

Children's Liturgy

The Feast of Christ the King (Year A)(Colour: White)

Welcome: ☩ In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia's e.g **Halle, Halle Halle** (sung)

Catechist: Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!

Alleluia's e.g **Halle, Halle Halle** (sung)

Gospel: Matthew 25: 31 - 46

Catechist: ☩ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

All: **Glory to you O Lord**

Jesus said to his disciples:

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory with all of his angels, he will sit on his royal throne. The people of all nations will be brought before him, and he will separate them, as shepherds separate their sheep from their goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘My father has blessed you! Come and receive the kingdom that was prepared for you before the world was created.

When I was hungry, you gave me something to eat, and when I was thirsty, you gave me something to drink. When I was a stranger, you welcomed me, and when I was naked, you gave me clothes to wear. When I was sick, you took care of me, and when I was in jail, you visited me.’

Then the ones who pleased the Lord will ask,

‘When did we give you something to eat or drink? When did we welcome you as a stranger or give you clothes to wear or visit you while you were sick or in jail?’

The king will answer, ‘Whenever you did it for any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did it for me.’

Then the king will say to those on his left,

‘Get away from me! You are under God’s curse. Go into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels! I was hungry, but you did not give me anything to eat, and I was thirsty, but you did not give me anything to drink. I was a stranger, but you did not welcome me, and I was naked, but you did not give me any clothes to wear. I was sick and in jail, but you did not take care of me.’

Then the people will ask,

'Lord, when did we fail to help you when you were hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in jail?'

The king will say to them,

'Whenever you failed to help any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you failed to do it for me.'

Then Jesus said, "Those people will be punished forever. But the ones who pleased God will have eternal life."

Catechist: The gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Gospel reflection and activity

Today we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King.

This is the 3rd week that Jesus tells us about heaven - his Kingdom in the Gospel. This time he does not use a parable or a story to tell us what heaven will be like he is quite straight forward about what we need to do to get into his kingdom.

Sometimes we forget that Jesus is our king - we think about him as our shepherd, perhaps as a baby at Christmas, about him sacrificing himself for us when he was crucified but he is our king, and he will be able to divide us all into those who have done what he wants them to do in their lives and those who have not - In the Gospel he says it is like a shepherd sorting his flock out and dividing the sheep (good people) from the goats (bad people).

I have to admit that I like goats and it seems that this story is a bit mean to them. But people in Jesus's time thought that sheep were more reliable, calm and 'good' animals as opposed to the goats who were noisy, mischievous and did not do what they were told!

Anyway let us think about Jesus as a king and see why he is such a different king to all the others in the world.

Q: How would you describe a King to someone?

Ask the children for their ideas.

They often live in a palace,
They have servants to take care of all their needs,
They wear a crown,
They own jewels and treasures and are very wealthy

Q: Was Jesus a typical King?

No

Let's think about Jesus' life.

Q: Where was he born?

He was born in a stable – not in a Palace.

Q: On Palm Sunday what did he ride into Jerusalem on?

He rode on a donkey – not on a fine white horse.

Q: On the cross what was his crown made of?

He wore a crown of thorns – not a gold crown.

Q: Was Jesus wealthy?

No. He didn't have any jewels or servants.

So Jesus was not like an ordinary King. Jesus came to serve others and so sometimes he is called the servant king. Jesus is the king of love, justice, peace and forgiveness.

Every time we are kind and loving to someone we are being loving to Jesus, every time we are mean or cruel to someone we are being mean to Jesus.

Anyone who puts their love for God and their neighbour before anything else is a part of the kingdom. The kingdom of God grows in people who love Jesus and as they grow in love, kindness and forgiveness so God's kingdom grows too.

Creed:

Catechist: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

All: Yes, I believe

Catechist: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

All: Yes, I believe

Catechist: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting?

All: Yes, I believe

Intercessions:

Leader: We pray for the Church in the world today, that all Christians work together in kindness to make the world more generous and compassionate. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for world leaders, that they may make structures in the world work for the good of all. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for all people everywhere who do not have enough to eat...clean water to drink...warm clothes to wear...or friends to be kind to them. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for anyone in our parish community during this time of lockdown, especially those who are lonely or in any need. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, help us to be your agents in the world, showing your love to all we meet as we would want to show our love to you. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.
All: Amen.