



BIRTHDAY OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

24 June 08

Fr. Timothy Horner

Jesus says of John the Baptist (Mt 11.11) “Of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen” .

What made him so great? Many virtues, but one lies within the power of all of us:

Think: he was a great preacher at the height of his powers; all Jerusalem and Judaea were flocking to him.(Mk 1.5); Everyone was hanging on his words: it was all very intoxicating.

And at that point he had to say “Don’t follow me: follow him”, and he did say it. **HE HAD TO LET GO, AND HE DID.**

That is his great lesson for us

Parents have to let go by degrees as their children by degrees become responsible;

Those who retire have to let go of their power and position, and perhaps of their skills and occupation;

Those who grow old have perforce to let go of many of their youthful abilities; (don’t I know it?)

An only child when another sibling is born has to let go of much of the attention that has so far been all hers;

For all of us from time to time what we want to do, or, harder, what we feel that we ought to do, exceeds what we **can** do. We have to let go of some of it — as charismatics used to say, 'let go and let God'.

John the Baptist yielded his place to the Lord: Is there any part of our lives in which we need to yield our place to the Lord?