

I was born for this. On your birthday, the day you were born, you were held in the arms of mum and dad. They held you, a bundle of joy at the time. I imagine new parents are filled with unconditional love for their newborn. At the same time overwhelmed at the responsibility of providing for baby's every need. Life-changing moments for parents with their child. First breaths are taken, they feel the rhythm of your tiny heartbeat as you are held. If parents had doubt about their main calling in life beforehand, the tiny child that reaches out to be fed and comforted makes it crystal clear: you were born for this.

I remember Delboy, a comedy character of the 1990s, holding his baby son with tears of joy, looking out into the stars of the night sky, saying to him: *you're the most precious thing in the whole wide world. I was born for this moment. This time next year, we'll be millionaires.* This new father realised his vocation to raise his Son and help him to find treasure in his life, according to his potential. He was born for this.

Only 6 weeks ago, we celebrated the beauty and wonder of a mother holding her baby. The Angel of the Lord had announced to Mary nine months earlier, that her Son Jesus would be great; called the Son of the Most High. In Luke chapter 1 verse 33, Mary is told that Jesus will reign over the house of Jacob forever. And His kingdom will have no end. What infinite potential her baby Son had. Mary witnessed his growth and saw his potential unleashed - in the cruellest, and most glorious manner possible. From death on a cross, to Saviour of the world

That word *potential* sounds like the word *potent*. *Potent* means strong or powerful. As a tiny human you had the most extraordinary potential, you are still working out where your potential will lead. Baby steps turn to giant leaps for mankind, as Neil Armstrong said, the first man on the moon. Buzz Aldrin, the second man on the moon, was also born to be an astronaut. On the way home, glimpsing the whole world with his own eyes through the window of the space craft, Buzz spoke these words from Psalm 8, crackling over the radio in an American accent, speaking to God in awesome wonder: *When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou has ordained; What is man that thou art mindful of him? And the Son of Man, that thou visitest him?*

The Son of Man that Buzz Aldrin told of, whilst returning to the world, is Jesus. God from God who dwelt amongst us. He wanted to shift the attention from his own achievement, to give thanks to God who made it all possible. And Christ remained at the centre of the lunar mission; the first food ever eaten there was Holy Communion, the most powerful and precious payload aboard the Apollo 11 rocket.

Let's come back down to earth for a moment to hear about Christ, doing good in Capernaum on the banks of Galilee, in the gospel today. We found him at his busiest, fulfilling his divine potential, pouring out the power of God within Him. His tasks included teaching in the synagogue, raising Peter's mother-in-law from sickness to service, reaching out to the crowds, bringing healing and peace, casting out devils. With

no complaint, Jesus said, *that is why I came*. He was born for this. Born to heal the broken-hearted. *Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted*.

When we start work early, and work till late, we describe it as burning the candle from both ends. The Light of the World, Jesus, did this too. Healing until well after sunset, and back on the mission trail first thing in the morning. Between appointments, long before dawn, the Lord found a quiet place in which to pray. He did this as man to build communion with His Father, to align his mission with the Father's mission. As he said in prayer the day before he was crucified. *Not my will, but thy will be done*.

Jesus shows us that each one of us is born for something. Each one of us must work hard to realise our potential. But also we must stop working for a while, to reach our potential. Rooting our dreams in what God wants for us; loving and serving our neighbour. Ask the Lord in your prayer; what do you want from me, Lord? To discover what we were born to do needs us to work, rest and pray. It is what we are doing now in the early hours of a new week. Resting as God rested on the seventh day. Being with God on the Lord's Day as he commanded, something that has happened for thousands of years. Even astronaut Buzz Aldrin took a break from walking on the moon to give thanks to God, and to receive Jesus in Holy Communion.

Who shall be our role model, other than Jesus, as we strive to fulfil our potential? Be like St Paul in the second reading, working so hard to fulfil the duty which has been laid on him, yet completely reliant on the power of Christ within him. Be like Job whose book our first reading was taken from; Job, who after the longest and most poetic moaning in history, came to trust in God. Read the end of the book of Job – his life is transformed when finally, he trusts in the Lord.

One day in the not so far distance future, if you trust, if you keep God front and centre in your life, your dreams will happen, your dream way of serving the Lord will arrive. Let's not wait for things to fall into our laps, as we if are entitled to success and happiness; Job made this mistake. But carry out your mission here and now diligently, and prayerfully. Then, one day, you will find where God was leading you when you allowed him to take you by your hand. When you reach that place of vocation, of calling, it will feel like home. It will involve hard work, before and during. It will require prayer to ensure your path truly aligns with where God has led you. But as a duck takes to water, you will say: *I was born for this*.