

BULLETIN 37 – 22ND NOVEMBER 2020

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE KING

My dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Feast of Christ the King is of course the last Sunday of the Church's year. What a year it has been! We had no idea last Advent what the world, our nation, our church, and our families would go through. One of the things that has upset me most, I don't suppose I'm alone, is that just when we need to be together for worship and mutual support, we are deprived of that and our churches have had to close for public worship. The irony is that churches are some of the most Covid secure places there are, certainly safer than supermarkets, schools, and number 10 Downing Street! Nevertheless, at the end of the day, Christ is King.

Christmas is now just a few short weeks away, Advent always seems to go fast these days, I suppose it's because it's such a busy time for all of us. This year we don't even know what form Christmas will take and how we will be allowed to celebrate. Maybe Christmas is something we have needed to reevaluate for a long time, shopping, partying, over-spending, over eating, over drinking maybe these are activities that are not really essential to the celebration of our Saviour's birth. The Mass at Christmas, the love of our families, the care shown to strangers and the disadvantaged, these are the ways to keep the feast. I'm not for one moment banning decorations and turkeys and Christmas trees, heaven forbid! We need to take a good look at how we are going to celebrate the real Christmas, so that for us Christ is King.

In preparation and in order to keep you all safe, you will need to pre-book for Mass this Christmas. I know that many already have and Deacon Michael tells me that the 6.00pm Christmas Eve mass is now almost full, the 9.00am on the Day is about half full, but there is more room at 11.00am Mass. We had hoped that we would be able to live stream these masses into the hall, but we have been advised that this will not be allowed. We will of course, as always, live stream all masses into your homes. I do hope that as many of you as possible will be able to join us in church for mass, and for those of you unable to do so that you join us on live stream. However you choose to celebrate this year make the centre of it – Christ the King.

I know that many of you like to make your confession before Christmas, this can be done during the times of Adoration, we can go into the grounds or hall, if these times don't suit do please ring me and we can make an appointment.

May Christ our King make you faithful and strong to do his will, so that you may reign with him in glory.

Fr. John

Contact Details

For those who would like to speak with me on any matter please telephone me on 01279 429388

or email me on harlowold@dioceseofbrentwood.org

<http://www.catholicchurchoftheassumption.co.uk>

TIMES OF MASS THIS WEEK

Sun	22	Christ the King	10:00 Mass 10:40 Adoration (Church Open)	People of the Parish
Tue	24	St. Andrew Dong-Lac	19:00 Mass	Tess Hogan (RIP)

Wed 25	St. Catherine	10:00 Mass	Roy Hankinson
		10:20 Adoration (Church Open)	
Thu 26	feria	10:00 Mass	Holy Souls
		10:20 Adoration (Church Open)	
Fri 27	feria	10:00 Mass	Holy Souls
Sun 29	1 st of Advent	10:00 Mass	People of the Parish

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Fr. John is available to hear Confessions during all times of Adoration or by appointment

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Judgement of all, but we shall each of us at the moment of death face the judgement of our divine Lord in his glory.

This confrontation will be an experience far more awesome and shattering than any description can express, and yet fulfilling and re-assuring. We will know at last in a naked way our own sin and also our own infinite value before the transcendent figure of the Lord.

Two striking points are stressed in the parable. Firstly, we will be judged uniquely on our treatment of those in any kind of need. Not first of all on our prayer-life; not on our asceticism; not on penances undertaken; but on our respect for others - how far we look to see what they need and what we can give. The ten commandments of the Old Testament, the eight beatitudes of the New can be summarised in this way: speak the truth, be honest (including financially), honour father and mother (or children), hunger for justice, make peace.

The second striking point is the reason for the first: that Christ is in each person. What we do to others, we do to Christ. **What does it mean that Jesus is in all other people, especially the stranger, the sick, the comfortless, even those in prison? How does this teaching of Jesus change my attitude to people I despise or avoid or just ignore?**

Prayers of Intercessions

The Lord has spoken to us through the word in the scriptures. We now speak in our own words to the Lord in our prayers of intercession.

We pray for the Pope and all leaders in the Church: that they may set out clearly and fearlessly the teachings of the Gospel.

We remember all those who hold political authority in our country: may they be guided by the common good and by the requirements of justice.

We call to mind all those places in the world where there is conflict, war and violence; we ask for the gift of perseverance for those who are working to bring about peace and mutual understanding in such areas.

We bring before the Lord all the sick members of our families and parish and all those who would like to be with us in church today but are unable to come.

We remember all the faithful departed, especially anyone we knew who has died during the past twelve months.

God our Father, we present to you these and all the prayers of our hearts, confident that you will hear and answer, for we make them in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.