

Homily for Jesus Christ King of the Universe

King, kingship, kingdom, and reigning are words associated with Jesus but understood very differently in modern thought. There are other words also associated with Jesus: shepherd, servant, pilgrim people, journeying together, love and mercy, forgiveness and compassion. It might be better to think of Jesus as a leader, which he is, in which his kingship is about dignity, vision and service. In baptism we become royalty too, brothers and sisters of Jesus whose leadership is about accompaniment. Jesus helps and guides us in the decisions we make but doesn't make them for us. His leadership offers a sense of security, that we never walk alone, that we walk on solid ground. Allegiance to Jesus as king is about friendship rather than being a vassal. The love that unites us to Jesus and Jesus to us is a gift of the Spirit. It is this spirit of love and friendship that moulds us into a kingdom of brothers and sisters, journeying together with a desire to support all those we meet along the way, especially the lost and forsaken. This is a kingdom of people not of territory or land. In the early days of the Church the followers of Jesus were known as the people of the WAY.

Rather than inherit a ready-made kingdom, Jesus invites us to help shape the kingdom in which we live. It is a kingdom built on virtue, works of mercy, altruism and the inspiration of Jesus. A kingdom of healing and of sharing joys and sorrows, successes and failures. Care for others is paramount since it echoes the care Jesus shows us.

Jesus is also a priest who offers himself as the Victim – the Lamb of God – but we share in his priesthood and we do our best to offer ourselves in a service of love and trust.

Jesus Christ is also a prophet King who challenged the injustices and abuses of his day. We are called to do the same today. St Teresa of Avila said that we are the hands, feet, ears and eyes of Jesus; we embody Christ our king. Everything that we do in the name of Jesus, however small, expresses the royal dignity of service, the self-offering of the priesthood and the prophetic voice speaking up for the downtrodden, those unjustly and unfairly treated and the many who have no voice. Living in this way is not a burden, we feel honoured and privileged to help shape a kingdom of which Jesus our King will be proud.

When I think about Lord Jesus... and all He means to me...

And the truths He has to teach us... of future things to be...

I can't help wonder who I am... that Christ should love me still...

Who else on Earth would give a damn? If sometimes I get ill?

And yet compassion stirs Him on... throughout the centuries...

His love for me has never gone... and that truth grants me peace...

When healthy, then I'm at my best... it's then I wish to serve...

Donating gifts, so some are blessed... because, they, too, have worth...

I'm not as rich as others are... or young as I once was...

Yet Jesus Christ brought me this far... since I first saw The Cross...

And that sight stays within my mind... much more than other things...

Christ died to save humankind... yet He's the King of Kings. Denis Martindale

What was the name of the king's extra knight? Sir Plus

Little johnny was in class and the teacher asked him to name 3 kings that have brought joy to the world, **Little johnny replied "smo-king, drin-king, and coo-king"**

I was walking past a cinema showing "The Black Phone" a Stephen King film. A chap outside was saying, "Stephen King is my dad and he stole the ideas for all his novels from me!"

I said to him... "Oh! Then you must be JOE."