



# 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.

### TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME-YEAR- A-2023

**FROM THE DESK OF FATHER SAJI:HAVE YOU NOTICED THE SUFFERING?** We have had so many catastrophes around the world in the last few months. It is almost impossible to take into mind and heart the suffering and loss that people have endured, families and friends are going through. If you are connected with any prayer chain, you are aware of the other kinds of sufferings that are going on in our communities and outside us as well. If you watch the news, then you are aware of the earthquakes, famines, wildfires, wars, and insurrections. There is much suffering going on in the world right now. When Jesus tells his disciples that he must suffer first before he can be the one that God has sent him to be, his disciples will not listen to it. They are averse to suffering, as are we most of the time. It would be truly unhealthy to enjoy suffering, and certainly not healthy to inflict suffering purposely on ourselves. But there is a certain amount of suffering and sacrifice that comes with normal living. Taking it as part of our lives rather than being surprised about it every time it happens, might help us to live a more balanced life.

Take some time this week to find a crucifix to look at. On the cross you see the dying, broken body of Jesus. On the cross you see an act of love, but many of us turn away from it. We wonder if there wasn't another way for God to renew the covenant, and to show us the depth of his love. In addition to Jesus, have you ever had another human being suffer and sacrifice for your sake? I know that most of us have. Can you go back to that moment and remember how much it meant to you that somebody was willing to do that for you? Many of us have got ourselves into difficult situations, and there is another human being who is willing to stand with us and even rescue us. Many of us had dedicated parents and grandparents who really did sacrifice their own wants and needs for ours. We can also remember the times in which we have been asked to go above and beyond the expectations for another human being. To remember how it felt afterwards to have chosen to be kind and understanding rather than to reject that other person. Remember how it was a gift for you, the person who suffered and sacrificed, and not just the person who received that gift? Be on the lookout this week for chances to suffer for the sake of another. God will give each of us opportunities to sacrifice, sometimes from our own wants, and sometimes from our own needs. That might be in terms of our time, which we hold so precious. People regularly ask us to interrupt what we had planned, for the sake of what they need to have happen. Do you readily sacrifice for their sake or begrudgingly do what they're asking you to do? Setting priorities in our lives to align with the purpose of God is oftentimes a way that we are called to sacrifice or suffer. Setting the priority of getting to mass on the weekend and placing that above our own conveniences or wants can be a possibility of sacrifice and suffering. Are we willing to do it? When we hear of a need that someone has, especially those that are less fortunate than we are, are we willing to sacrifice and inconvenience and suffer a little for the sake of someone who has nothing to give us back? Can we follow in the footsteps of Jesus and acknowledge that some sacrifice, and some suffering is necessary for us to be able to live the resurrected life? God will give us the grace and the courage to do that if we simply say yes. Have a nice weekend. BE BLESSED AND BE A BLESSING

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us. Alleluia!

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

**CATHOLIC EDUCATION SERVICE 9/10 September (Second Collection)** Education Sunday falls on the second Sunday of September (10 September, in 2023) just as the new academic year starts and is one of the oldest Days of Special Prayer in England and Wales, established 175 years ago in 1848. It provides an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks to all involved in making Catholic schools places of enlightenment, as well as to look forward in anticipation of the year ahead. We give thanks for the dedication, example and inspiration of school leaders, teachers, and all who contribute to nurturing and supporting children and young people. May our school communities be filled with Jesus' compassion, love and joy. There will be a Second Collection for the Catholic Education Service next weekend.

**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)

**PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS AND GENEROSITY** A big thank you for all your generous donations, which are greatly appreciated. If anyone would like to transfer to standing order or bank transfer, this would help to simplify our banking procedure. The Parish bank details are: Name: Christ the King Church, Amesbury, Bank: NatWest Account number 66286638 and Sort code-52-10-03. If you wish to remember the Parish in your Will, further information is available from the Parish Office.

**DO NOT FORGET THE HOLY SPIRIT** Come and pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit Following the Holy Spirit evening with Father Matt Anscombe occurring this evening (Friday 1 September) there will be a series of Life in the Spirit seminars which will then take place on the following 6 Friday evenings after the evening Mass at St Osmund.

**EDUCATION SUNDAY** (10<sup>th</sup> September) is when we commemorate our predecessors of the 19th century, many of whom were living in poverty, who paid for our schools to be built. Our parishioner forebears and their Bishops rightly saw education as the principal means of handing on the faith and improving the spiritual, moral, social and cultural lives of children and young people. Their sacrifices helped re-establish the 2,175 Catholic schools and four universities. Established by the Bishops in 1848, Education Sunday is one of the oldest Days of Special Prayer in the liturgical calendar of England and Wales. Catholic schools continue to be true to their mission: they educate more pupils from the most deprived backgrounds; outperform national GCSE English and Maths averages by five percentage points; and are more ethnically diverse than other state-funded schools. For this success to continue, however, the help of the whole Catholic community remains essential. As throughout history, all Catholics need to be prepared to support, promote and defend Catholic education. **You can do this by becoming a school Foundation governor or Trust Director.** Please contact Bill McEntee at Clifton Diocese via [bill.mcentee@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:bill.mcentee@cliftondiocese.com) or on 07710094976 if you would like to be a governor or director. In this way, we can hand on to the next generation the great educational legacy of those poor and immigrant Catholic communities of the Victorian era who built our schools and universities.

**CONFIRMATION** - If you have a child that has just completed Year 8 (going into Yr 9 or above in September) and you wish to enrol them in the next programme, the deadline is February 2024.

**DEAR PARISHIONERS,** While not on the official liturgical calendar or formally included in the Roman Missal (and perhaps it should be!) Tuesday, September 5, is observed as the Memorial of St. Teresa of Calcutta. That is probably because she died in Kolkata (Calcutta), India, on that date in 1997. Her life has become iconic of care for the "poorest of the poor," and a testimony to the inherent value and dignity of every human being. Diminutive of stature (5'0") she towered in the second half of the twentieth century, known worldwide. She addressed the General Assembly of the United Nation on October 26, 1985, and the United States Congress on February 5, 1994 (when in a clear and courageous rebuke to the American Culture of Death she said before the President and First Lady, the Vice-President and his wife, the members of Congress: "I feel that the greatest destroyer of

peace today is abortion, because it is a war against the child, a direct killing of the innocent child.") She received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979, but she declined the usual banquet that accompanied the Prize and asked that the \$192,000 be given to the poor. Pope Paul VI awarded her the inaugural Pope John XXIII Peace Prize in 1971, She had a very close friendship with Pope John Paul II, who beatified her in October 2003, and was canonized by Pope Francis in September 2016. She was born in Skopje, Albania, in 1910, then part of the Ottoman Empire. She was baptized Gonxha Agnes, received her First Communion at the age of five and a half and was confirmed in November 1916. At the age of eighteen, moved by a desire to become a missionary, Gonxha left her home in 1928 to join the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, known as the Sisters of Loreto, in Ireland. The following year, she was sent to India and begin novitiate in Darjeeling, in the foothills of the Himalayas, where she learned Bengali and taught at the mission school near her convent. She took her first religious vows on May 24, 1931. She chose to be named after St. Thérèse of Lisieux, the patron saint of missionaries. In 1946, travelling to Darjeeling by train, Mother Teresa felt that she heard the call of Jesus in her inner conscience to serve the poor of India. She asked for and received permission to leave the school. In 1950, she founded the Missionaries of Charity, choosing a white sari with two blue borders as the order's habit. She was tireless in her care for the abandoned, picking up dying men and women from the gutters of Calcutta and giving them a bed and home where they could die with dignity. She established convents around the world for her Missionaries of Charity, to extend their ministry of care. There are many such convents around the world. Exhausted by a life spent in care for the destitute and dying, she entered Eternal Life on September 5, 1997. She had touched the lives of millions. She was known for her "soundbites": Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love. If you judge people, you have not time to love them. I know I am touching the living body of Christ in the broken bodies of the hungry and the suffering. Each one of them is Jesus in disguise. People are unrealistic, illogical, and self-centred. Love them anyway. I used to believe that prayer changes things. But now I know that prayer changes us, and we change things. Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at his disposition, and listening to His voice in the depth of our hearts. The most terrible poverty is loneliness and the feeling of being unloved. I am a little pencil in the hand of God, who is writing love letter to the world. This Tuesday, we will celebrate her memorial. We should take her words to heart and put them into practice.

### MASS SCHEDULE STARTING FROM 2ND SEPTEMBER 2023

**SATURDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER MASS AT 6.00PM ANN COCKRELL, RIP**

**SUNDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER MASS AT 11.00AM FOR JO CHAMBERS FAMILY**

**MONDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM HOLY SOULS**

**TUESDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM CAROL DRENNAN (INTENTIONS)**

**WEDNESDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER NO MASS**

**THURSDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM PRIVATE INTENTIONS**

**FRIDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

**SATURDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER MASS AT 6.00PM FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH**

**SUNDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER MASS AT 11.00AM MARY EYRE, SUE WARNES AND JEFF COY (BIRTHDAY INTENTIONS)**

**THE POWER OF HUMOUR** The novelist Stephen King once stated, “You can’t deny laughter; when it comes, it plops down in your favourite chair and stays as long as it wants.” This week I’d like to continue with some bits of humour aware that it may brighten an uneventful day, or even help deal with a disappointment. Everyone needs something to smile or laugh about within the challenges of each day; yet, there are also times when humour may offend and should be avoided. This is most noticed at celebrations of Christian burial in that there is a fine line between people who enjoy listening to some funny occurrences in the life of a person who has passed while at other times it is something to definitely avoid. The key is to read people and trust your intuition. Humour that is offensive or hurtful makes people feel as if they are being attacked, but in general humour says one thing to us, “Life is Good!” After a ship sank in the ocean, three men ended up stranded in a lifeboat. They floated for days without food and water. One afternoon a bottle floated up to the boat. The men grabbed the bottle, and when they pulled the cork a genie appeared. “I’ll grant each of you one wish,” the genie said. “I wish I was home,” the first man said. Poof! He disappeared. “I wish I was home, too,” the second man said. Poof! He disappeared. The third man looked around. “Gee, I’m kind of lonely, I wish my friends were here with me.” The manager of a small company was complaining at a meeting that his employees did not respect him. Trying to change their attitude he came in the next day with a sign for his door that said, “I am the Boss.” Later that day the man’s wife called and said to his secretary, “Please tell my husband to return my sign when he comes home from work.” About to eat lunch at grandma’s house, a small boy cried, “Grandma, we forgot to pray. We always pray at our other grandma’s.” His older sister poked him saying, “We don’t have to pray here. This grandma’s food is always good.”

A deacon and his wife invited their elderly priest for Sunday dinner. While the couple was in the kitchen preparing the meal, the priest asked their son what they were having to eat. “Goat,” the little boy replied. “Goat?” asked the startled priest. “Are you sure about that?” “Yep,” said the youngster. “I heard dad say to mom before you arrived, ‘Today is as good as any to have the old goat for dinner.’” A grandfather was walking his grandchildren to their home when a fire truck zoomed past. Sitting in the front seat of the fire truck was a Dalmatian. The children started discussing the purpose of the dog in the fire truck. “They use him to keep crowds back,” said one child. “No,” said another, “He’s just for good luck.” A third child brought the argument to a close in saying, “They use dogs to find the fire hydrants.” A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said that it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small. The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale couldn’t swallow a human; it was physically impossible. The little girl said, “When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah.” The teacher asked, “What if Jonah died and went to hell?” The little girl replied, “Then you ask him.” A priest bought a used lawnmower from a parishioner but discovered it would not start. He called the seller and asked, “Why can’t I get the lawnmower to work?” The seller said, “To start it, first you have to curse at it.” The priest replied, “I gave up cursing 20 years ago. I wouldn’t know what to say.” The seller said, “In that case, just keep trying to start it. All those words will come back to you.”

**OUR PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL (Michael FitzPatrick)** begins its new academic year on Monday. This is the first full year of membership for CTK School in the Dunstan Catholic Educational Trust, which links us with the Catholic schools of Bridgewater, Yeovil, Wells, Wincanton, Weston-Super-Mare, Chippenham and Burnham. 2023 is also the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year since the opening of our school so there is cause to celebrate. Head of School, Sophie Short, is a parishioner and is always happy to talk about the school during coffee and cake on Sundays. Three parishioners are members of the Governing Committee, Anna Moku, Paul Faneye and Michael FitzPatrick and there are presently three ladies from our parish who visit the school weekly to help children with their reading skills. The school community of students and staff visit the church for morning Mass as a regular feature of the school year. May God bless them all.

**THE VISION OF STEWARDSHIP** I love the original movie Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. All the way through while I watch the film I still laugh and feel like a child. It is only the last line with which I have an issue. Wonka by now has chosen Charlie to succeed him as head of the chocolate factory. They board an elevator that proceeds to crash through the roof and begins to fly. Wonka then asks Charlie if he ever heard of what happened to the boy who got everything he ever wanted. After Charlie says no, Wonka explains, “He lived happily ever after.” As I get older, I can say I have met several people who got all or most of all they have ever wanted, but unlike Charlie, it did not lead to endless bliss. In fact, as a Christian I know that that statement of Wonka’s is a lie. The secret to living happily ever after lies in not getting all you ever wanted, but instead in giving all you ever wanted away. A person can’t have any sense of that reality until they begin to see his or her life transformed by Jesus. When we have accepted the challenge placed before us and made a choice to live a certain way daily, we can find ourselves transformed. Following Jesus is not easy, but it is the only true way to find authentic joy. When we have emptied ourselves and allowed him to fill the open spaces in us, we become different. We are transformed and, if enough of us in a parish community experience the same journey, our parish is transformed as well. Then we begin to transform the world around us. Don’t be fooled: A flying elevator is cool, but it pales in comparison to what can happen when we find a new life in Jesus Christ

**CAMELOT CARE HOME (Michael FitzPatrick)** is our near neighbour, just across the traffic lights. It has a population of elderly residents, many who have limited ability. Some have family and friends who visit them but some do not. The staff at Camelot would welcome the occasional drop-in visit from Christ the King parish members to spend a little time with residents. Entrance to the reception desk is on Countess Road and there is car parking through the gates. No appointment is necessary, but if you wish to discuss visiting then talk to Winifred O’Boyle after Sunday Mass. (Black hair and Scottish accent.) Your visit to a Care Home, offering to be a friend and giving a listening ear can mean more to the residents than you can imagine. Performing Corporal Works of Mercy never fails to bring grace into our lives.

**“To speak of the Blessed Sacrament is to speak of what is most sacred. How often, when we are in a state of distress, those to whom we look for help leave us; or what is worse, add to our affliction by heaping fresh troubles upon us. He is ever there waiting to help us.” “The Blessed Sacrament is the first and supreme object of our worship. We must preserve in the depths of our hearts a constant and uninterrupted, profound adoration of this precious pledge of Divine Love.” St. Mary Euphrasia Pelletier**

**PERSECUTION IN THE 21ST CENTURY** Throughout the month of August at each liturgy in the parish a prayer for those in distant lands who are persecuted for their faith was offered by way of intercessions. It is common to overlook religious persecution in the 21st century; yet religious persecution pre-existed before Christianity and still exists today. As citizens of the United Kingdom we live with freedom to worship and express our convictions in a manner unlike most other lands. Prayers for those suffering religious persecution are a high priority within Respect for Life concerns in that it draws equal proportion to other Respect for Life matters. Pope Francis has asked that we keep the faith alive in helping the persecuted church by stating, “How many of you pray for Christians who are persecuted? Ask yourselves, do I pray for that brother or sister who’s in difficulty for confessing their faith?” Religious persecution existed in the world since pre-biblical times with almost every known religion suffering some type of persecution that led to alienation, discrimination, imprisonment, and execution. In our Judeo-Christian world, the giving of the Ten Commandments called people to worship the one, true God, which rendered much conflict when Imperial Rome extended its reach into the Middle East. The persecution of Christians dates back to the early days of Christianity when faith communities envisioned themselves as a movement within Judaism. As believers in Christ, many were persecuted by both Jews and leaders of the Roman Empire which controlled most of the land where Christianity was first practised. It was on August 1, 258 that the Emperor Valerian issued a decree that all clergy should be put to death. Religious persecution is a recurrent theme within human history that is often triggered by religious bigotry. As it is today in the Middle East, religious persecution has turned into a form of great violence that lulls people away from living their beliefs and enjoying their homeland. Some years ago an article appeared in the Star Ledger by Karin Laub of the Associated Press titled, “Christians who fled IS militants are exiled.” Laub’s column highlighted the fact that tens of thousands of Iraqi Christians have fled their homeland in that it is not safe for these people to go back to Iraq; yet the difficulty lies that they are also barred from working in temporary asylum countries such as Jordan. The article drew attention to the fact that there are about 7,000 Christians from northern Iraq who have found refuge in Jordan with nearly 2,000 living in church sponsored shelters. Two days prior to mentioned article, Dana Balout and Mohammad Nour Al Akraa provided a column in the Wall Street Journal titled, “Islamic State Seizes Syrian Christians.”

These authors brought to light a story of 230 people who were kidnapped from the Syrian province of Homs, among them were 60 Christians. The columnists directed their attention toward people in villages who watch fleeing families enter their towns on trucks and farm tractors travelling barefoot without belongings in search of freedom. Most of these Christians in Syria who are kidnapped are held for ransom or a swap of prisoners. This differs from those captured in China or Egypt or Pakistan or Afghanistan who get executed. A few years ago on Saturday August 15, the Feast of the Assumption, in France and Switzerland church bells were rung to show solidarity with persecuted Christians in the Middle East. This was to coincide with events in Iraq a few years ago with the fall of Mosul, then Qaraqosh, the country’s largest town and all the plain of Nineveh, the Christian heartland of Iraq. As the parish has spent this month in particular in prayer for those suffering religious persecution, it provides us with an opportunity to review the way we see others who worship or believe differently than we do, aware that no religion is completely free of internal dissent. Do we accept them? We may also look at people within our society who are mistreated, and not seen as equal. As we wind down a month of praying for those persecuted for their beliefs, let us never forget believers who suffer religious persecution; as well as never persecute another through harsh words or actions for their beliefs or convictions. All are welcome to be a voice that takes a stand in defence of persecuted Christians with ongoing prayer at home, school, work or vacation.

**ALLOW YOUR WOUND TO HEAL** In order to allow the wound to heal, one needs to learn to let go. If you keep reminding yourself of those words and actions that hurt you in the first place, you only make it worse. There are times in life when unexpected things happen. It might be someone’s behaviour, a life situation or a period of uncertainty. People might break your trust and leave, or there can be an event that breaks your trust and you are left feeling disappointed. No doubt, such situations can bring the greatest pain in life and shake you to the core, but we must try to move on. Instead of thinking over and over again about what happened, you need to focus your mind on things that bring inner joy. It can be any hobby, work of art, volunteering, connecting with nature or being around those who can inspire. Once you add joy in life, slowly the sorrow will lessen. Let go. Holding on will only deepen the wound.

**CHILDREN’S LITURGY** We will begin children’s liturgy in September. On Sundays at the 11.00am Mass we have a children’s’ Liturgy of the Word. This is designed for children of primary school age so that they can hear the scripture reading for Mass in language which is accessible to them. Please see newsletter for dates. The children leave the church after the opening prayer and return in time for the offertory. This is a special time for our children to learn about their Faith, the Gospel and to make new friends. Children take part in prayer, song, story time and activities. A time to encourage and grow in the love of Jesus; to enhance sacramental preparation and RE taught in primary school.

**CONFESSIONS/SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** In the Sacrament of Penance, the love and mercy of the Lord Jesus is made manifest in the forgiveness of sins, thereby reconciling the penitent with God and with his Church. Like all the sacraments, Penance is received by Catholics, or those about to become Catholics. In this sacrament, a penitent confesses their sins to the priest, and, with an expression of contrition on the part of the penitent, the priest is able to grant sacramental absolution, the forgiveness and reconciliation of God. Confession is every Saturday from 5.00pm-5.40pm or by appointment.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** - If you have a Child that has just completed Year 2 (going into Yr 3 or above in September) and you wish to enrol them in the next programme, the deadline is October 2023.

**WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD?** Through prayer our minds become better aligned with the mind of Christ and his will for us. If the Spirit is prompting you to know Christ as a priest, deacon, or in the consecrated life, contact Fr Saji. Who has given the Lord anything that he may be repaid? [Romans 11:35] St. Paul reminds us of a central fact of stewardship. We cannot give God anything — He already owns it all. God made everything, including us. Since we are made in his image, we too, are called to be generous. How we use our God-given gifts becomes our gift back to him. Gratitude for all we have been given opens our hearts to joyful generosity! And, through our generosity, we just may be the answer to someone else’s prayer.

**LISTENING WITH THE HEART** - The department of Adult Education and Evangelisation are offering an opportunity for parishioners to develop the skills of small group facilitation in the context of Parish Pastoral Councils, RCIA, Prayer Groups etc., The first of these sessions across the Diocese is at St Osmund’s at 7pm on Tuesday 19 September.

**FUNERALS** Do your family know your wishes with regards to your funeral? Registered parishioners can provide these details which are scanned and stored confidentially with your parishioner record and can be given to families at the appropriate time

**"To fall in love with God is the greatest of all romances; to seek Him, the greatest adventure; to find Him, the greatest human achievement." St Augustine**