

St Silas, Pentonville

(with All Saints & St James)



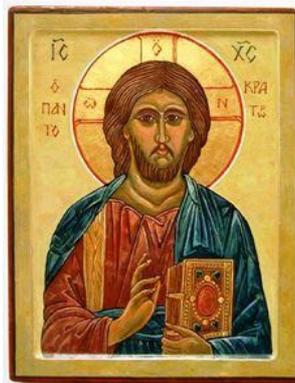
Sunday 22nd November 2020 Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe (Year A)

The week ahead :

M	St Clement 10.30 a.m. Monday Chat Group (booked places only) 7.00 p.m. Monday OA Group (Hall) Rev 14 : 1-5; Ps 23; Luke 21 : 1-4 <i>Prayer for Pope Francis</i>
Tu	St Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions 6.30 p.m.: Mass live-streamed to Facebook Rev 14 : 14-19; Ps 95; Luke 21 : 5-11 <i>Pray for persecuted Christians</i>
W	St Catherine of Alexandria Rev 15 : 1-4; Ps 97; Luke 21 : 12-19 <i>Pray for the NHS</i>
Th	12.30 p.m. Mass live-streamed to Facebook Rev 18 : 1-2, 21-23, 19 : 1-3,9; Ps 99; Luke 21 : 2-28 <i>Pray for the lonely</i>
F	Rev 20 : 1-4, 11-21:2; Ps 83; Luke 21 : 29-33 <i>Pray for London's rough sleepers</i>
Sa	10.00 a.m. Church open for private prayer (until 11.30 a.m.) 10.30 a.m. Saturday AA Meeting (Hall) 12 Noon : Mass live-streamed to Facebook Rev 22 : 1-7; ps 94; Luke 21 : 34-36 <i>Pray for the Copenhagen St Foodbank</i>
Su	The First Sunday of Advent (Year B) 11.00 : Mass live-streamed to Facebook (with Blessing of the Advent Wreath) Isa 63 : 16-17, 64: 1,3-8; Ps 9; 1 Cor 1 : 3-9; Mark 13 : 33-37 <i>Pray for people of the parish</i>

Gospel reading (Matthew 25 : 31-46)

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 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.'

Gospel Reflection

Today is the last Sunday in the church year. So it's appropriate to reflect on the end of time, on judgment, and on the life to come. These topics can fill us with a number of positive thoughts and a few fearful ones. In our anxious moments, we

may worry about whether we or our loved ones will get into heaven. We may worry about death itself or what we will actually be doing for all eternity in heaven.

In our more positive moments, we are probably filled with hope and expectation. We trust that the Second Coming will be great. We can't wait to live in a place where there are no wars, poverty, or sickness. We believe that heaven is a far better place than this world, and we greatly look forward to a life filled with peace and happiness. Thinking about the Second Coming can also help remind us of a key truth of our faith: We cannot save ourselves. Only Jesus can do that —and he did, when he died on the cross for us. But isn't it ironic that while we cannot save ourselves, God will still judge us based on how we have loved one another and cared for the poor and needy around us? How is that possible?

The truth is, our acts of love and charity should be a direct consequence of our realization that Jesus, our King, loves us. The experience of Jesus' love should send us to our knees in worship, and it should send us out into the world, eager to spread that love to everyone we come in contact with —our loved ones, the needy, and even our enemies.

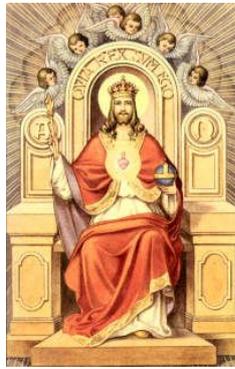
So as we contemplate our loving, merciful King today, let's ask him to inspire us to serve his kingdom. And whenever we perform acts of charity, let's see them as a way that we can give our hearts back to Jesus, who gave himself for us.

Fr Rayner writes :

All being well. we shall be back in church on 3rd December, our first Sunday back being 6th December, the Second Sunday of Advent.

On the First Sunday of Advent we will have blessed the Advent Wreath. The candles form the shape of a circle – a shape which never ends as you trace it. The circle reminds us of God's never-ending love and faithfulness. It's particularly important to be grateful for that as we move through these challenging times. It is because of his never-ending love for us that God gave us his Son, Jesus Christ, to be Our Lord and Saviour, King of the Universe.

There was more good news on the Covid-19 vaccine front this week. Let's just hope that the



government is able to set up ways of delivering the vaccine. It's unusual to develop a vaccine so quickly, so we need to be particularly careful about its safety, but give thanks for those brilliant scientists who have worked for months on end to develop something which will help us to move back to more usual ways of living – even if there is to be a 'new normal'.



Prayers

For this Sunday :

Almighty ever-living God,
it is your will to gather up all things
in your beloved one,
reigning in the universe
in the power that is love.
Mercifully grant
that the whole of creation,
freed from slavery,
may serve and praise you
through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

A prayer for peace of soul :

Let nothing disturb you,
Let nothing frighten you.
All things are passing:
God alone is changeless.
Patience gains all things,
Who has God wants nothing.
God alone suffices.

Amen.

St Teresa of Avila

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