

Thought for the week
Christ the King
21st November, 2021

Loving God,
Creator of heaven and earth and all that is in them,
you created us in your own image and
made us stewards of creation.
You blessed us with the sun, water and bountiful land
so that all might be nourished.

Open our minds and touch our hearts,
so that we may attend to your gift of creation
Help us to be conscious that our common home
belongs not only to us, but to all of your creatures
and to all future generations,
and that it is our responsibility to preserve it.
May we help each person secure the food and resources
that they need.

Be present to those in need in these trying times,
especially the poorest and those most at risk
of being left behind.

Transform our fear and feelings of isolation
into hope and fraternity
so that we may experience a true conversion of the heart.

Help us to show creative solidarity
in addressing the consequences of this global pandemic.

Make us courageous to embrace the changes
that are needed in search of the common good.
Now more than ever may we feel
that we are all interconnected and interdependent.

Enable us to listen and respond
to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.
May the present sufferings be the birth pangs
of a more fraternal and sustainable world.

Under the loving gaze of Mary Help of Christians,
we make this prayer through Christ Our Lord.
Amen.

The Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.

From this weekend's Gospel reading we can imagine Pilate's puzzlement when questioning Jesus. What kind of king allows himself to be taken prisoner, facing a cruel and ignominious death, with no army on its way to rescue him?

When Jesus says, "*Mine is not a kingdom of this world.*", we should ask ourselves what sort of kingdom are we striving to be a part of. Where do our priorities lie? Are we more caught up in the demands of this world and the expectations of our society? Or are our eyes firmly fixed on the Kingdom of Heaven where Jesus reigns as the true King?

Today's feast, also more commonly known as the Feast of Christ the King, was instituted less than 100 years ago (in 1925) and was a response to the rise in secularisation, atheism and communism. It honours Jesus Christ as Lord over all creation. The whole of creation, and the effects of the climate emergency which we now face, has been at the forefront of our minds and news bulletins in recent weeks. How should we respond?

So, as we come to the end of the liturgical year, there is much to think about on this feast day: Jesus as King of all creation, Jesus as the King reigning in our hearts with his commandments to love and bear witness to the truth and, most importantly, what are our responses to Him.

Mary



We ask you to please pray for the following people who continue to ask for your prayers;

Please pray for Beth Selwood

Please pray for Mary Haggar

Please pray for Carmel Barker

Please pray for Vivien Kear (Krissie's friend) who has cancer

Please pray for Rita Lonsdale.

Maddy Sharman has asked for our prayers.

Vera Bird has asked for our prayers for her Great, Great Grandson Harry

Please pray for Cecilia Fung, the mother of Fr Jojo. She has had a stroke.

Prayers please for Antonita's nephew Peppin who has long covid.

Please pray for Caroline Mikhail (daughter - in - law of Jane and Ramsay Mikhail) who suffered a stroke.

Please pray for Peter Halter's sister Jean who has macular degeneration and for Jean's great grandson Rogan who is 9 and has leukemia. Rogan continues to need our prayers.

Please pray for the children and teachers of the Parish

Please pray for the residents and staff at the two nursing homes in our parish, Abbeycrest and St Luke's.

Please pray for all victims of the Coronavirus.



Please also remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time including;

James Martin, Doug Farquhar, Elizabeth Murphy, Raymond Graham, Joy Lowther, Edward Cotterell, Martin De Souza, Edith Jenkins, Sue Walker, Joe Walker, Nessa Weldon.