Homily for Christ the King 2025 Year C

Today is the feast of Christ the King and it brings the Church's year to its close.

The readings remind us in a very powerful way that the cycle of our own lives here on earth will also reach, at some point, its completion.

The end of a year is a time for review. It is also a good time to take stock of our behaviour as members of God's household.

The readings of the past few Sundays have brought to our minds the inevitability of our judgement. In the Gospels it is pointed out very forcibly that admission to God's Heavenly home depends upon the efforts we make on earth to help and comfort the needy and to establish the values of God's Kingdom. We will be assured of a place in His Kingdom only if we treat others as Christ treats them.

The Gospels challenge us and present us with the stark choice of being for or against Christ.

There is no in between, and therefore none of us can reflect upon it without seeing areas of our lives where change and improvement are needed. We must do this whilst there is still time.

What the Church is emphasising is the importance of turning our lives and hearts to Christ, and trusting in His teachings, otherwise we run the real danger of being rejected.

The Gospels make it very clear that God is going to judge us on the works of mercy that we perform, our response to human need.

One thing is absolutely certain is that there will be no excuses accepted on that last day.

Nobody will be granted the absolution of the sin of omission by saying, "I minded my own business, or I did nobody any harm, or even I passed by on the other side of the road".

Christ will not be deceived by appearances. He will look directly into the human heart, our heart, and so all pretence will be wiped away, all falsehood exposed, and our real selves brought out into the light.

In that one piercing moment we are all that we have been and done. In a glance Christ will recognise us as friends or disown us as strangers.

Scary stuff, but the wonderful thing for us is that there is still time.

So let us think seriously about it.

Our faith, based upon the teachings and examples of Christ, lays great stress upon the importance of involvement in the community. The world about us is put into our hands in trust and stewardship. Christ still walks the earth in the guise of our neighbour who is suffering and in need.

It is an enormous flaw in us if we fail to recognise this fact.

In the Gospels Christ has laid it on the line that in the evening of our lives we will be judged upon the love we have shown and the small acts of kindness and mercy we have performed. Our biggest sin would be not so much that we were cold and hard-hearted but that we lost sight of the presence of Christ to us in that moment of another person's need. Whilst we were looking out for the big challenges, the small ones slipped by.

Often a word of encouragement, a little recognition, or a friendly smile can mean more to the poor than food, clothing, or shelter, as those little things carry the warmth of acceptance and make people feel valued.

Then and only then can we follow with the possibility of some practical help for them.

Christ becomes real to the people around us only insofar as we reach out and show concern for their welfare and commit ourselves to fostering their dignity.

Whatever good we do to others we do to Him. If we turn our backs on another's need, we turn our backs on Him.

How could we explain that away when we stand in judgement before Him?

If we want to get into that eternal Kingdom, there is still time for us. We must help build His Kingdom here on earth. Christ rules in our hearts and in the world around us when we give our time, energy, and love in performing practical acts of charity. If we work to establish the true value of God's Kingdom in our hearts, then Christ will truly reign in our lives.

We are within His Kingdom and His Kingdom is within us.