

Low Mass Friday 22 OT, 14 Trinity. 9.30am

As the baptised people of God we are children of the new creation, new wine and new wine skins.

By Friday morning we may not feel like particularly new wine and new wine skins. We may feel more like sediment clumped in the bottom of a distinctly second hand wine skin! We may be more focussed on drinking wine than being it.

But it remains true – whether we feel it or not – that in our baptism we have died and risen with the Risen Christ. The new, full reality for which creation is destined is being revealed in us and through us.

That's why S. Paul says with such confidence that we are to live for the Kingdom, not judging others, not submitting ourselves to measures of success that will pass away – but seeing things as they really are, that is to say, as they will be. When Christ comes again. To be children of light.

He writes: Nothing is in darkness that will not come to light. Just as Ss Mark, Mark and Luke record Jesus saying 'There is nothing hidden that won't be revealed, and there is nothing secret [in darkness] that won't become known and come to light.' (Mark 4.22; Luke 8.17; Matt 10.26)

Is this a threat from Jesus the KGB agent? No, the Risen Jesus calling and freeing all of us – each part of us, into the light. And also us as a whole. Creation, the Church worldwide, this parish and congregation. And us as staff team – to live as children of light. To consciously and deliberately, with faith, hope and love, inhabit our true identities as brothers and sisters baptised into the new creation – the new creation that has been bought with His blood, is alive in His Resurrection and is to be consummated at His coming.

This is not an onerous task put upon us, or a test to be passed. It is not without its challenges of course, and it involves that constant call to Conversion of life – dying to the old self and living to the new. But, even if, as it does, this call to Life involves the little deaths of everyday. Little deaths to ego or fear, to pride and all the rest. We musn't get caught in the trap that it's all down to our self-critical hard-graft. No, this invitation into Life is fundamentally an invitation to step, by Grace, into the glorious *freedom* of the Children of God. To allow ourselves, our little community here and everything we touch and participate in. To simply allow that to be brought into the Light. Into the warm life-giving, glow of the Light of the World, by whom we become who we really are.