

ENTRANCE ANTIphon

How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of the universe, grant, we pray, that the whole creation, set free from slavery, may render your majesty service and ceaselessly proclaim your praise. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING 7:13-14

A reading from the prophet Daniel

I gazed into the visions of the night. And I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven, one like a son of man. He came to the one of great age and was led into his presence. On him was conferred sovereignty, glory and kingship, and men of all peoples, nations and languages became his servants. His sovereignty is an eternal sovereignty which shall never pass away, nor will his empire ever be destroyed.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 92

Response: The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed.

1. The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed; the Lord has robed himself with might, he has girded himself with power. (R.)
2. The world you made firm, not to be moved; your throne has stood firm from of old. From all eternity, O Lord, you are. (R.)
3. Truly your decrees are to be trusted. Holiness is fitting to your house, O Lord, until the end of time. (R.)

SECOND READING 1:5-8

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

Jesus Christ is the faithful witness, the First-born from the dead, the Ruler of the kings of the earth. He loves us and has washed away our sins with his blood, and made us a line of kings, priests to serve his God and Father; to him, then, be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen. It is he who is coming on the clouds;

everyone will see him, even those who pierced him, and all the races of the earth will mourn over him. This is the truth. Amen. 'I am the Alpha and the Omega' says the Lord God, who is, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

18:33-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

'Are you the king of the Jews?' Pilate asked. Jesus replied, 'Do you ask this of your own accord, or have others spoken to you about me?' Pilate answered, 'Am I a Jew? It is your own people and the chief priests who have handed you over to me: what have you done?' Jesus replied, 'Mine is not a kingdom of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, my men would have fought to prevent my being surrendered to the Jews. But my kingdom is not of this kind.' 'So you are a king then?' said Pilate. 'It is you who say it' answered Jesus. 'Yes, I am a king. I was born for this, I came into the world for this: to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

As we offer you, O Lord, the sacrifice by which the human race is reconciled to you, we humbly pray that your Son himself may bestow on all nations the gifts of unity and peace.

Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIphon

The Lord sits as King for ever.

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received the food of immortality, we ask, O Lord, that, glorying in obedience to the commands of Christ, the King of the universe, we may live with him eternally in his heavenly Kingdom. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

GOSPEL REFLECTION



What did Jesus mean when he said that all things must go through him to the Father? How has the human side of Jesus made it easier to understand the Father's love for us?

How do you understand the image of Jesus as king? What characteristics do you attribute to a good king? Which of these characteristics are most present in Jesus as king?

What is the normal relationship between a king and his people? How is this different from Jesus' relationship with his people? How is it the same?

How do you show honour and love to Christ the king?

Describe the kingdom of God. Who is part of this kingdom? Is anyone excluded? Why?

Why do you think the feast of Christ the King is celebrated at the end of the church year?

GOSPEL ACTION

As we come to the end of the church year, what has been the biggest step you have taken in your faith life this year?

Readings – 1st Wk Advent Year C

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Second Reading: Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

Gospel: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Homily

21st November 2021 – Christ the Universal King, Year B

Dear friends, today is the last Sunday of the Church Year when we celebrate the great Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King. This Feast is also traditionally National Youth Sunday when we celebrate our young people and their place in our Church. Christ is not a remote or distant King, he is a Servant King who came not to rule but to serve and we are called to follow his example by loving and serving one another.

In the Gospel today we see Jesus standing before Pilate, as governor of a Roman province Pilate was a powerful man who had an army of soldiers to call on. Jesus was standing bound and alone before him, yet Jesus is the greater of the two, and in spite of his vulnerability it is Jesus who is in control. Pilate's power comes by virtue of his position, this is worldly power. Jesus on the other hand has what you might call spiritual or divine power which is what makes him the person that he is and gives him the authority that he has over others.

Today's Feast of Christ the King invites us to celebrate a King who embraced life with compassion and love, neither rejecting nor excluding anyone. The Feast issues a challenge to us today, our secular world encourages individualism, looking after ourselves, and the pursuit of power and status. Jesus offers something different, he loves all totally and unconditionally. For Jesus it is not about self but rather putting others first, if we are to be true disciples and followers of Jesus, he calls us to be prepared to do the same, to love all people unconditionally, to reach out in love and service – even when it seems difficult or impossible to do so.

As we look towards Advent next week and the beginning of a new Church year, we are offered an opportunity to love, help and serve others, particularly those in need, so that they too may experience the presence of Christ through us this Christmas time. This Feast of Christ the King invites us to live as the Body of Christ, serving others and reaching out always with love and compassion.

Journeying Together – as you know last month the **synodal process** began which culminates in the Synod in Rome in October 2023, with the theme '**For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission.**' As I said a couple of weeks ago it is an invitation for us and all Catholics everywhere to 'walk together,' the whole Church is being consulted and everyone has the right to speak and have their voice heard and has the obligation to allow those charged with the work of discernment to do so.

Homily

21st November 2021 – Christ the Universal King, Year B

This is the first time a Church wide consultation process like this has taken place and could very well provide a model for the future. We are in the first phase of the process, which has now been extended; feedback is asked to be sent to the Bishop's Office by 1st March 2022 and, on behalf of the Diocese, Bishop Mark will offer his reflection and discernment on April 3rd, which will then be taken to the Bishop's Conference in May with all the other diocesan discernments.

That is how the process will work for us, it is a prayerful process and over the next 3 months we are asked to listen to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and to one another. We are encouraged to pray and reflect individually or in groups and I have tried to summarise the suggested areas of reflection/questions which are available this weekend on a one-side sheet. The questions are only a guide for us as we try and answer the important question '***as a synodal Church how do we journey together now and guided by the Spirit what steps do we need to take in order to grow in our journeying together?***' In the New Year there will be a larger Deanery gathering which we will all be invited to.

This is an important and exciting time for the Church as we reflect on how we will journey together as a Church in the years to come. Let's use these next few months fruitfully as we reflect on the future of the Church. Our established parish groups will be encouraged to meet together, there will be opportunities for neighbourhood/friendship groups to meet and Fr Phil and Deacon Jim will also be available to meet with people.

As we reflect on Christ the King, let's us pray for each other as we continue to walk together and proclaim the Gospel in our world today.

God bless, **Fr Phil x.**

Bidding Prayers and Synod Prayer

21st November 2021 – Christ the King, Year B

Priest:

As we come to the end of our Church year and celebrate this great Feast of Christ the King we bring all our prayers before the Lord.

Reader:

For the Church and Christians everywhere: may they be attentive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit as they journey together.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all our young people on this Youth Sunday: we pray especially for those who will be confirmed and receive First Holy Communion over these next weeks.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For ourselves: may we take seriously our important roles as good stewards of Creation.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those who are poor or in need: following the example of Christ may we always help and serve them with love, generosity and compassion.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For peace in our world and an end to war, division and violence everywhere.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those in our parish who are sick or housebound: may they come to know the love and the comforting presence of Christ the King and healer.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the faithful departed especially **Mary Adams** and all who have died recently, those whose anniversaries occur around this time and those named on our November Lists: “**Eternal rest grant unto them...**”

We pray through the intercession of Mary our mother: “**Hail Mary...**”

In silence we bring our own private prayers and intentions before the Lord.

Priest: Loving Father,

We offer these and all our prayers to you,
through your Son Jesus,
who is Christ Our Lord, Amen.

Bidding Prayers and Synod Prayer

21st November 2021 – Christ the King, Year B

Synod Prayer

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.

All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever. **Amen**