

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

HOLY HOUR

Monday 2nd December 7pm—8pm
And every First Monday of the month

YOUTH MASS

Every third Sunday of the month during term time

THE BIG CLEAN

Please pencil in **SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER, 9.30AM** onwards for the cleaning of the inside of the church before Christmas. Please join us for 30mins - 2hours to get the Church ready for Christmas. Sign up sheet now available at the back of Church

THE CHRISTMAS FLOWER ARRANGING WORKSHOP IS NOW FULL

BISHOPSWOOD, CAROL SERVICE 10.30AM

FRIDAY 13TH DECEMBER

ST MICHAEL'S PENANCE SERVICE.

DATE TO BE CONFIRMED

ST MARTIN'S CAROL SERVICE AT ST MICHAEL'S.

DATE TO BE CONFIRMED

Thought for the week The Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe 24th November, 2024

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, face a cruel and ignominious death, and have 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 by Pope Pius XI in response to the rise in secularisation, atheism and communism. Pope Pius felt that he needed to remind the Church and the world that there is only one King, and that King is not only the King of Catholics, He is the King of humanity, creation and of the entire Universe.

The whole of creation, and the effects war and of the climate emergency which we now face, have been at the forefront of our minds recently, especially with the alarming pictures from Gaza, Ukraine and from the recent floods in Spain. So how do we respond? In the kingdom of God, do we look at people sleeping rough in Reading and respond with kindness. Do we support those who serve the outcast and those who come to our country to seek refuge? The reason the church should celebrate the solemnity of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, the King of the Universe, is to call ourselves to account.

Today's feast calls us to look at Christ the crucified servant and to ask not "*Are you a king?*", but "*Are you my king?*" Do I bear witness to the truth or have I chosen others?"



We ask you please, to pray for the following people who need your prayers:

Please pray for Rogan, (Peter Halter's sister Jean's great grandson) whose Leukaemia has returned and very sadly they say nothing more can be done. Prayers are needed more than ever now. Please also pray for Jean herself who has macular degeneration.

Please pray for Mary Edwards who is awaiting knee surgery and for her son Ian who is unwell.

Thank you for your continued prayers for Robert Brooks who is now undergoing chemotherapy and awaiting further blood test results

Thank you for all your prayers for Joe Bunton who is transitioning into a care home and continues to need our prayers as he lives with Tuberous Sclerosis, Epilepsy and Autism with Severe learning difficulties. These conditions present huge challenges to his life.

Please Pray for Maria McNamara's niece who is undergoing chemotherapy. Her name is Alison Flynn née McNamara.

Please pray for Savanna Clark (aged 3 with eye trouble).

Please pray for Isobel Messenger (Vera Bird's great granddaughter) she has now had her operation to improve her hearing.

Please pray for Mary Hagger.

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

Please pray for Vera Bird's Great, Great Grandson Harry.

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

Please pray for the children and staff at St Martin's school

Please pray for our parishioners in St Luke's and Abbeycrest Nursing Homes



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

Doug Farquhar, Elizabeth Murphy, Raymond Graham, Joy Lowther, Edward Cotterell, Martino De Souza, Edith Jenkins, Sue Walker, Joe Walker, Nessa Weldon, Frank Adams, Stephen Burke, Ron Clark, George Coulehan, Jack Hickey, Rob and Margaret Lackie, Roger and Gwen Whyte, David Ivimey Miller, Oscar Wilde.