to compare baptism with the grant to someone of their passport, as a British citizen. The passport can be given even to a new born baby, but it is entirely up to the individual, when and how often, they travel on it. Similarly, in baptism, the baby or a young person or an adult is given their passport as a citizen of the Kingdom of God. Unlike our British passports, it will never expire or be cancelled. But it remains entirely up to us, whether we travel on it or not. That is called Free Will. That is why, our role in providing a Christian home, and a Christian upbringing, is so important.

In his early years, Murdo will not be able to travel on his Christian passport alone, unless you parents, travel on yours with him, and if he sees that your Christian passport is important to you, then, his will become important to him. Your duty, as parents and Godparents, is not only to see Murdo embark, on his Christian journey, but to help him continue on that journey for as long as you are able, and to pray that he will have the grace, and the strength to continue that journey. Although the passport is free, the journey can be very costly, indeed, there is a cost of commitment. But it is the greatest journey any one can make, for it leads to the Kingdom of Heaven, and as Jesus' said, whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a little child, will never enter it. With those words, Jesus took the little children up, in his arms, laid his hand on them, and blessed them. It was one of the most awesome acts of love and compassion at that time, when children had no rights, no respect, and they were abused and beaten up often. The young children came to Jesus without any fear, any argument, analysis or reasoning. You might remember the story, when John the Baptist tried to argue with Jesus about His baptism, and Jesus didn't even begin to debate with John, but said, let it happen: And the most amazing event occurred, as, heaven moved, in a remarkable way. God the Father spoke, this is my beloved son, to whom I am well pleased.

The Holy Communion and the Baptism are the movements of God towards us. Without God, there is nothing else in the sacraments. As our reading reminds us, Jesus loves the little children, but not only because they were cute. or lovely. Jesus loves each little child, because of their, venerability, weakness, innocence, and spontaneous love, each child is special, and demonstrate reflection of God's unconditional love. "Let the children come to me," Do not stop them. Jesus said to His disciples. We can imagine when the parents, wanted Jesus to bless their children. some children might be reluctant, hiding behind their mothers' skirts; others may be dancing up and down, around Jesus, without self-consciousness.

Today, Murdo, has become a citizen of the Kingdom of God. In his baptism, He has received an identity as a son of God and he is adopted in His Spiritual family. Some Christian people, of course, do not believe in an infant baptism, but only in what they call 'believer's baptism'. They argue unless one has an adult understanding, adult commitment and adult faith, the baptism will be meaningless. But who are we, to put limits on age or on the workings of God's grace? Who am I, to be the judge of, whether or not, a parent or Godparent have demonstrated a good amount of faith, to earn God's grace in baptism? Although, I always try my best to make sure that parents and Godparents understand what they are committing themselves to. We cannot judge who will go to heaven and who will not.

Let me tell you another funny story. A priest and a taxi driver both died on the same day and went to heaven. St. Peter was at the gates, waiting for them. 'Come with me,' said St. Peter to the taxi driver. The taxi driver followed St Peter to a beautiful big mansion. It had everything you could imagine. 'Oh, my word, thank God,' said the taxi driver. Next, St. Peter led the priest, to a rough old hut, with a bunk bed, and a little old television set. 'Wait, St Peter, I think, you are a little mixed up,' said the priest. 'Shouldn't I, be the one, who gets that mansion? After all I was a priest, went to church every day, and preached my sermons but you have given this beautiful mansion to this dangerous driver.' 'Yes, that's true.' St Peter said, but during your sermons some people slept and snored. But when this taxi driver, drove, everyone prayed all the time, even those who has no faith at all.'

It doesn't matter whatever our profession is, we are all equal in the eyes of God, and we will get our reward according to our deeds, even for a glass of cold water, for a cup of tea or coffee, we offer to a needy person, we will never lose our reward in heaven. Let's pray for baby Murdo, and his parents to keep their promises in the presence of God, and to this congregation, and lets' take this opportunity, to renew our own commitment to the Lord and to His Church as we spend a few moments in silence...