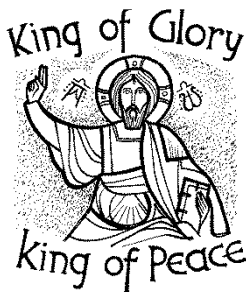




Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

22nd November 2015

FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING



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Bishop Emeritus

John Crowley

(Retired)

Jesus talks of his kingship. It is the only time he says directly 'I am a King', He then continues by defining what his kingship is, in a most unexpected definition: to bear witness to the truth. Pilate's cynical retort is well known, but by omitting it today we feel the impact of Jesus's words more greatly. It is for the other readings to give more conventional pictures of kingship. Even these, though, are conventional only in the sense that they denote power and sovereignty, but these are not to be understood as they would be for any other king. The Lord is Creator of the world, and is the very essence and model of sovereignty - everyone else claiming royalty is a more or less faithful reflection of this. The Second Reading calls Jesus 'the ruler of the kings of the earth.' Perhaps Jesus's reply to Pilate (and others in the passion accounts) means: 'You can call me a king if you want to, but I'm not like the people who usually have this title.' What king would say they are a witness to the truth? Christ is not 'like' a king; kings and queens may be a little like him, but only if they are 'on the side of truth.'

SMILE LINES

An English professor wrote the words 'Woman without her man is nothing' on the blackboard and asked his students to punctuate it correctly.

The men wrote: 'Woman, without her man, is nothing.'
The women wrote: 'Woman, without her, man is nothing.'
* * * * *

A woman walked into the kitchen to find her husband prowling around with a fly swatter.

'Killed any?' she asked.

'Yes,' he said. 'Three males and two females.'

'How the hell can you tell their sex?'

'Easy,' he said. 'Three were on a beer can and two were the phone.'

* * * * *

Notice in a farmer's field:

The farmer allows walkers to cross this field for free. But the bull charges.

* * * * *

QUOTE - Pope Francis

We are close to Christmas: There will be lights, there will be parties, bright trees, even Nativity scenes – all decked out – while the world continues to wage war. The world has not understood the way of peace. What shall remain in the wake of this war, in the midst of which we are living now? What shall remain? Ruins, thousands of children without education, so many innocent

victims: and lots of money in the pockets of arms dealers. War is waged to bring economic gain to a few. Let us pray for conversion of heart. Here before the door of this Jubilee of Mercy, let us ask that our joy, our jubilation, be this grace: that the world discover the ability to weep for its crimes, for what the world does with war.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 21st November

10.00 Intention of Alan & Joyce Thomas
6.00pm Martin King & Michael Holmes
(RIP) Anniv

Sunday 22nd November

08.30 Ian Brindle (RIP) Anniv.
09.45 Margaret Turner (RIP) Anniv.
11.30 Paul Murphy (RIP) 1st year Anniv.

Monday 23rd November

12 noon Funeral – Robert Baird (RIP)

Tuesday 24th November

09.15 Margaret Foulds (RIP)

Wednesday 25th November

08.30 Michael Hayes (RIP)

Thursday 26th November

11.00 Service of the Word

Friday 27th November

09.15 Margaret Cooper (RIP) Anniv.

Saturday 28th November

10.00 Intentions of HS
6.00pm Deceased Members of Luton
Catenians

Sunday 29th November

08.30 Harry & Eileen Goodson RIP Anniv.
09.45 Francis Joseph Taylor (RIP)
11.30 Erroll Yates (RIP) Anniv.