



All Saints' weekly email: Christ the King

Dear Friends

Kings are a rare breed these days. There used, of course, to be lots of them around: many of us learned history at school by charting the rise and fall of various royal families. Now you could fit most of the world's kings into our parish office.

Kings were a controversial topic in Old Testament times because there had always been a strand of thinking in Jewish religion that God's people should *not* have a king: God was their monarch, so you might have patriarchs or judges, but not a king. You hear this often in the psalms: '*The Lord is King, let the nations rejoice*'. Yet the golden age of Jewish history was under King David and King Solomon. The inconsistency was never quite resolved, while the monarchy split and degenerated as all hereditary systems do.

Jesus' kingship is to be understood in that context: it is a re-set of what royalty and power means. The authority of Jesus is not dynastic or constitutional but born of his unique holiness. No one on earth conferred that authority on him and no one could take it away. His kingdom, as we hear in Sunday's Gospel, is one that attends to people who are ignored in every other kingdom: the poor, the broken and the wounded. Christ the King comes among us, in his kingdom, like that, in solidarity with the poorest of his brothers and sisters. His royal progress is Palm Sunday. But it is also Good Friday and Easter. Jesus was born and lived and ministered and died and rose again to remind us that true celebrity, true royalty, true distinction belongs to every one of us, for we are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a people set apart. We need to take that seriously: who we are and the priorities of the kingdom we serve are as counter-cultural today as they were in Jesus' time.

Throughout his ministry Jesus shared forgiveness; even as he died on the cross he was still doing that. He died as he had lived, reaching out to the distressed on either side of him, still finding time for others in the midst of his own suffering. The crown he wore was made of thorns; his throne was the cross; his royal banner was an ironic scribbled sign that proclaimed him 'King' of the Jews. There is the Gospel image of royalty: the king and the criminal who go *together* into paradise, This is the king we celebrate and whose values we are pledged to live by. We see his kingship above all in the resurrection, the defeat of death and the affirmation of true life.

May his kingdom come.

Fr Michael

Click on the following links for mass on **SUNDAY**:

[Propers for Christ the King](#)

[YouTube link for live stream](#)



Sunday's flowers have been given by **Stephen Miller**, in loving memory of his mother, **Lovinia Miller**.

The **Monthly Requiem** is **tomorrow** at **12 Noon**.

If you would like people prayed for by name in this month of the Holy Souls please let Fr Michael know by email or phone.

Supporting All Saints

Parish Giving Scheme:

Thank you to all who give in various ways to support the work of All Saints. While we regret that the previous online registration facility for the **Parish Giving Scheme** is no longer available, our Treasurer recommends that this remains our preferred option for giving: it allows contributions to be anonymous and deals with GiftAid, which saves our office a lot of time.

It is no longer possible to register for the scheme online.

There are now two options, for each of which you need the parish code: 230623075.

You can join the scheme either

by phoning 0333 002 1271 and quoting the code

or

by requesting a form from the parish office.

The following link will take you to a page which explains how the scheme works:

www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/how-it-works

Donations for general Church purposes: To give by BACS please use the following details, advising the Administrator to collect Gift Aid:

PCC All Saints (Charity # 1132895)

Sort Code 60-09-15.

A/C # 04559452

Parish Legacy Policy We are always delighted to hear from anyone who wants to support us with a donation. Our PCC Legacy Policy encourages people to leave bequests specifically to one of our two related charities to be used for purposes of lasting value (rather than day to day costs):

All Saints Choir & Music Trust (Charity # 802994) or

The All Saints Foundation (Charity # 273390).



Prayer List

Prisoners and captives: Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, Kylie Moore-Gilbert, Ismaeil Maghrebinejad, Nasrin Satoudeh, Ahmed Almour, Mayshee Eyob.
The work of the London Prisons Mission.

The sick:

David Fettke, Joan Cooper, Vallery Tchukov, Sara Vice, Katherine Lee, Chris Gudgeon, Nicky Yeo, Lorna Smith, Beth Klausning, Hilary Porter, Keith Peers, Marg Ferguson, Bruce Ross-Smith, Benjamin Woolf, James Shrimpton, Tony Rodger, Rachel Pereira, Victor Sharp, Fr Michael Gudgeon, Audrey Williams, Chris and Carole Radley, Fr Harry Hodgetts, Simon Little, Ellie Lyon, Rosemary Orr, John Sibbald, Pat Hawkins, Andrew Rodger, Christine Vaughn
Lillie, Martin Berka,
Sylvia Samien, Abu Rama, Jack de Gruiter.

Those known to us recently departed:

Anniversaries of death:

22nd - George Ebbs, Joyce Harvey, Winifred Brough, Mary Buchanan, Timothy Lawford
23rd - Josephine Fletcher, Robert Walker, Ailsa Critchley, Ann Swanton, Susan Beauchamp
24th - Henry West, Gladys Howard, Alyo Purdon
25th - Agnes Mackay, Mabel Egerton, Marjorie Gilley, May Beeken
26th - Philip Burrage, Thomas Tomlinson, Priscilla Sedgewick, John Clayton, Barbara Morrissey, Thomas Ellis
27th - Edith Martin, Margaret Mack, Charles Hawksley, James Crompton, Joseph Kirkham, Margaret Pickering, Valerie Oram, Ann Cook, Phyllis James, Valerie Reddington
28th - Annie Marshall, Doris Harmsworth, Lovinia Miller