

CHRIST THE KING

Can Christ the King rule in our lives today?

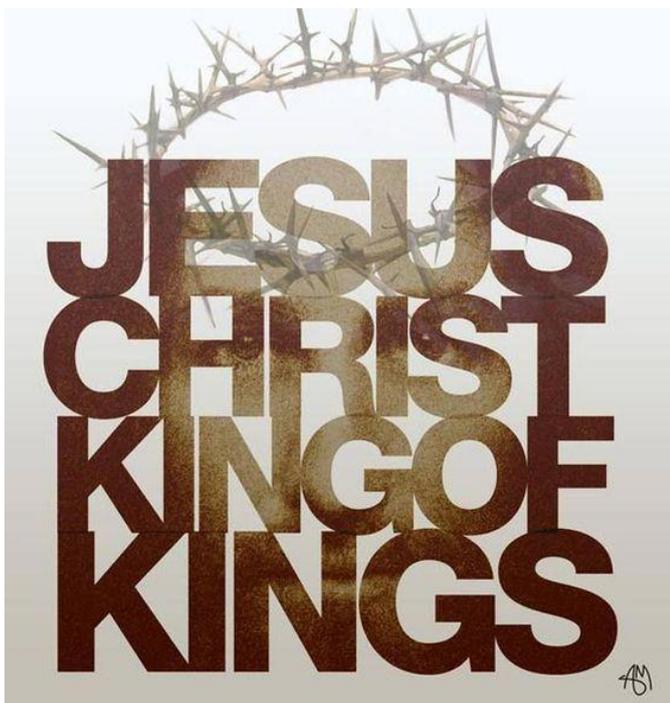
SUNDAY MASS READINGS 24/11/19 [read them here](#)

1st Reading: 2 Samuel 5:1-3. **They anointed David king of Israel**

Psalm 121. **I praised when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house'**

2nd Reading: Colossians 1:12-20. **The Father has created a place for us in the kingdom**

Gospel: Luke 23:35-43. **Today you will be with me in Paradise**



READ: King David, the star of this week's first reading, was young and handsome and daring. He who was once a young shepherd boy now shepherded the people of Israel and restored God's people. He was wild and crazy and brave, and the people loved him. But he was also human. He could be vain and deceitful, he drank too much and enjoyed the company of women a little too much too. A thousand years later came another shepherd King. He rode into Jerusalem and the people cried out to him "Hosanna! Son of David!" But this King was different. He didn't reign from a golden throne, or wear a crown adorned with jewels, or wear precious clothes. Our Gospel takes us back to the wooden cross, where our King hangs, wearing a crown of thorns. Either side of him, two real criminals. One begging to be saved, but one, in the last moments of his life, recognised the King for who he is. "Jesus, remember me, as you come into your Kingdom." Not asking to be saved, just asking to be remembered. Jesus replied to him, "Indeed I promise you, today you will be with me in paradise." Even in the midst of suffering and humiliation, Christ the King, shepherding those who had rejected him even until their final breath.

REFLECT: The readings throughout the year reflect on the mysteries of the life of Jesus, coming to this ultimate conclusion; Jesus is Lord, the Eternal King. Christ the King, King of Kings, Kingdom of God, Kingdom of Heaven... such commonly used terms, and yet, what does it really mean for us that Jesus is our King? In the UK we still recognise a sovereign, Queen Elizabeth II. What is her role? Does she hold authority in our lives? Series three of Netflix's "The Crown" came out recently, and as I burn through the episodes the question of the purpose of the Royal Family is asked over and over again. Is there space in our lives today for a King or Queen to govern, guide, rule over us? We certainly find space to allow other powers rule in our lives; material possessions, ambition, violence, wealth. And the other end of the spectrum; fear, anxiety, unworthiness. These things can dictate what we do, how we do it, how we treat others, ourselves. Even by placing our trust in human sources of authority and guidance, such as our current Queen, we will be left short changed; as magnificent and sparkly as she is, she is still human. Jesus' Kingship and Kingdom offers a radical alternative. The criminal realised in his final moments that there is more to the human story than we see, experience or understand here on earth. What he saw in Jesus' example of selfless sacrifice, a different kind of power, caused him to surrender himself, and all the terrible things of his past, to the authority and reign of this radically different man hanging beside him. Even on the cross, Jesus didn't use his power to perform miracles that would have saved his life, but continued appealing to people's hearts. His Kingdom isn't one that will be bought, or bribed, or fought for, but will come about through the conversion of hearts. And yes, there is space in our lives for a King to govern, guide and rule over us in this way! It might require sacrificing comforts, it will have to be a daily choice, but these values His Kingdom offers; love, compassion, mercy, forgiveness, are eternal, and choosing Him as King, with authority over our lives can only lead us to an eternal happiness with Him.

**Friday Mass - 8.15am
Celebrated by Fr. Michael**