

Christ the King
24th November 2024



It is you who say that I am a king. John 18:33-37



This weekend, we celebrate the Festival of Christ the King and we use that concept to capture the essence of what we believe about Jesus Christ. We usually think of Jesus as a preacher, a teacher, a prophet or a healer, but Jesus as a king, high and lifted up, dressed in purple raiment? That is not how we usually picture him. The Gospel this weekend seems out of place, more appropriate for Holy Week than November. This account of Jesus appearing before the Roman Governor captures a moment when Jesus was clearly identified as a king. Pilate asks Jesus the timely question: Are you the King of the Jews? Ultimately we hear Jesus say: I am!

But Jesus then describes the nature of his kingship. Jesus speaks of a kingdom not of this world ... a kingdom not controlled by power or commerce or violence, but rather a kingdom rooted in love that reaches out to all people—even the powerful, like Pilate.

It seems like Jesus is not the kind of king of whom we typically think. He rides on a donkey, he washes other people's feet, and the only crown that he wears is a crown of thorns foisted upon him. His kingdom isn't really the same either. In Jesus' kingdom, the special people are the people who serve others. The important things in Jesus' kingdom are not wealth and power, but love and mercy. In that kingdom, Jesus makes the perfect king. Jesus is even the king over death! Yes, he died on Good Friday, but he was raised to life on Easter Sunday! So, on this Christ the King Sunday, we celebrate the Kingdom of God, and the promise of mercy and love for all.

Every year, on the Solemnity of Christ the King, the Church asks us to pray for all young people.

For young people, may they grow in Christ, Lord hear us

For all who work with young people, may they show leadership and com-

Loving God, you have taught us that the power of the heart is greater than the power of wealth and might. Hear us as we pray for the fulfilment of your reign.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, our King; to him be glory and power for ever. Amen.

This week let us pray for:

- ◆ our leaders as they make decisions on our behalf. May they be guided by the hand of God;
- ◆ our world as we continue to work for peace;
- ◆ all those connected to our community who are unwell, upset or mourning.



“THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST IS “A KINGDOM OF JUSTICE, LOVE AND PEACE ” Pope Francis