

Homily 7th Sunday in Easter Year B (13.5.18)

**Refreshed and renewed in the service of God,
and His Catholic Church.**

Monday, is the feast day of Saint Matthias, the apostle who was elected to replace Judas. But what I love about this reading is, what is not said. Because you've got Joseph, known as Barsabbas, who was one of two candidates to replace the office of Judas. Someone who had gone around with Jesus from the beginning of his ministry. And you never hear of Joseph, known as Barsabbas, ever again. He's not mentioned anywhere else. And I can assure you that the acts of the apostles always mentioned someone who was a baddie. And they always give them a bad end. They like to show the baddies lose. But nothing more is said of Joseph, also known as Barsabbas. And I think he's a wonderful example for most of us, who don't get chosen for important positions.

I can remember at primary school, I was only chosen for something important on one occasion, and that was to take the Good Shepherd funds that we had collected during Lent, to the Bishop. And I was never chosen for anything else after that., We often don't get chosen. We get left out. Somebody else wins. But, what I love about Joseph, also known as Barsabbas, is he was clearly a good person. And he continued to work faithfully in the Church. This much you can tell by the way the text treats him. And the other thing too that we notice is that the Apostles drew lots to make their final choice, they drew lots, bad thing to see what the will of the Holy Spirit is. I don't recommend it. Drawing lots is not always an ideal way of making a decision, but here, and guided by the Holy Spirit this was sensible, as both candidates were equally good. Now, for me, this text reminds us that we might not hold high office, we might not become important. We might not be chosen for some great deed in life. But the main thing, the important thing, the vital thing is, to be faithful to Jesus in all aspects of our lives. To follow Him. Because there's nothing better than the reward of being spirit filled and saved in Him.

And this weekend, at all the Masses we have a group of our Confirmation candidates who are publicly going to state that they wish to deepen their relationship with Jesus and his Church, through the sacrament of Confirmation. I'm now going to call them out, with their parents standing behind them, to offer themselves as candidates for Confirmation, and to renew their Baptismal promises. Please pray for them, and pray for ourselves too, that the Holy Spirit may renew and inspire us all to greater love of Jesus Christ, and His holy Catholic Church.