

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

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SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING

Week Beginning: 26th November 2023

Prayer Week: 2

www.diocesehn.org.uk

Sunday 26th November <i>Christ the King</i>	10:00am	Parishioners	Holy Rosary
Monday 27th November	10:00am	Gerry Armstrong	Holy Rosary
Tuesday 28th November	10.00am	Private Intention (MH)	St. Joseph's School
Wednesday 29th November	7.00pm	Annual Mass for the Deceased	Holy Rosary
Thursday 30th November <i>St Andrew, Apostle</i>	10:00am	Colin Wilson	Holy Rosary
Friday 1st December	10:00am	Joe, Ed., Joy Gortowski	St John's
Saturday 2nd December <i>1st Sunday of Advent (Vigil)</i>	5.00pm	May Amma Santiago	St John's
Sunday 3rd December <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>	10:00am	Parishioners	Holy Rosary

Please pray for the sick and everyone who is ill:

Rev. Dan Mckie, Sarah McAllister, Max Simpson, Carol Brownlee, Grace Ollie, Judy Houchen, Peter Smith, Cai Rive, Avril Wordsworth, Lily Ward-Thurlbeck, Rose Wall, Peter Chapman, Christine Rooney, Brian Kane, Margaret Hitchinson, Helen Webb, Jim Hodgson, Fr Stephen Dye, Judith Sowerby, Kate Williams, Faustina Morgan, Maureen Maddren, Daisy Elliott, Andre Zaluski, Maureen Braithwaite, Baby Cassian

Please remember those lately dead or with anniversaries:

CHRIST THE KING

The feast was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925 as a countersign to the rise of fascist governments in Europe demanding total obedience from their peoples. Coming at the end of the Church's year it is a powerful reminder that our loyalty and obedience is first and foremost to Him.

Next Sunday- Ecumenical Advent Service,
St Aidan's church, 3pm
All welcome!

Christmas at Middlesbrough Cathedral-
Festive songs with the group "Cantabile", 8th December,
6.30pm Christmas stalls/ Entertainment 7.30pm cf. poster.

Ushaw Christmas Carols

December 4, 11, 12, 14 & 20
7.30-9.45pm
0191 373 8500

The November List

Envelopes, in which to place names of deceased family and friends, and will be placed on altar all during month of Holy Souls, available at back of church. If you wish to make a donation please place inside.

The Friendship Group
Christmas Party on 2nd December in St Joseph's school hall, 1-3.30pm.

The Northern Cross- November issue available, £1.50p

Statue of Our Lady

For many years the statue was available to parishioners to have in their homes for a week. **NOVEMBER** list now on noticeboard. Please sign up.

Annual Mass for the deceased of the last year

29th November, 7pm, Holy Rosary

This is a parish celebration- please support the bereaved families.

WORLD GIFTS (Cafod) Catalogue of possible gifts available at back of church.

400 Club October draw:

£100 (3) P. Gettings/ £100 (289) S. Sinclair
£50 (333) A. Wright/ £50 (297) C. Wilkinson

A Big thank you to those who prepared and decorated St John's for the Forty Hours devotion over the last three days:

Confessions- St John's Saturday 10.30-11am

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.

Rv 5:12; 1:6

THE 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, God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel 34:11-12.15-17

The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep it all in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest – it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them.

As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**PSALM**

Ps. 22:1-3.5-6. R. v1

R) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. **(R)**

Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. **(R)**

You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. **(R)**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

15:20-26.28

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with

every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who has subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia! Mk 11:10
Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:31-46

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me." And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**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

Ps 28:10-11

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.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



There are some Christians who are very strongly opposed to dialogue with people of other faiths. Why? They say, and it's true, that Jesus says that the only way to the Father (i.e. heaven) is through me. So, they

argue, unless people recognise Jesus as Lord, they will not be saved. Today's Gospel gives the answer to this question. In it Jesus talks about clothing the naked, feeding the hungry, visiting those in prison, etc. There are very many non-Christian people who offer all of these services to their less fortunate fellow humans, and Jesus says that they will be welcomed into the Kingdom. They will be puzzled and will ask: "When did we see you...?" And Jesus will reply: "In so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." In other words, they are going to the Father

through Jesus, even though were not aware of it. There will be others who think they are going to the Father through Jesus, but whom Jesus will not recognise. Jesus reminds us time and time again that the way to his Kingdom is first and foremost through our love for our brothers and sisters, and not just those belonging to our church, but to everyone we meet.



EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



POPULAR VS. POPULIST

157. The attempt to see populism as a key for interpreting social reality is problematic in another way: it disregards the legitimate meaning of the word "people". Any effort to remove this concept from common parlance could lead to the elimination of the very notion of democracy as "government by the people". If we wish to maintain that society is more than a mere aggregate of individuals, the term "people" proves necessary. There are social phenomena that create majorities, as well as megatrends and communitarian aspirations. Men and women are capable of coming up with shared goals that transcend their differences and can thus engage in a common endeavour. Then too, it is extremely difficult to carry out a long-term project unless it becomes a collective aspiration. All these factors lie behind our use of the words "people" and "popular". Unless they are taken into account – together with a sound critique of demagoguery – a fundamental aspect of social reality would be overlooked.

The Fire of Love* THE REAL ROOT OF SIN

On the other hand, there are those who are not interested in beautiful women or riotous living, so they consider themselves sure of salvation. They think themselves saintly because their lives are chaste! But the real root of sin is not chastity but greed. 'The love of money is the root of all evil' (1 Tim. 6: 10). Look at what people do and you will see what they really love.

Those who are God's chosen ones direct everything Godwards and turn their thoughts constantly back to him.

Others may look religious, even spending a lot of time in church though they are mentally miles away. They do charitable acts, but their hearts are unconverted. They give generously but only of their ill-gotten gains. That kind of love is not pleasing to God.

People act 'charitably' as they see it but they are actually trying to 'buy' God and store up merit for themselves in a sinful manner. They seem holy, while underneath they are selfish and proud. Humility and love are of more worth than busy working or vain preaching.

*The Fire of Love by Richard Rolle Published by Aeterna Press