

## **Tuesday Reflection 1st June 2021**

On Sunday the Parish welcomed two new members into its community. In his homily, Fr Naz made the point that baptism is not a one-off event overseen by the priest, but is an ongoing activity for the whole Parish Community, as we are called to enable, empower and encourage each other as we work together for a just society.

Baptism is a two-way process; it confers rights and privileges, but it also imposes obligations. It is not just an entry ticket to an individual path to salvation, but marks the start of activity as a member of a body.

In today's Gospel, Jesus uses the image of the lamp, which is not to be hidden under a tub, but allowed to shine out brightly. We have all been endowed with divine gifts, each of us, as St Paul says, with a different set of gifts which we are to deploy for the good of the community by sharing them with others.

Jesus also tells us that salt which has lost its savour is good for nothing; I take this as an encouragement to keep my gifts fit and ready for their purpose, to train and develop them as athletes train and develop their bodies.

Today the Church commemorates the martyrdom of St Justin, a philosopher and evangelist who placed his intellectual gifts at the service of his faith "even unto death".

In our days let us celebrate our gifts and celebrate all those who place their gifts at the service of our Parish Community.

**Michael Townson**