

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE / A

22 NOVEMBER 2020

WELCOME INTO THE KINGDOM PREPARED FOR YOU. Neither baptism nor the profession of faith in Christ guarantees our entry into Christ's kingdom. What is most important is the way we treat the least of Christ's brothers and sisters. What we do for them we do for Christ. By our care for them, we reveal that our profession of faith at Mass is more than just words.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Apoc 5:12; 1:6

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.

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

P. Lord Jesus, you have revealed yourself as the way to the Father. Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. You have poured out on your people the Spirit of truth: Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

P. You are the Good Shepherd, leading us to eternal life: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

R. Amen.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Lord, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.

COLLECT

P. 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, one God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Ezek 34:11-12, 15-17

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

You, my flock, I judge between sheep and sheep.

The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it 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.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PSALM

Ps 22:1-3, 5-6. R. v. 1

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

1. The Lord is my shepherd; / there is nothing I shall want. / Fresh and green are the pastures / where he gives me repose. **R.**
2. 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.**
3. 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.**
4. 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

1 Cor 15:20-26, 28

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

He will hand over the kingdom to God the Father, so that God may be all in all.

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 subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mk 11:9, 10

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

GOSPEL

Mt 25:31-46

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

He will take his seat on his throne of glory, and he will separate men one from another.

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

ST MARTHA'S PARISH STRATHFIELD



Parish Priest: Fr Jacek (Jack) Cichy

Administration Coordinator: Nicolle Mazzaferro (Mon-Thurs) admin@stmarthas.org.au

Administration Support: Larissa Argiro (Fridays) office@stmarthas.org.au

Sacramental Coordinator: Patricia Saad (Fridays) sc@stmarthas.org.au

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Parish Ministries Coordinator: Helen Williamson

Music Ministry: Marcella Ayoub & Agnes Lee

Children's Liturgy Coordinator: Rachel Suriano

Plenary Council 2020 Ambassador: Helena O'Neill

Youth Ministry: Jessica Gereis youth@stmarthas.org.au



'He will take his seat on his throne of glory, and he will separate men one from another' ... Matthew 25

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Website: www.stmarthas.org.au

Parish Office: Mon- Fri 9.00am-3.00pm



St Martha's School: 9764 1184

Email: info@stmstrathfield.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Judy Gastin

Assistant Principal: Leanne Meehan

REC: Attilia Kazacos

THE PARISH OF ST MARTHA'S ACKNOWLEDGES THE WANGUL PEOPLE AS THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND ON WHICH THE CHURCH IS BUILT

Vision:

**Welcoming
Eucharistic
Transformed by the Word
Full of Grace
Proclaiming Good News**



*Please
continue
to support the
St Vincent De Paul Society
through the Church
Poor Boxes.*

Mission:

**Alive with the Spirit
Inspired by St Martha
We Celebrate & Witness
God's love
Using our Gifts & Talents**



MASS TIMES

Tuesday: 7.30am

Wednesday: 9.10am

Thursday: 9.10am

Friday: 9.10am

Saturday: 9.10am, 5pm Vigil Mass

Sunday: 8.00am; 10.00am & 6.00pm



1st Saturday of every month:

8-9am Adoration, 9am Benediction, 9.10am Healing Mass and
Anointing of the Sick,
followed by reconciliation

RECONCILIATION:

Saturday after 9.10am Mass or by appointment.

BAPTISM:

2nd & 4th Sundays of the month at 11.00am
by appointment only.
(One month's notice is required).



Next Preparation Session:

6th December 2020 in the Parish Hall
Contact the Parish office for more information.

MARRIAGES: By appointment only.
(6 months' notice is required).



ROSARY: Tuesday & Saturday after morning Mass, Wednesday, Thursday
& Friday 8.30am and 7.30pm on Fridays in conjunction with Marian
Movement of Priests Cenacle and Divine Mercy Chaplet.

PRAYER GROUP / ADORATION AT

ST MARTHA'S CHURCH:

Mondays 10.30am – 11.30am

(School term only)

**Please support our Catholic Press
Copies of the Catholic Weekly \$2
& Catholic Leader \$2.50
are available at the Church Entrances.**



SAFE GUARDING



A reminder to parents that the Notice-Board located at the side
entrance contains various resources for children regarding
Safeguarding.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY.

Abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or
anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can
contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at 9390 5810 or
safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish
Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance.

The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

Please be aware that if you "TAG" St Martha's in photos on your
Facebook page, the images also appear on an "unofficial" St Martha's
Facebook page. This "unofficial" page was created automatically by
Facebook and is not controlled by St Martha's. We kindly remind you to
take care when uploading photos of any children without parent consent.



Office of the
Children's Guardian

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

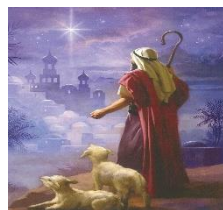
IF YOU PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING MINISTRIES YOU ARE
REQUIRED TO **SIGN IN** - ACOLYTES; READERS; EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS;
CHOIR; CHILDREN'S LITURGY (LEADERS & CHILDREN) & SACRAMENTAL
PROGRAM (LEADERS & CHILDREN). SIGN IN FOLDERS ARE KEPT IN THE
SACRISTY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION.

ALTAR SERVERS ARE **NOT** PERMITTED IN THE SACRISTY WITHOUT A
PARENT/TEACHER. THE SIGN IN FOLDER IS LOCATED IN THE CORRIDOR
OUTSIDE THE SACRISTY.

Announcement

'Sharing the Word' will resume this Monday, 9 November, 7 pm. at St
Martha's Church. Dr Emmanuel Nathan, will kindly lead us through
Vatican II documents that have shaped and directed our faith
community over the past 50 years. Everyone is Welcome.

GLUTEN FREE HOSTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ANY CELIAC
PARISHIONERS. IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE HOLY
COMMUNION PLEASE TELL THE CHURCH WARDEN OR SEE
AN ACOLYTE IN THE SACRISTY PRIOR TO MASS.



**2021 Columban Art
Calendars
(\$9 each) &
Christmas Card Packs
(\$7 each)
are now available
at the back of the
Church**



**CWF November
Parish Appeal**
The Charitable
Works Fund (CWF)
Parish Appeal is still
running this
weekend. Your
donation will help

those most vulnerable in Sydney - including our
local Aboriginal community, as well as single
mothers facing homelessness, people struggling
with mental health issues and many others. Appeal
envelopes will be provided for your use so please
keep an eye out for them. You can also make a
donation and find out more at
www.ourfaithourworks.org/cwf



NOVEMBER MASS INTENTIONS

*During the month of November we remember
those who have returned to the Father!*

WE INVITE ALL FAMILIES TO COME
FORWARD AND WRITE THE NAMES
OF DEPARTED LOVED ONES IN THE BOOKS OF
REMEMBRANCE DURING THE MONTH OF
NOVEMBER. OFFERING ENVELOPES CAN BE
PLACED IN THE OFFERING BOX OR GIVEN TO
FR JACK. (DUE TO THE LARGE VOLUME,
NAMES CANNOT BE PRINTED IN THE
BULLETIN.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

**2019/2020 TAX RECEIPTS AND
NEW SETS OF WEEKLY
PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES CAN BE
COLLECTED FROM THE PARISH OFFICE.**

**2021
God's Word Daily
Reflection Diaries
are now available in the
Church Foyer.
Ideal Christmas Gift.
\$15.00 each (rrp \$19.95)**



**On Tuesday 24th November,
Fr Danny Meagher finishes his
celebrations of Mass at 7.30am.**

**After 6 years as Rector of the Siminary he moves to
another ministry within the Archdiocese. Thank you
Fr Danny for your involvement in the life of St
Martha's faith community. May God bless you in the
new chapter of your ministry.**

**Seminararian Tai Pham will commence his parish
placement at St Martha's from Saturday
21st November until Christmas. I trust that we will
all warmly welcome & embrace Tai into our parish
community.**



**Background on the Gospel Reading - Today's
Gospel passage is the conclusion of Jesus' discourse
with his disciples. It is about the end of time, the
coming of the Son of Man, and the final judgment.
We hear this description of the final judgment at the
conclusion of our liturgical year, the Solemnity of
Our Lord Jesus Christ the King. In the context of**

Matthew's Gospel, this passage might also be read as a conclusion of
Matthew's report on Jesus' life and ministry; the remaining chapters report
the events of Jesus' Passion and Resurrection. In today's Gospel, Jesus
describes to his disciples the scene of the judgment of the Son of Man. All
the nations will be assembled before him, and he will separate them as a
shepherd separates sheep and goats upon their return from the pasture. The
judgments made by the Son of Man will be based upon the acts of mercy
shown to the least ones—the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the ill, and the
imprisoned. Indeed, Jesus, who suffered on the Cross, identifies himself
with the least ones. Recall that last week's parable of the talents taught us
that the gifts that we have been given are intended to be used for the service
of others, especially the least among us. Our judgment before God will be
based not only on how we have used these gifts and talents, but also on
how we have extended ourselves in service to these least ones. Indeed,
Jesus tells us that whenever we have served these least ones, we have
served Christ himself. When we read today's Gospel in the context of the
chapters that follow in Matthew's Gospel, we learn the extent to which
Jesus identifies with the least ones. In accepting death on the cross, Jesus
shows himself to be one of the hungry, the naked, the ill, and the
imprisoned. To accept Jesus is to accept him who suffered and died on the
Cross as one of the least ones.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL 28TH & 29TH NOVEMBER

THIS CHRISTMAS, YOUR GENEROUS FINANCIAL
DONATION WILL HELP VINNIES PROVIDE MUCH
NEEDED HELP AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO
THOSE WITHOUT. MORE THAN ANYTHING WE CAN
GIVE HOPE TO MANY IN OUR COMMUNITY IN THEIR
TIME OF NEED. ENVELOPES WILL BE AVAILABLE
ON THE PEWS. DONATIONS CAN BE PLACED IN
ANY OF THE COLLECTION PLATES. THANK YOU IN
ANTICIPATION. **PHILIP ROGERS, PRESIDENT
STRATHFIELD CONFERENCE.**



Dear Parishioners, as you may have noticed, this year's
SVDP Christmas Giving Tree has now been established
at the front of the Church. Due to Covid19 implications,
we are not collecting Food or Toys this year but rather
seeking financial contributions. The tree has a selection
of envelopes for \$5, \$10, \$20 etc with a designated
collection stand beside the tree. The money collected will
be used to issue Food Cards for needy members of our community
so that they may purchase Christmas Hamper items directly from the
shops. Thank you very much for your continuing support and
generosity for those who are "doing it tough" at this time of year.
Philip Rogers

Go Make Disciples- Prayer for Renewal Campaign



Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP will be launching a new Archdiocesan Mission Plan Go Make Disciples on 12 December, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Star of the New Evangelisation. The new plan is aimed at renewing our parishes as places of encounter with the living Christ and centres of evangelisation and outreach to our community in love and mercy. In the weeks and months ahead we hope you will join us in an Archdiocesan-wide prayer campaign beginning on the Feast of All Saints (1 November), calling on the Holy Spirit, to prepare the hearts of each of us and of all our parishes and Eucharistic communities to receive anew the fire of God's love and the desire to be ever more faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ. Please join us by praying the attached prayer together at the end of each Mass, in your prayer group, and in your homes. More about the campaign in this weekend's Catholic Weekly. For more information contact Parish Renewal Team at the Sydney Centre for Evangelisation, Archdiocese of Sydney on 9390 5307 or elizabeth.arblaster@sydneycatholic.org



Congratulations to the 54 children who made their First Communion last weekend and this weekend. May God bless them as they share the wonder of their own meeting with Christ. Thank you to Father Jack for your guidance and prayers and for organising a special mass for the children each week during the program to enrich the children's understanding of the Eucharist. A Big Thank you to all who helped prepare the children and make the children's special day a momentous one, especially Judy Gastin, Leanne Meehan, Elena Razzoli, Felicia Yustantio, Attilia Kazacos, Christine Ng, Trudie Rogers, Roger Bonett, Jason Gereis, Marcella Ayoub, Claire Kenny, Marion Li, Andrew Chan, Agnes Lee, Rachel Suriano, and Melissa Dannaoui. Patricia Saad Sacramental Coordinator

In the Spirit of St Martha, let us continue to help others and Carry Hope Everywhere.

MASS INTENTIONS

Recently Deceased:	Patricia Wilson, Norma Shore, Sr Pauline Smith rsm, Marie Verschuer, Enid Wynne, Frances Doumit, Jill Jones, Sr Frances Gaynor OP, Enid Wynne, Audrey Clark, Terry Stewart, Joseph Touma, Jill Watson, Frances Spicer.
Repose of The Soul:	Fr Adrian Horgan, Fr Paul Ryan, Br Ray Dowding, Gerald Wilson, John Ferguson, Daniel Lucich, Ken Fraser, Connie Wong, Aldo Amarino, Salvatore (Phillip) Puglisi, William (Bill) & Dorothy Starr, Roger O'Reilly, Stefano, Estelle Thurn, Anne Cecilia Glass, Reginald & Agnes Glass, Gerald & Frances Gleeson, Faado & Alice Herro, John, Doreen & Des McNamara Patrick & Janet Reynolds, Jim Reynolds, Ken Rich, Monica & Patrick Ryan, Stephen Maxwell Stewart & Christopher John Stewart, Dr Stephanie Winfield, Philip Winfield. Francesco & Maria Colagiuri, Caterina & Matteo Genova, Lisa Cooke, Michael & Mary Cassar, Guiseppe & Romilda Reginato, Peter & Terasa Choi, Thomas Cahill, Mary & Patrick Marrins.
Anniversaries:	Jack Dawson, Eileen Crocker, Dominic Wang, Maria Huang, Frank & Marie Monaghan, Lawrie Soares, Hubert Saldanha, Blanche Saldanha, Maud Soares, Mary G Cahill, Cornelius Ryan, Roger O'Reilly, Noel Jebanasam, Stephaine Kehoe, Caterina & Matteo Genova, Tom & Michelle Christy, Eric Sidoti, Steven Elias, Dorothea Starr, Bernard & Mark Kelly.
Sick Intentions:	Pat Fraser, Tony Grace, Baby Alice & the Ladd Family, Margaret Davidson, Marc Kayrouz & Peter Starr.
Special Intentions:	Veronica, D'Cruz, Tony Fernandes, Gary & Priscilla, Anne Goodrick, Fr Titmus, Rr O'Rourke, Rineesh & Wander, The McIlwaine Family, The soul of Mario Barone, Tony Chow, Michael Kenny. For Deceased Friends & Benefactors of the Dominican Order.
<p><i>Remembering someone with a Mass Intention honours them in a unique way – surrounding them with the warmth of God's love. A Mass may be offered for the living or deceased, for a Birthday, Anniversary, for somebody who is ill, or for a special intention. Mass Intention envelopes are available at the Church Entrances. If you would like a Mass offered on a particular date, please contact the parish office to arrange this.</i></p>	

28th & 29th November

	VIGIL	8AM	10AM	6PM
Special Ministers	Tandiono Family	Christine Ng	Relyn Ponce	Ravi Family
	Tandiono Family	Geraldine O'Sullivan	Anne Marrins	Ravi Family
			Maria Soares	
	VIGIL	8AM	10AM	6PM
Readers	Czarina Mendoza-Cruz	Beatrice Cooney	Mark Soares	Jenny O'Hehir
	Marianna Soo	John Edwards	Melanie Yates	Theresa Kuk
	VIGIL	8AM	10AM	6PM
Altar Servers	Nicholas E.	George C.	Zachariah B.	Lawrence X.
	Kathryn E.	Elias C.	Antoinette B.	Jayden Y.
	Lachlan P.	Dominic N.	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
	Elizabeth P.	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
	VIGIL	8AM	10AM	6PM
Wardens	Joy Li	Peter Yamin	Trudie Rogers	Phil Robinson

If you are unable to attend your rostered Mass kindly organise a replacement.

The current Roster is available to collect from the side entrance of the Church or via the parish website.



CHRIST THE KING

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, formerly referred to as "Christ the King," was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925 as an antidote to secularism, a way of life which leaves God out of man's thinking and living and organizes his life as if God did not exist. The feast is intended to proclaim in a striking and effective manner Christ's royalty over individuals, families, society, governments, and nations. Today's Mass establishes the titles for Christ's royalty over men: 1) Christ is God, the Creator of the universe and hence wields a supreme power over all things; "All things were created by Him"; 2) Christ is our Redeemer, He purchased us by His precious Blood, and made us His property and possession; 3) Christ is Head of the Church, "holding in all things the primacy"; 4) God bestowed upon Christ the nations of the world as His special possession and dominion. Today's Mass also describes the qualities of Christ's kingdom. This kingdom is: 1) supreme, extending not only to all people but also to their princes and kings; 2) universal, extending to all nations and to all places; 3) eternal, for "The Lord shall sit a King forever"; 4) spiritual, Christ's "kingdom is not of this world." — Rt. Rev. Msgr. Rudolph G. Gandas Before the reform of the Roman Calendar in 1969, this feast was celebrated on the last Sunday of October.

Reflection

What is the Kingdom of God? What is the Kingdom of Christ the King? Here is a beautiful explanation given by Gerald Darrig (St. Louis University: Centre for Liturgy): The Kingdom of God is a space. It exists in every home where parents and children love each other. It exists in every region and country that cares for its weak and vulnerable. It exists in every parish that reaches out to the needy. The Kingdom of God is a time. It happens whenever someone feeds a hungry person, or shelters a homeless person, or

shows care to a neglected person. It happens whenever we overturn an unjust law, or correct an injustice, or avert a war. It happens whenever people join in the struggle to overcome poverty, to erase ignorance, to pass on the Faith. The Kingdom of God is in the past (in the life and work of Jesus of Nazareth); it is in the present (in the work of the Church and in the efforts of many others to create a world of goodness and justice); it is in the future (reaching its completion in the age to come). The Kingdom of God is a condition. Its symptoms are love, justice, and peace. Jesus Christ is king! We pray today that God may free all the world to rejoice in his peace, to glory in his justice, to live in his love.

Life Messages:

1) We need to assess our commitment to Christ the King today. As we celebrate the Kingship of Christ today, let us remember the truth that he is not our King if we do not listen to him, love him, serve him, and follow him. We belong to his Kingdom only when we try to walk with him, when we try to live our lives fully in the spirit of the Gospel and when that Gospel spirit penetrates every facet of our living. If Christ is really King of my life, he must be King of every part of my life, and I must let him reign in all parts of my life. We become Christ the King's subjects when we sincerely respond to his loving invitation: "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart" (Matthew 11:29). By cultivating in our lives the gentle and humble mind of Christ, we show others that Jesus Christ is in indeed our King and that he is in charge of our lives.

2) We need to give Jesus control over our lives. Today's Feast of Christ the King reminds us of the great truth that Christ must be in charge of our lives, that we must give him sovereign power over our bodies, our thoughts, our heart and our will. In every moral decision we face, there's a choice between Christ the King and Barabbas, and the one who seeks to live in Christ's Kingdom is the one who says, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven." Let us ask ourselves the question, "What does Jesus, my King, want me to do or say in this situation?" Are we praying each day that our King will give us the right words to say to the people we meet that day, words that will make us true ambassadors of Jesus? Does our home life as well as the way we conduct ourselves with our friends come under the Kingship of Jesus? Or do we try to please ourselves rather than him?



88 Churchill Avenue, Strathfield NSW 2135

www.stmstrathfield.catholic.edu.au

St Martha's
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
ENROLLING NOW
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TO SEE
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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.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED
Or the Nicene Creed may be said.

I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:

R. Blessed be God for ever.

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R. may the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. 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.

R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.

PREFACE OF CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

After the Preface, we sing or say:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

All: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray ...

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said ...

R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All exchange a sign of peace.

LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Ps 28:10-11

The Lord sits as King for ever.

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. 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.

R. Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. may almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Go forth, the Mass is ended.

R. Thanks be to God.

REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL

STANDING BEFORE THE LORD NOW

The Gospel to conclude the Church's year appropriately evokes the great judgement instituted by the Shepherd-King at the end of time. The Christian tradition, especially in art (Michelangelo's painting in the Sistine Chapel) and music (*Dies Irae*), has often depicted the scene in terrifying literalness.

We may not today feel bound to such a literal understanding of imagery and motifs taken from the apocalyptic Jewish worldview of Jesus' day. But we have to recognise that what the Gospel wishes to communicate with great seriousness is that the final outcome of one's existence is irreversibly determined by the attitude and action one adopts in regard to fellow human beings here and now.

Nothing is said about correctness of faith, or the need to be free from, or to have obtained forgiveness for, all kinds of sin. The sole determinant is whether one has acted with care and compassion for people in various situations of need. Here the 'greatest commandment of the law'—the twin love of God and of one's neighbour (Matthew 22:36-40)—and the sense of Jesus as 'Emmanuel' ('God with us' [Matthew 1:23]) receives its most radical extension. The one who sits upon the throne as Judge, has so identified with even 'the least' of his 'brothers and sisters' that effective compassion shown or not shown to them has been shown or not shown to him.

There is no need to wait for the Son of Man to come in judgement; every time one encounters a fellow human being in need one already stands before the Judge and King.

BRENDAN BYRNE, SJ

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