

## Parish Conversation 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### PRIEST, PROPHET, KING

All the baptised are anointed as 'priest, prophet and king'. What does this mean?

**PRIEST** - You have a vocation. God has a plan for you (Jeremiah 29:11). You are part of the priesthood of all the faithful. As such, we are all called to offer ourselves on the altar of life; to live the Gospel, to incarnate the love of God in how we think about, speak to and act towards all people and, indeed, our common home, the earth. With special commitment to showing mercy and compassion, we are all called upon to minister as part of the priesthood of all the faithful in the world, just as ordained priests minister in the Church. Challenging and all as it might seem to be referring to everyone as priests, it is no less true. I am not doing down the special nature of ordained priesthood one iota. I am elevating the special nature of the priesthood of all the faithful. To do this, we must commit to a deepening of our relationship with God and to developing a rich prayer life.

**PROPHET** - Prophets are often thought of as being able to see or predict the future. However, the prophets were those who held a mirror up to the world around them and showed it as it really was - good and bad. This was not always a popular thing to do. Prophets were often

persecuted and even killed. We don't always like to be told the truth! You are called to seek the truth and to speak it. However, we are not called to 'beat' people with the truth. If we do, it is no longer an act of prophesy, which I think is always designed to lead people to God. We are called to speak the truth and 'speak it with love' (Ephesians 4:15) in words and deeds. If we first embody our truth of the love of God for all creation and speak it in our lives, we will be doing well.

**KING (QUEEN)** - Leadership in the Christian context is the leadership that Jesus spoke of when he said that he had 'not come to be served, but to serve' (Matthew 20:28). Our baptism calls us to exercise servant leadership in whatever sphere that leadership is called upon. It might be that we are called to exercise it in relation to how we 'lead' ourselves, living out the fruits of the Holy Spirit - love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. It may also be that we are called to exercise our servant leadership when we present ourselves for roles within the Church. Our participation in the life of our local Church is key to acting out of our Kingship / Queenship. We understand this not as a monarchical act of power or control, but rather as a gentle act of service.

- **What does it mean for me to know that I am baptised as Priest, Prophet and King?**
- **As Priest, Prophet and King or Queen, what is the Holy Spirit calling me to give to St. Anne's in service?**
- **Who else might I invite to get involved?**

## **Are you called...?**

- Reader
- Minister of the Eucharist
- Music/Choir
- Technology – Cameras, Live streaming, website management/social media/communication
- Welcome ministry
- Hospitality
- Children's Liturgy
- Bereavement Group
- Friendship Club
- Adult Faith Formation
- Lectio Divina/Pray Group
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Community Outreach – Foodbank/Cross-community contacts/Housebound visitation/ Special Needs
- Funeral Ministry

- Sacramental Preparation – Baptism/First Penance/First Holy Communion/Confirmation/Marriage
- Grounds upkeep & Buildings maintenance/Facilities management
- Church cleaning
- Sacristan/ Altar Server
- Church environment/Flower arrangement/Displays
- Liturgy Group
- Finance Committee
- Counters
- One World Group
- Safeguarding Committee
- Youth Ministry

**What are you interested in?**

**Please email: [stannes@downandconnor.org](mailto:stannes@downandconnor.org)**

**Or call 028 90610112**