



Children of God

1 John 3:2; Matt 25:40; Phil 3:21; Rom 8:16-18

As **children of God** we have a glorious future because God in his goodness and generosity wants to share his love and life with us. Again, in our second reading, John wrote, "we are already children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is" (1 John 3:2). There is a gap between this life and the next. A caterpillar could never tell how beautiful it would become as a butterfly with beautiful wings. The unborn baby could never understand what a gap there is between life in the womb and life in the world. How could an acorn recognize itself in the oak tree? So, in this Eucharist, as well as praying for _____, we can also say thanks to God for that glorious future that _____ is now beginning to enjoy.

Whatever type of body we will have in heaven nobody knows, except that it will be much better than what we have now. Again, in our second reading, Paul said, the Lord Jesus will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body (Phil 3:21). Whatever John is experiencing now, it is better than here. In case there is anything in his life that still needs to be purified, we pray for him during this Mass. We ask God to reward him for his goodness and transfigure him to enjoy his true homeland.

As we pray for _____ today I would also like to remember him/her as a child of God, as a son/daughter of God. We do not think often enough of each other as children of God. We can get knocked about by others on our journey through life, disrespected or taken advantage of and any time it happens it shatters our opinion of humanity. No matter what others do to us, we must never forget our most beautiful calling, our calling as sons and daughters of God which we received on the day we were baptized. Others misjudge us but God's judgment of us is that we are his sons and daughters. Once again we remember the words of Jesus in our Gospel, "In so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me" (Matt 25:40). So, as we bury _____

today, we remember him/her as a son/daughter of God. We heard in the reading from Rom 8, "The Spirit himself and our spirit bear united witness that we are children of God.

And if we are children we are heirs as well: heirs of God and coheirs with Christ, sharing his sufferings so as to share his glory" (Rom 8:16-17) _____, like all of us, is an heir of God. He/She will inherit from God. What will he/she inherit from God? Once again in our reading we heard, "I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us" (Rom 8:18). That is what he/she will inherit, the glory of the resurrection.

We judge everything by value now and what it can produce. Sometimes you would hear people talking about other people as being "useful" or "no use." That is the most dreadful thing, I think, that anybody can say about another person, to be of "no use." Describing a person like that is not the way of a follower of Jesus. A follower of Jesus knows that our value is that we are sons and daughters of God, that we will inherit the glory of the resurrection. Whether we are the best of athletes or handicapped, rearing a family at home or working in the factory, we are sons and daughters of God. As I said, we do not think often enough of each other as sons and daughters of God.

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