

ST FILLAN'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

Dunkeld Diocese, Scottish Charity No: SC001810

Website: stfdac.co.uk

Sunday, 21st November 2021

Thirtieth Fourth Week in Ordinary Time - B

During this very difficult period, it was felt that some form of communication/support network could prove very useful to Parishioners, especially those who are housebound and vulnerable.

Please contact Fr. Les by phone 01877 330 702 or by email: parishpriest@stfdac.co.uk for further information.

Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King of the Universe



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*).

PRAYER TO CHRIST THE KING **Christ Jesus, I acknowledge** **You King of the universe.**

All that has been created has been made for You. Make full use of Your rights over me. I renew the promises I made in Baptism, when I renounced Satan and all his pomp's and works, and I promise to live a good Christian life and to do all in my power to procure the triumph of the rights of God and Your Church. Divine Heart of Jesus, I offer you my efforts in order to obtain that all hearts may acknowledge your Sacred Royalty, and that thus the Kingdom of Your peace may be established throughout the universe. Amen.

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."

Jesus enters human history as God's anointed son who announces the nearness of the reign of God (Mk 1:9-14). This proclamation summons us to acknowledge God as creator and covenant partner and challenges us to seek ways in which God's revelation of the dignity and destiny of all creation might become incarnate in history.

It is not simply the promise of the future victory of God over sin and evil, but that this victory has already begun—in the life and teaching of Jesus.

Economic Justice for All, 1986: 41

Gerald Darring

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SETTING THE STAGE FOR OUR ADVENT JOURNEY, EVEN BEFORE IT BEGINS - Getting in Touch with Myself

Advent

One of the best ways to prepare for the very special season of Advent is to "get in touch with ourselves." It may sound odd, but one symptom of our contemporary lives is that we can often be quite "out of touch" with what is going on in our very own hearts. We are about to begin our Advent, right at the time our Western culture begins Christmas preparations. It is a busy time, and our heads are filled with details to remember. And it is a time of emotional complexity that is part of this holiday season - with all the expectations and challenges of family and relationships: who we want to be with and who we struggle to be with. So, our hearts are a bit tender, if not completely defended from experiencing anything deeply. We are about to hear some very powerful and stirring readings from Isaiah, the Prophet. We will re-enter the ancient tradition of a people longing for the coming of a Saviour. We may remember the days of our childhood when we longed for Christmas to come, because it was a magical time of receiving gifts. **As adults, we have to ask ourselves:**

"What is it I long for now?" The answer won't come easily. The more we walk around with that question, and let it penetrate through the layers of distraction and self-protection, the more powerfully we will experience Advent. We are about to read and pray about the expectant hope of Israel, as expressed through Isaiah. The images we will be using are about darkness and gloom - about thick clouds covering the people - and about hunger and thirst. They are images that attempt to capture a sense of what we feel when we are distant from our God. There are many images about war and conflict. They express the powerlessness and anxiety we experience when we feel vulnerable and defenceless. Most of all, there are images of a future day - a day that can only be called the Lord's - when all the tears will be wiped away, when there will be plenty to eat and drink, and when there will be no more conflict and no more war. God's salvation will be made known. God's victory will be complete. These are very precious days for us to come into intimate contact with our own need for salvation. It is a time to make friends with our tears, our darkness, our hunger, and thirst.

COME, LORD, JESUS. COME AND VISIT YOUR PEOPLE.

INTRODUCTIONS TO SUNDAY LITURGY

Throughout history Jesus Christ has been acknowledged as King. Even before he was born to Mary, Daniel prophesied that one like a Son of man would come from heaven to earth and be regarded as King and Lord. The author of Revelation calls him the faithful witness of the kingdom. In the Gospel we hear him witness to the kingdom in front of Pilate. That scene gives us an insight into his kingship, which is anchored in the truth, and to which he testified during his entire time on earth. *Let us open our hearts to the truth, which continues to be revealed by Christ the King.*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Daniel 7:13-14

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel.

I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven, one like a son of man I gazed into the visions of the night. And I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven, one like a son of man. He came to the one of great age and was led into his presence. On him was conferred sovereignty, glory and kingship, and men of all peoples, nations and languages became his servants. His sovereignty is an eternal sovereignty which shall never pass away, nor will his empire ever be destroyed.

The Word of God. – *Thanks be to God.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM-

Psalms 93

R./ The Lord is our king, robed in majesty

The Lord is king, he is robed in splendour; He us robed and girded with strength.

R./ The Lord is our king, robed in majesty

The Lord has made the world firm, not to be moved. Your throne stands firm from of old; from everlasting you are, O Lord.

R./ The Lord is our king, robed in majesty

Your decrees are worthy of trust; indeed, holiness befits your house, O Lord, forevermore.

R./ The Lord is our king, robed in majesty

Psalm text from The Psalms: A New Translation © 1963 The Grail (England) published by HarperCollins. Version 1 – issued 13 Dec 2020.

SECOND READING

Apocalypse 1:5-8

A reading from the Book of Apocalypse.

Grace and peace to you from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the First-Born from the dead, the Ruler of the kings of the earth. He loves us and has washed away our sins with his blood, and made us a line of kings, priests to serve his God and Father; to him, then, be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen. It is he who is coming on the clouds; everyone will see him, even those who pierced him, and all the races of the earth will mourn over him. This is the truth. Amen. 'I am the Alpha and the Omega' says the Lord God, who is, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.

The Word of God. – *Thanks be to God.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mk 11, 10

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia, alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 18:33-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

– *Glory to you, O Lord.*

'Are you the king of the Jews?' Pilate asked. Jesus replied, 'Do you ask this of your own accord, or have others spoken to you about me?' Pilate answered, 'Am I a Jew? It is your

own people and the chief priests who have handed you over to me: what have you done?' Jesus replied, 'Mine is not a kingdom of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, my men would have fought to prevent my being surrendered to the Jews. But my kingdom is not of this kind.' 'So, you are a king then?' said Pilate. 'It is you who say it' answered Jesus. 'Yes, I am a king. I was born for this; I came into the world for this: to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.'

The Gospel of the Lord. – *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

The Scripture readings are taken from The Jerusalem Bible © 1985 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd. and Doubleday and Co. Ltd.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Introduction: *Our God is the one who is, who was, and who is to come and so we always can turn to heaven for God's generous assistance.*

To be read by the People:

1. For the Church, that we may listen to the voice of our Saviour as he testifies to the truth, and that inspired by the Holy Spirit, we may discern the truth and apply it to our lives, let us pray to the Lord.
2. That all around the world rulers may strive for justice and peace as they lead their nations with humility and benevolence, let us pray to the Lord.
3. For those who live under repressive regimes, and all who are oppressed by unjust authorities, that they may be sustained daily in hope during their time of trial, let us pray to the Lord.
4. That those who have harmed others may feel truly remorseful for their actions and be moved to repent for their sins and be given the chance to show their remorse, let us pray to the Lord.
5. That those seeking the source of all goodness may find the face of Christ the King reflected in the witness of our faith community, let us pray to the Lord.

Conclusion: *Eternal God, you created us in your image, sent your Son to redeem us, and continue to watch over us always. Graciously hear the prayers we make today and every day through your Son, our Lord and King, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

**Can I live according to the truth,
the truth to which Jesus has testified?**

THANKSGIVING PRAYER ON THE LAST WEEK OF THE LITURGICAL YEAR

Father in Heaven,
Creator of all and source of all goodness and love,
please look kindly upon us and receive our heartfelt
gratitude in this time of the last week
of the liturgical year.

Thank you for all the graces and blessings.
You have bestowed upon us, spiritual and temporal:
our faith and religious heritage.
Our food and shelter, our health, the loves we have
for one another, our family, and friends.

Dear Father, in Your infinite generosity,
please grant us continued graces and blessing
throughout the coming year.

This we ask in the Name of Jesus,
Your Son and our Brother. *Amen.*