

Christ The King

First Reading Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17
The Lord is exasperated that those who were appointed to look after God's people have used their position for their own advantage and neglected their responsibilities: the Lord will take care of the flock from now on.

Responsorial Psalm 22:1-3,5-6
The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 15:20-26,28
Paul looks forward to the coming of Christ in glory at the end of time.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 25:31-46
The trial scene, set at the end of time, reveals God's judgement on how we have responded to the needs of our fellow human beings.

Parish of Corpus Christi

Sacred Heart (Goldthorpe), Sacred Heart & St Helen (Hoyland) and St Michael & All Angels (Wombwell)



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Sunday 22nd November 2020

Sunday Year A

Our Lord Jesus Christ The King

Weekday Cycle II

"In so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me."

In the year 1789, the French Revolution broke out and began the end of royal rule in Europe. In country after country, kings and queens lost their thrones, and sometimes even their lives, as angry citizens set about establishing democratic forms of government. Those monarchies which managed to survive did so by accepting the changes in society and agreeing to the role of figureheads who had no real political power: this authority now lay with the people's elected representatives. Nowadays, most people would not accept the idea that someone is entitled to a place above others simply because of an accident of birth. A person today who ruled with absolute power and tolerated no opposition would be regarded as a dictator.

Some people may well find that they are uncomfortable with the idea of Christ as king; it suggests an archaic and outdated view of society and government. So it might be useful to think about how the Bible views the idea of what it meant to be a king. First of all, the human ruler, who, with one notable exception, was always male, was not regarded as having absolute power. The king was God's representative, and his chief function was to be a unifying force among the people, especially in matters of justice. If the king exceeded royal powers, it was the duty of the prophet to remind him that he was not above the law of God. The person regarded as the ideal ruler was David, the shepherd who was anointed as the one to govern Israel in God's name, and to be the focal point of unity for the twelve tribes.

The biblical idea of Law, or Torah, means teaching or instruction. In the Gospel writings, Jesus shows a way of life, rather than an updated set of legal rules. In today's extract from Matthew's account, we hear about the last judgement, when the Lord will hold the people to account. We might note that the basis of judgement is social justice, not keeping the rules of the religious institution. It focuses on how we have treated one another, especially those most in need. This reflects the teaching of the prophets that social justice must go hand in hand with religious observance: one without the other is incomplete. We find this throughout the teaching of Jesus. Perhaps the most intriguing detail in our story today is that the members of both

Service Times & Intentions

Sunday	22 Nov	11.00am	People of the Parish
Tuesday	24 Nov	12.00pm	John Steel RIP
Wednesday	25 Nov	11.00am	Cyril Howitt RIP
Wednesday	25Nov	1.00pm	Funeral Service for Catherine Gentles
Thursday	26 Nov	12.00pm	Gordon English RIP
Friday	27 Nov	12.00pm	Mary Scahill RIP
Saturday	28 Nov	12.00pm	Steven Jones RIP
Sunday	29 Nov	11.00am	People of the Parish

Please go to the link below so you can join in with Masses and Services, streamed live by Fr Declan, or catch up later at the following link:

<https://m.facebook.com/CorpusChristiValley/videos/>

groups are surprised at the king's declaring that he is the one who has been the object of their concern or their neglect.

God is mystery. Mystery is something which we can keep trying to understand, even though we can never do so fully. We can only speak about God in terms which make sense to ourselves, so if we use the title "king", we might remember that the most important aspect of this in relation to Jesus is that of his being the focus of unity: his throne is the cross, and, as the Fourth Gospel tells us, the hour of his being glorified on the cross is when he will draw all people to himself.

We are the people of God in the world. It is our responsibility to live in such a way that we reveal to those around us the kind of God we believe in. When we celebrate the Eucharist together, we gather around the person of Jesus: Holy Communion is not simply an act of personal devotion, but a sign that we are united with those with whom we worship. In a world where there are so many divisions, our parish congregation could be an assembly where mutual respect and acceptance are evident, because we are all trying to live according to the teachings of Jesus.

The last judgement is not about charity: it is about justice. It is necessary to do something about the actual situation in which some people find themselves: this comes under the heading of charity. It is also important to address the causes of why people's lives are in such a mess, and this is a matter of justice. This can come at personal cost: Hélder Câmara, the Brazilian archbishop who worked tirelessly to put the Gospel into practice, once remarked, "When I give food to the poor, I am called a saint: when I ask why the poor have no food, I am called a communist."

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Prayers for the Sick

We pray for our sick and/or housebound parishioners. We remember especially Peter Hutchinson, Clare Dingwall, Anne Whittingham, Terence Dyson, Sue Bird, David Hardy, Tess Lynch, Carol Beard, Edna Yates, Justin Phillip Collins, Hannah Prentiss, Pat and Colin Hermitage, Thomas Collins, Norma Marshall, Lesley Easton, Val Armstrong, Minnie Helen Pozorski, Terry Mullins, Matthew Deakin, Margaret Booker, Anne Lacey, Kath Cragg, Michael Foy, Shirley Broadhead, Norah Preuss, Mavis Guilcher, Andrew Chandler.

Requiescant in Pace

Please pray for the souls of Margareta Nicholson, Cyril James Howitt and Edward Stefan Stasiukiewicz who all died recently. Please keep their family and friends on your prayers.

St Michael's Prayer Garden

Bishop Ralph will be blessing the newly refurbished Prayer Garden on Saturday 28th November at 1.00pm. This will be live streamed so that our parishioners can join in virtually.

During lockdown 2, Fr Declan is continuing to livestream mass each day except Monday, and there will be one mass for Sunday instead of three. Please see the mass schedule over the page.

Holy Souls

During the month of November, we pray especially for those who have died. If you would like a mass for your loved ones, the Holy Souls lists and envelopes will be available from church for an extended period after the Lockdown restrictions are relaxed. The masses will then be said throughout the coming year.

Donations and Weekly Offerings

Please continue to donations via PayPal, online payments and Standing Order. This is our main source of income. Donations to the parish can be made online via PayPal at corpuschristi.hallam-diocese.com/parish-news/donate-if-you-can/

Another way is to donate is by Standing Order and the form is available on the website. Please note that the full name of the account is

Diocese of Hallam, Corpus Christi Parish.

Dearne Churches Together

As Advent approaches, the time of year when we prepare for Christmas and Christ's arrival, Dearne Churches Together will be giving out gift bags of hope to local families on Saturday 28th November between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at 3 locations (St Helen's Church Hall in Thurnscoe, the Salvation Army in Goldthorpe and Furlong Road Methodist Church in Bolton-on-Dearne). The gift bags will contain craft activities, Christmas stories, snacks and surprises to bring Christmas cheer to local families, all free of charge. To collect a bag at an individual time slot to allow for social distancing and no mixing of households, contact Julie Turner on 07729 421405 or email julie@gpcchurch.co.uk

Apostles' Creed

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 for Vocations

Loving and generous Father: it is you who call us by name and ask us to follow you. In particular, you call some to serve you as ministers in your church. Bless our Diocese of Hallam by raising up faith-filled and dedicated priests, deacons and religious. Bless our families and choose from our homes those who are needed for your mission.

Blessed John Anne	Pray for us
Blessed Robert Ludlam	Pray for us
Blessed Nicholas Garlick	Pray for us
Blessed William Richardson	Pray for us
O Mary, Mother of Perpetual Help	Pray for us