

## NEWSLETTER

CHRIST THE  
KING*The Glory of Christ's Kingship*

The feast of the Kingship of Christ sets the crowning glory upon the mysteries of the life of Christ already commemorated during the year...The faithful, moreover, will gain much strength and courage, enabling them to form their lives after the true Christian ideal. If to Christ our Lord is given all power in heaven and on earth, if all people, purchased by his Precious Blood, are by a new right subjected to his dominion, it must be clear that not one of our faculties is exempt from his empire. He must reign in our minds, which should assent with perfect submission and firm belief to revealed truths and to the doctrines of Christ. He must reign in our wills, which should obey the laws and precepts of God above all things, and cleave to him alone. He must reign in our bodies which should serve as instruments for the interior sanctification of our souls, or to use the words of the Apostle Paul, as a *weapon fighting on the side of God (Rm 6: 13)*.

If all these truths are presented to the faithful for their consideration, they will prove a powerful incentive to perfection. It is our fervent desire...that those who are without the fold may seek after and accept the sweet yoke of Christ, and that we, who by the mercy of God are the household of the faith, may bear that yoke, not as a burden but with joy, with love, with devotion; that having lived our lives in accordance with the laws of God's kingdom, we may receive full measure of good fruit, and counted by Christ good and faithful servants, we may be rendered partakers of eternal bliss and glory with him in his heavenly kingdom.

*Pope Pius XI*

## CHRIST THE KING

St John of the Cross, said, 'in the evening of life, we will be judged on love alone'. This love is expressed by the way we have treated others during our life here on earth. The marginalized, the homeless, the destitute, those in poverty, the elderly, the sick and housebound, the lonely, those struggling to put food on the table for their children. the foreigner, the prisoner. For in them Christ is present. 'I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was naked and you clothed me' You and I reign by serving others.

Why not start by picking one of the works of mercy and put into practice.

*Fr. Christopher*

**Sunday 22nd November** lets pray together- *"In accordance with what our Lord told us, may we take on the responsibility of serving the voiceless in our society - especially those imprisoned, the homeless, the widowed, the sick and the unborn. We pray for the Lord to fill our hearts with a passion for justice, knowing it is truly Him we are serving in our efforts. Lord hear us"*

MASS INTENTIONSNovember 21st, 2020

6pm - Pro Populo

November 22nd, 2020

9am—No Mass

11am— Holy Souls

For weekday mass intentions please, see the notice board on the left hand side of the main door of the church.

Confession  
only by appointment.

**Spiritual  
Communion**

Jesus!

My God and my All  
my soul longs for thee.

My heart yearns to  
receive thee in  
Holy Communion, come, O  
Lord.

Bread of heaven and food of  
angels to nourish my soul  
heal my body and to rejoice  
my heart

come most lovable friend of  
my soul,

to inflame me with such love  
that I may never again be  
ever separated from thee.  
Amen

## Readings for this &amp; next Sunday

1st Reading; Ezekiel 34; 11-12, 15-17,  
Psalm 22; 1-3, 5-6 responsive v 1  
2nd Reading - Corinthians 15: 20-26, 28  
Gospel – Mathew 25; 31-46

1st Reading; Isaiah 63; 16-17, 64;1, 3-8,  
Psalm 79; 2-3, 15-16, 18-19 responsive v 4  
2nd Reading - Corinthians 1: 3-9  
Gospel – Mathew 84;8

### *Thy kingdom come*

According to the saying of our Lord and Saviour, the kingdom of God does not come in such a way as to be seen. No one will say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There it is!'; because the kingdom of God is within us. The word is very near to us; it is on our lips and in our heart. It is clear from this that when a man prays that God's kingdom may come, he is praying, as he should, for the kingdom of God which is within him, that it may rise, flourish and reach its full growth. Every saint is subject to God's reign and obeys the spiritual laws of God who dwells in him as in a well-governed city. The Father is present within him and Christ reigns with the Father in the soul which has become perfect, as he said: 'we will come to him and make our home with him'.

For those of us who press forward unceasingly, the kingdom of God which is within us will reach its full completion when the apostle's words are fulfilled, that Christ, with all his enemies subject to him, will deliver the kingdom to God the Father so that God may be all in all. And so, praying unremittingly in the spirit which the Word inspires in us, let us say to the Father who is in heaven: 'Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come'.

We must understand this about the kingdom of God as there is no partnership between righteousness and iniquity, no fellowship of light with darkness, no accord of Christ with Belial, so the kingdom of sin cannot co-exist with the kingdom of God,

If we would have God reign over us, then, sin must have no reign in our mortal body. We must put to death what is earthly in us and bear the fruits of the Spirit, so that God may walk in us as in a spiritual garden and reign alone in us with his Christ, so that Christ may be seated within us at the right hand of that spiritual power for which we pray, seated until all his enemies within us are made a footstool for his feet and all the principalities and authorities and powers are destroyed in us.

This can happen in each one of us. The last enemy also, death, can be destroyed, so that Christ can say in us too 'O death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?' Now, therefore, let what is perishable in us clothe itself in holiness and imperishability, let what is mortal put on the Father's immortality when death has been destroyed, so that God may reign over us and we may live even now amid the blessings of rebirth and resurrection.

*From the book of Origen On Prayer*

*"A day lived without prayer risks being transformed into a bothersome or tedious experience. Everything that happens to us could turn into a badly endured and blind fate for us...Prayer is primarily listening and encountering God. The problems of everyday life, then, do not become obstacles, but appeals from God himself to listen to and encounter those who are in front of us. The trials of life thus change into opportunities to grow in faith and charity. The daily journey, including hardships, acquires the perspective of a "vocation." Prayer has the power to transform into good what in life would otherwise be a sentence; prayer has the power to open the mind to a great horizon and to broaden the heart." Pope Francis*

### **Advent from The Holy Land: Faith and Art**

Pilgrimage People are offering a Course leading up to Christmas looking at faith and Art. It's an online course over four weeks looking at the following; 2nd December: The Basilica of the Annunciation; 9th December: The Church of the Visitation  
16th December: The Shepherds Fields; 23rd December: Church of the Nativity.

Course time: 3 pm-4 pm (The Courser will be led by an art historian from the University of Cambridge) It's run online. Cost £60  
To register your interest and for further details please contact via email [info@pilgrimagepeople.org](mailto:info@pilgrimagepeople.org) or alternatively you can call them on 0800612 3423

I recommend that you join the course and it's a good way to prepare ourselves for Christmas in these uncertainties. The monies raised through putting on the course goes directly to help the Christians in the Holy Land. *Thank you, Fr Christopher*

### **Sacramental Program inn the next Academic Year which commences in September.**

**First Holy Communion:** .. *The Parents Meeting will be on 3rd December 20 at 7 pm. in the Church.*

**Confirmation:** Those who have applied will be contacted shortly.

**Baptism:** The course will be on Wednesday, 2nd December at 7pm on Zoom. Both parents have to be present.. If you are interested in doing the course, please, drop the email to give us your email (that is essential to receive an invitation to join the course). You also have to come to the office to pick up the Baptismal Pack and to pay a fee of £10 payable on receiving the pack.

**Dear Friends in Christ,**

You will see a letter from Apsana Begum MP in response to my concern over closing places of worship.

Dear Christopher

Thank you for contacting me about this important matter.

On 31 October the Prime Minister announced that, in an effort to limit the spread of covid-19, there will be a four-week lockdown across England (from Thursday 5 November). On 4 November, MPs voted on the Government's new restrictions. I believe it is necessary to now implement measures to help slow the spread of the virus. However, I remain concerned that unless this lockdown is used by the Government as an opportunity to change strategy it will arguably not be enough to address the current crisis and we risk being stuck in a cycle of lockdowns for many months to come.

The Government's own advisors, the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) warned the government in mid-September that the country faced a "very large epidemic with catastrophic consequences" unless it took urgent action and implemented national measures including a circuit breaker. I worry at the consequences of the Government not acting on this warning at the time - instead delaying action by many weeks. Experts continue to argue that any route out of this health crisis requires an effective Test, Trace, Isolate and Support system and warn that we still do not currently have one because rather than putting the NHS and trusted local health experts in charge the Government decided to outsource to the private sector.

I recognise how difficult adhering to the existing restrictions has been for people. However, it is increasingly clear that it is not possible to live safely with this virus and as such, I have advocated for the adoption of a "zero covid" strategy, as countries such as New Zealand have successfully done. This would involve measures such as a target to reduce the number of new covid-19 cases week on week, screening at transport hubs, and acceleration of the development of a comprehensive locally led but nationally supported test, track and isolate programme in England. Many argue that this would be the best way to get back to our normal lives as quickly as possible, while protecting people's health and livelihoods.

Unfortunately, the Government's approach still has many inconsistencies. Under the latest Government advice for the lockdown places of worship will be closed. However, unlike during the lockdown in the spring, the second lockdown will not involve the closure of schools and universities. This is despite the final October update from the Office for National Statistics Coronavirus Infection Survey finding that "older teenagers and young adults continue to have the highest current rates while rates appear to be steeply increasing among secondary school children." I therefore support the calls from the National Education Union (NEU) for schools to be included in the lockdown. Kevin Courtney, Joint General Secretary of the NEU, has argued that "it is clear from ONS data that schools are an engine for virus transmission" and that "it would be self-defeating for the Government to impose a national lockdown, whilst ignoring the role of schools as a major contributor to the spread of the virus." The NEU has also criticised the Government's updated guidance (4 November) for the second national lockdown, detailing new requirements for face coverings amongst other measures, for coming at "the eleventh hour" and continue to argue for "ways to break transmission networks in schools and colleges" and that "much more needs to be done to make schools and colleges safe."

I am also in agreement with employers' organisations and trade unions that the Government must extend its support for businesses and workers. Whilst it is welcomed that the furlough scheme will now be extended across the UK until the end of March 2021, I remain concerned at what many argue to be the limited financial support people have received and that millions have been left without support altogether, including many freelancers, self-employed people and people who run small businesses. I am aware that the campaign group ExcludedUK estimates that millions of workers have been excluded from Government support to date, and continue to join their call for an end to the disparities in covid-19 support packages that they argue are currently excluding millions of people across the UK, potentially putting livelihoods and businesses at risk.

I have been inspired by the way people in Poplar and Limehouse have come together during this crisis to support one another. I will continue to do everything possible, in Parliament and beyond to campaign for people to get the support necessary to keep them and their families safe, and to protect livelihoods.

Yours sincerely,

Apsana Begum MP  
Member of Parliament for Poplar and Limehouse

