



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING

THE PRESBYTERY, 4 LORDS CROFT, AMESBURY, WILTS., SP47EP

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WELCOME TO CHRIST THE KING

We welcome visitors, family and friends to our Mass today.
We are glad you are joining us today.

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR- A-2023

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER SAJI: DON'T SETTLE FOR THE SAME OLD WAYS Jesus had an encounter with the people of his time that we hear about in the gospel this weekend. He is speaking about a deeper understanding of the commandments that God gave to the Israelites. When people hear him speak, they think that he is changing the law. He makes it clear that he is not changing it, but fulfilling it, and introducing people into the deeper aspects of the law that God gave originally. For some of us, we need to take that deeper journey to continue to experience the consequences of the law that God has given us to live. Jesus takes on the commandment of "Thou shall not kill". He includes in that commandment the hatred of others and even a willingness to destroy the reputation of another through gossip or spreading scandal. He is bringing the law to its completion by introducing us into the depths of that law. It seems important to examine in a more general sense our approach to the laws that we know God gives us. Do we take them as a description of the ultimate way to live or do we take them as a minimum requirement as a starting point for growing and loving God and neighbour? Do we give ourselves excuses and allow ourselves to live at the minimum, rather than taking that deeper walk with Jesus, and making our lives look like his? The gospel goes on to cover aspects of living, such as faithfulness in relationship, and being faithful to our promises. Think for a moment about the relationships that you have in your life. Are you satisfied simply because you're doing the minimum part of the law or are you attempting to go deeper in the relationship so that it looks more sacrificial and more generous? Are your relationships marked by doing the least that you have to do to get by or is there a generosity about the amount of energy, time and love you invest in your relationships? Have you given yourself the excuse of hiding behind other peoples' behaviour? So you may find yourself saying that you don't have to be honest because other people aren't honest. You may find yourself giving yourself permission to break a promise because you didn't like how the other person fulfilled their part of the promise. What does faithfulness mean for you when making promises? Are you willing to keep the promises you make and are you a person of your word? If we were halfway honest, we would say that the reason we don't live the maximum depth of love with Jesus and others is because we really don't trust God. We hear over and over again about the love of God, and how we can't even imagine the depths of God's love for us, or what he has in mind for those who love him. However, we often follow our own wisdom and live according to the minimal law of life. It is truly a conversion to be able to trust the wisdom of God more than our own thinking. What if I am kind and nobody is kind back to me? What if I am generous and nobody is generous back to me? What if I am forgiving and nobody forgives me for the wrongs that I have done? These questions that prey on our sanity and peace exist within us because we have not trusted God. God has already told us we will have everything we need and more besides. God has already told us that nothing can separate us from his love. God has already told us that he would never abandon us, and he has us in the palm of his hand. If we really believed that, what is there to be afraid of? Have a great week ahead. BE BLESSED AND BE A BLESSING

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: They are happy who follow God's law!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

EARTHQUAKE HUMANITARIAN AID Second collection next weekend-18/19 February The earthquake and the aftershocks that followed have already killed more than 24,000 people, injured hundreds more and destroyed thousands of homes and buildings. The scale of this disaster is unclear but search and rescue for survivors continues in both Turkey and Syria in a desperate bid to save lives. Please support and help reach families who have lost everything through CAFOD. The people of Turkey and Syria continue to need our donations and prayers. There will be a **Second Collection next weekend** for the support of the victims and their families.

PARISH LENTEN MISSION 2023 The Parish Lenten Series will be held on Tuesday, February 28th, March 7th, March 21st, and March 28th after the 10:00AM Mass. Each talk will give a brief Lenten reflection. **All talks are focused on prayer, the season of Lent and learning more about the Lord through Scripture. Here are some of the topics:**+ Abiding in the Word of God+ Overcoming Our Temptations+ Believing Our Identity as "Beloved"+ Growing in Unshakeable Hope+ How to Handle Unanswered Prayers+ Overcoming Lies of the Devil+ Restorative Prayer+ Saints with a Devotion to the Passion of Jesus+ Jesus' Time in the Garden of Gethsemane+ Living out the Pattern of Life, Death and Resurrection: advice from St. Elizabeth of the Trinity.

PARISH DONATIONS: Generosity is at the heart of the Gospel and the Christian life. We really appreciate your weekly giving at Mass. Donating a regular amount of money is the best way of supporting your parish financially. It enables us to plan ahead knowing that we have a reliable source of income, especially in these uncertain times. Your giving allows us to do everything we do here in this Parish, including enabling our Masses to take place, sacramental preparation, work with children and youth and their families and much more. All of this is made possible by your prayers, serving and giving – we couldn't do it without you. If you would like to send in a cheque, please make it payable to "Catholic Parish of Christ the King. If you would like to give regularly but do not want to give online then please use the Standing Order Form, as well as the GiftAid declaration form, if you are a UK tax payer. You can collect the forms from Jeff Coy, our parish treasurer and please return the forms to him. Jeff will help you to process the Gift Aid Form and enlighten you more about it A big thank you for all your generous donations, which are greatly appreciated. Should you wish to transfer to standing order or bank transfer, the Parish bank details are: Name: Christ the King Church Amesbury: Natwest Sort Code 52-10-03 Account Number 66286638. If you wish to remember the Parish in your Will, further information is available from the Parish Office. Thank you and God bless you.

WELCOME TO CHRIST THE KING! We would like to extend a warm welcome to all our parishioners and visitors attending public Mass. Whether you are just passing through or looking for a spiritual home, we pray you find Christ the King inviting and spiritually uplifting. If you are attending Mass on a regular basis, we encourage you to register with the parish. Please call our parish office and start the conversation! To our visitors, we hope you enjoy your stay here in Amesbury. Our church is always open to you, your family, and friends. *pax et bonum* (peace and all good)

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD: Children's Liturgy of the Word is an extension of the Liturgy that provides young children with a worship experience shared in ways understandable and engaging to them. The Children's Liturgy of the Word includes the First Reading, Responsorial Psalm, Alleluia, Gospel Reading, Gospel Reflection, Creed and Prayer of the Faithful. Children participate by joining the group as it gathers in the hall when invited by the celebrant after the Opening Prayer. They are sent forth with the team of volunteers and return during the Offertory. In order to continue this task on a regular basis we need committed volunteers. We are looking forward to recruiting new members who are able to lead children's liturgy. If you are interested, please contact Father Saji. Children's liturgy materials will be supplied for the programme.

FLOWER COMMEMORATIONS If you are looking for a way to help beautify our worship in our church, you may want to consider donating money to purchase a floral arrangement that may be placed in the sanctuary. This is a lovely way to remember a loved one who has died or to commemorate a special birthday or anniversary of a family member. If you are interested placing a floral arrangement, please contact Anne Larke at 07485423471 or please contact Father Saji.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! We would once again like to be able to hold our Children's Liturgy Program during the 11:00 Mass, each week. We're searching for 4 to 5 adults to rotate Sundays to work with the children, during Mass to explain the Sunday's liturgy to them in ways they can understand and participate. Interested adults should contact Father Saji Mathew.

MIRACULOUS MEDAL QUESTION: What is the "Miraculous Medal" and why is it called that? Answer: The medal of the Immaculate Conception that has come to be called simply the "Miraculous Medal" dates back to an apparition of Mary to Saint Catherine Laboure, who was then a novice sister with the Daughters of Charity. On November 27, 1830, Our Lady appeared

to her standing on a globe, with shafts of light streaming from her hands and the words, "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee," surrounding the image. In the same vision, Catherine saw a capital "M" with a cross above it and below two hearts. Catherine seemed to hear a voice telling her to have what she saw struck as a medal and a promise that those who wore the medal would have the protection and intercession of the Mother of God. The first 1,500 of medals were distributed in 1832. Many miraculous favours were attributed to the use of the medal. Saint Catherine's "Miraculous Medal" is among the recognisable and popular symbols of modern Catholicism. Reflecting on its widespread use, the 2001 Vatican document, "Directory on Popular Piety and Liturgy," observes that the medal "recalls the mystery of Redemption, the love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and of the Sorrowful Heart of Mary. It signifies the mediatory role of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the mystery of the Church, the relationship between Heaven and earth, this life and eternal life."

FACE THE CHALLENGES FEARLESSLY Challenges can create fear and anxiety in us because we feel very insecure about what may happen next. We all want to live a smooth and stress-free life every day. This never happens because our life keeps changing daily, so we face challenges differently each day. The challenges we overcome never bother us; third, overcoming the ones we find creates restlessness. In order to overcome challenges in life, we need to remember challenges will always be there, but if we have trust, determination, faith and inner strength, we can fearlessly overcome them. You can't always avoid challenges but you can always try to overcome them.

MASS SCHEDULE STARTING FROM 11TH FEBRUARY 2023
SATURDAY 11TH FEBRUARY MASS AT 6.00PM JEAN WILSON (INTENTIONS)

SUNDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 11.00AM MASS MAUREEN TAYLOR (INTENTIONS)

MONDAY 13TH FEBRUARY MASS AT 10AM JOHN COCRELL (HEALING)

TUESDAY 14TH FEBRUARY MASS AT 10.00AM CAROL DRENNAN (INTENTIONS)

WEDNESDAY 15TH FEBRUARY MASS AT 10.00AM LOLLETA JONES (HEALING)

THURSDAY 16TH FEBRUARY MASS AT 10.00AM PRIVATE INTENTIONS

FRIDAY 17TH FEBRUARY ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM PAT MAHONY, RIP

SATURDAY 18TH FEBRUARY MASS AT 6.00PM VIGIL MASS PATRICK MONAGHAN (HEALING)

SUNDAY 19TH FEBRUARY MASS AT 11.00AM MASS FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

Lent is like a long 'retreat' during which we can turn back into ourselves and listen to the voice of God, in order to defeat the temptations of the Evil One. It is a period of spiritual 'combat' which we must experience alongside Jesus, not with pride and presumption, but using the arms of faith: prayer, listening to the word of God and penance. In this way we will be able to celebrate Easter in truth, ready to renew the promises of our Baptism. Pope Benedict XVI

Prayer for the sick: Lord Jesus, who went about doing good and healing all, we ask you to bless our friends who are sick. Give them strength in body, courage in spirit and patience with pain.

STRUGGLING MARRIAGES AND DIVORCE IN THE CHURCH This Sunday the church celebrates World Marriage Day, which highlights the beauty of marriage and the love shared within the promises made on the day of a wedding. Over the last weekend I was contacted by a couple to arrange a ceremony for them to renew marriage vows and promises with plans to celebrate their 40th anniversary in my previous Parish Church. It is crucial for all of us to have healthy relationships; doctors have found that stress and tension from an unhealthy marriage or even an unhealthy friendship can actually cause illness and shorten a person's life. Sometimes forgotten are children who either gain or suffer from a model of family life that is provided for them. In today's Gospel, (Matthew 5: 17-37) Jesus challenges us to live beyond the letter of the law as he upholds high standards and ideals for marriage; yet, not every marriage is filled with a lifetime of joy and happiness in that sometimes marriage partners drift from each other due to a multiplicity of issues, which often leads to separation and/or divorce. Many of these people live with uncertainty over their status in the Church due to misguided or inaccurate information. Divorced Catholics have been given an unhealthy rap throughout the history of the Church. I know many divorced people who feel unwelcomed in Catholic Churches, others who have abandoned the Catholic faith for other traditions due to decrees in church law which prevents remarriage in the faith without a church annulment, while others live with resentment that stems from harsh comments directed to them about their presence in the church from clergy, friends, and family. Others may also receive unreliable information through articles, books, TV and social media that mistakenly gives divorced Catholic people an impression of being excommunicated from the faith. In the Gospels Jesus raises the beauty of marriage to a new level as he often highlights equality in relationships. He also sets forth the reminder that marriage is a lifetime commitment; and, frequently blesses unions of marriage as he commonly refers to a wedding feast as a symbol of God's kingdom. Jesus insisted on the oneness of marriage and speaks against divorce.

The ideals established by Jesus in marital commitments exhibit the fact that human beings are made in God's creation; and, must be treated with respect, dignity, and love. I believe most people enter into marriage with this intention; however, sometimes these ideals become abandoned by one or both parties, which generates unbreakable walls that distance two people from expressing their love and living in a loving, committed relationship. Others have been hampered by the fact that they gave a marital partner endless love, care, and faithfulness during good times and bad; but didn't receive the same values from their spouse which led to desertion, neglect, abuse, unfaithfulness or internal hurt that ended the relationship. In the aftermath of a legal divorce some of these people received even greater torment by hearing that their church no longer wanted them. This generated complete abandonment. The church is compelled to reach out to divorced people in ways that render support, encouragement, and hope for the future. If the church truly exemplifies a model of Christ who demonstrated healing in all facets of ministry, it must create opportunities for a divorced person within the church so that the scar of a broken marriage does not exclude a person from his/her community of faith. In the same manner that Jesus welcomed all regardless of past history, sometimes the church makes it easier for a person who is involved in wrongdoings that includes countless felonies to come to the altar; therefore, the church is called to reach out, not abandon a person who struggles in the aftermath of divorce. Although most people who enter into marriage foresee themselves in a lifetime commitment, sometimes things go wrong that disallow a relationship to be mended, which should not be held against a person for a lifetime.

BISHOP DECLAN'S PASTORAL VISIT TO CTK Bishop Declan Lang will make his pastoral visit to Christ the King Parish on Sunday March 19th and will preside over the 11.00am Mass. The pastoral visit is an apostolic endeavour, an event of grace for the whole of the parish family. The Pastoral Visit is intended to meet with the priest, lay pastoral assistants, and lay people responsible for various areas of the pastoral life of the parish. Bishop will avail this momentous opportunity to become acquainted with the reality of the current pastoral programs, and the overall functioning of the parish. From a faith perspective, to look at the parish community in its main components : faith education at all ages, sacramental and liturgical life, the sense of community, co-responsibility and leadership, service to society, the relationship of the parish with the diocesan and universal Church; financial organization and the state of recordkeeping of sacramental registers and other archival material. It will also help the Bishop to bring encouragement and hope to those involved in pastoral work and to all the people of the parish. Also, to celebrate the Mass, to proclaim the Word of God and to preach with the parish community as well as to make known the pastoral priorities of the diocese and to foster a sense of belonging to the diocesan Church. The pastoral planning team/ pastoral council will meet to discuss the special event in the life of parish and plan the strategy.

200 CLUB WINNERS FOR JANUARY 1st Patrick Monaghan £25, 2nd Lynda Mullen £123rd Leo Barnett £10. Many congratulations to the winners. Our grateful thanks go to the organisers. New members always welcome! Thank you and God bless you!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: This year's World Day of Prayer by the women of Taiwan, is being held at the Methodist Church on the 3rd March at 7.00pm. Men, women and children are all welcome. Please join our fellow Christians in this ecumenical service.

FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION: Our First Communion children are now working hard to prepare for this beautiful sacrament, which they will receive in June. We can't believe First Communion is only a few months away! Please keep the children and their families in your prayers! Our next First Communion class will be on Sunday 26th February after the Mass at 12.30pm

FAITH IS FOR EVERYONE, AND SO IS FAITH FORMATION! Do you have an older child who has never been baptised or never received their First Holy Communion? Do you have a child with a disability who would like to join our program? It's never too late, and your situation may not be as unusual as you may think! We accompany families with children of all ages, at all levels, in ways that are comfortable for them. Please contact the parish office for more details.

APPLICATIONS PLEASE FOR CONFIRMATION IN 2023. For young people in school Year 9 or above please apply NOW as we will soon be finalising the programme. **CONFIRMATION 2023** Confirmation in the Salisbury Deanery will be on 27 June this year and our programme will begin on 7 March. The deadline for applications to join the programme is 28 February after which all applications will be deferred until 2024. If you know of anyone in school Year 9 or above who hopes to be confirmed this year

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION is available on Saturdays from 5.00pm-5.40pm in the Church. Reconciliation is also available by appointment. Contact Fr. Saji directly through email or by phone.

ON THE WAY A CATECHESIS ON MARRIAGE - Fidelity Suppose you go to a wedding and at the exchange of vows the groom says, "I take you to be my wife...with the understanding that I will sleep with other women." Would you smile, roll your eyes, and chuckle about his being such a flirt? Of course not. You would immediately know that what was happening was not a real marriage but a sham. We all intuit that marriage, as the full gift of a man and a woman to one another, must be exclusive and faithful.

If the bride and groom don't intend fidelity, they don't intend marriage. Again, this is not a uniquely Catholic teaching but of the very nature of marriage. Fidelity is intrinsic to the gift-of-self that the spouses make to one another. You cannot make partial gift of yourself or a gift of yourself to various people. The gift-of-self is exclusive or it's not a gift at all. Another reason for fidelity is children. A child wants to know who his father is – and has a right to that knowledge. Infidelity creates an unjust situation of doubt and confusion about fatherhood. How would you define fidelity? For a number of years I've been asking engaged couples that question. What does it mean to be faithful? None of them has ever answered in the negative, about what fidelity is not: "It means you don't sleep with other people." Rather, every couple has answered in the positive, about what fidelity is. They always say something like, "It means guarding the relationship...remaining devoted to one another...loving only that one person." One groom answered (more to impress his bride than me), "It means you only have eyes for each other." They all recognise instinctively that fidelity is a positive, not a negative. It means you only have eyes for each other. Infidelity isn't primarily physical but mental and emotional. The root of infidelity is the wandering eye, which leads to a straying mind, then to a divided heart, and last of all to the physical act of adultery. Nobody ever just "falls" into adultery. Infidelity is a process that begins with lacking custody of the eyes.

Fidelity means only having eyes for each other, never allowing other things to distract and divide. Fidelity in marriage proclaims the reality of something that the world desires: faithful love. Since we have examples of infidelity all around us, we begin to despair that love can be true. The fidelity of spouses proclaims that, despite all the temptations and distractions, love can be faithful and true. More importantly, marital fidelity proclaims an eternally faithful love. Jesus Christ has established an eternal and exclusive covenant with the Church, his one Bride. He has not done so with any other people or religion. Union with Christ comes only through the Church. Christ desires all people to come to him through this exclusive relationship. He only has eyes for his Bride. On her part, the Church is called to that same fidelity, only to have eyes for him. The Church triumphant does so perfectly in heaven, worshipping the Lamb in glory. The Church in this world is called to contemplate him during her earthly pilgrimage. When spouses live marital fidelity – not permitting any distractions from one another; only having eyes for each other – they point to that supernatural reality of Christ and the Church, who look upon one another with love. They proclaim the God who is faithful to his covenant and who calls us to that same fidelity.

ADVANCE NOTICE - CHRISM MASS IN CLIFTON CATHEDRAL on Wednesday 5 April. We have booked a small coach to travel to the Chrism Mass which will be picking up in Salisbury and Amesbury. If you would like to join us and be part of this Mass, please contact the office.

EMAIL FOR CONTACTING ME: My temporary email: joseph.sajimathew@gmail.com

Pope's Intention for FEBRUARY We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS We would like to welcome into the Christian Community through the Sacrament of Baptism Michelle on Saturday. We congratulate her parents, godparents and family for their commitment to the faith on behalf of Michelle. We pray for Michelle F that she may always remember this day, and receive God's abundant care, love and peace and fill her life with the life-giving presence of God through all her tomorrows. Many congratulations and prayerful wishes. God bless you!

PRAYER FOR ST. VALENTINE'S DAY Lord, on this St. Valentine's Day, we come before you with our prayers and rejoice in the wonder and power of your never ending love for us, and our love for you. Help us to be slow to judge others, but always quick to listen. Make us hesitant to criticise, but always eager to encourage, remembering your endless patience with us. Help us to have hearts which are humble and which always look for the good in others. May we celebrate and appreciate all that we have, and all that we are, and be ready to share what we have with those around us. Help us to be strong and a refuge for those around us. When the world outside is harsh and cold, may our hearts always be open, a place of acceptance and warmth. May we always strive to help those who are sick, lost, lonely or in despair. Help us to stand up for what is right and good. May we defend the defenceless, and help the helpless. Show us all how we can make a real difference to the lives of others, however small or insignificant this may sometimes seem. Help us to see each new day as an opportunity to give ourselves to your service. Help our hearts to always beat with love for you and others. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

MARRIAGE PRAYER Lord Jesus Christ, You have elevated the covenant of marriage between man and woman to the dignity of a sacrament, making our relationship a true pathway to holiness. Help us never to lose sight of the holiness of our bond. You will that husband and wife should image Your own spousal relationship with the Church. May we always reflect the beauty of that relationship by the holiness of our lives and our fidelity to each other. Amen

VESTMENT COLOURS QUESTION What do the colours of the priest's and deacon's vestments mean? Answer: In the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church, the colours of the vestments evolved over the course of several centuries and there was wide variation both in the colours used, and in the feasts and seasons associated with particular colours. It was Pope Innocent III (d. 1216) who gave us the basic outline that was later prescribed by Pope Saint Pius V in 1570. The various colours remind us of the dominant themes of a particular season or celebration. White: Used for the seasons of Christmas and Easter and in celebrations of the Lord, of Mary, the angels, and saints who were not martyrs. This colour is also used in Masses for the dead, at baptisms, weddings and other festive celebrations. • Red: As the colour of both blood and fire, red is used on Palm Sunday and Good Friday, as well as Pentecost and special celebrations of the Holy Spirit. Moreover, red is used on the feasts and memorials of the Apostles and those saints who died as martyrs. Violet/purple: The colour for Advent and Lent. Violet may also be used in Masses for the dead and on All Souls Day (Nov. 2). Green: A colour of life and hope, green is used throughout Ordinary Time. Other colours: Rose may be used on the Third Sunday of Advent and the Fourth Sunday of Lent, black may be used in Masses of the dead and on All Souls Day, gold or silver may be used on solemn occasions in place of white, red, or green.

PASSION DRIVES YOU TO SUCCESS Being passionate about something means you feel energetic and enthusiastic about it. You love doing it and look forward to it. Most people don't enjoy what they do in life. Sometimes it is our circumstances, and other times, we do not try or make an effort. When we do something we do not cherish, we do it half-heartedly, so the results are mostly unsatisfactory. If you want to excel in something, you need to do it happily and put your heart into it. If you do not have the opportunity to do what you want, consider what you are doing as a stepping stone, and you will be able to get to your destination. Love what you do. The results will always be fruitful.