



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING

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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 SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME-YEAR- A-2023

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER SAJI-DO I SAY YES TO GOD OR SAY NO The Scriptures this weekend give us some telling words that are great for examination in our own personal lives, as well as in the life of ourselves as a community. Are you willing to walk with each other as a family in the month of October through a self examination and begin to commit ourselves to what we look like as a community of faith? The gospel this weekend reminds us that words that are not connected to actions are oftentimes very meaningless. In our relationship with God, we often say that we believe, but then our actions do not reflect the faithfulness that God asks of us. We also know that we say no to God sometimes but later on have a change of heart. Where are we individually, and as a community, in this walk of faith? Any picture of the kingdom of God includes us being welcomed because we have had an authentic relationship with our fellow human beings. Jesus clearly defines that the banquet will be filled by those who have fed the hungry, clothed the naked, welcomed the stranger, visited the sick and imprisoned, and in other ways, have built up relationships that reflect compassion, forgiveness, generosity, and sacrifice. As we examine our life, we know many that have gone before us who lived incredibly sacrificial lives. The early days were filled with courageous people whose faith led them together as a community, and began to welcome others into that community. There were very generous people who built our church and provided the art that to this day helps us to grow in faith. There are also those in our history who were enslaved. People have played their part, even without their free choice, and built up our communities and faith centers. Have we come to a point that we refuse to enslave others and, in fact, welcome all into the community? There was a time when this land on which we worship belonged to native people, and later was acquired as their own. Have we learned to value and respect those original people that have gone before us many, many years ago? Have we grown, and are we better by learning from those examples of the past? What prejudices and hatred do we still need to be purified of? What ways are we still willing to judge others and pretend as if they don't belong to us? As is spoken in the gospel, we are invited to go and work in the vineyard of God. It really isn't important what our initial response is. It could be yes or could be no. What is most important is what we actually do, how we live our lives, and the choices we make behind that yes or no. Will our community be a community marked by a living out of the gospel in sacrificial ways? We know that that is part of our heritage, but will it be part of our future? Imagine a community of faith where all people are welcome, as they are around the table of Jesus. Imagine, if you will, a community that responds to the needs of others, whether they are friend or stranger. Imagine a community that is known for its forgiveness and compassion, and not retaliation and revenge. Imagine a community where the gospel of Jesus Christ is spoken and lived as good news for all people. We have had a rich history. Let us live in such a way that we have a rich future as well.

This Sunday in honour of St. Francis the parish celebrates the annual blessing of pets and animals outside the Our Lady's grotto at 1:00 p.m. This is always a fun event as well as an opportunity to demonstrate your love for your pet through this special blessing. All are invited. Have a great weekend. BE BLESSED AND BE A BLESSING

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Remember your mercy, Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.

CAFOD HARVEST FAST DAY (SECOND COLLECTION 7TH and 8TH OCTOBER) The CAFOD Harvest Family Fast Day this year is on Friday 5 October. We are encouraged to skip a meal on Friday 5 October and donate any money saved by doing so to CAFOD in support of farmers and producers in poor countries. There are special envelopes available at the back of our Church, please take one and place your offering in the collection baskets at Mass on Sunday 7 and 8th October.

Heaven for me is hidden in a little Host Where Jesus, my Spouse, is veiled for love. I go to that Divine Furnace to draw out life, And there my Sweet Saviour listens to me night and day. - St. Thérèse of Lisieux

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.

GUARDIAN ANGELS 2ND OCTOBER- The Lord is ever closer and active in humanity's history and accompanies us with the unique presence of his Angels, whom the Church venerates as "Guardian Angels", that is, ministers of the divine care for every human being. From the beginning until the hour of death, human life is surrounded by their constant protection. And the Angels encircle the Queen of Victories, the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Rosary, who, on the first Sunday of October, at this very moment, receives the fervent supplication from the whole world that evil may be defeated and God's goodness revealed in its fullness. "Make yourself familiar with the angels and behold them frequently in spirit; for without being seen, they are present with you."-St. Francis De Sales.

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.

THE NEED FOR WONDER Today every answer seems readily available. The greatest mysteries of the universe are just a Google search away. It is great to live in an age where so much information is readily available to us, however, this poses a danger as well. We think we have it all figured out and our natural capacity to wonder begins to atrophy. Because I can explain that a sunset is merely light passing through dust particles in the air, or that cooler temperatures are coming because the slight tilt in the earth's axis means we are moving just a bit further from the sun, the temptation is to think we comprehend a sunset or the changing of the seasons. We have plenty of answers for 'what' and 'how' but all too often we stop there. This can lead us as a culture and as individuals to a cynicism that takes away childlike awe and wonder. The first question a toddler loves to ask is 'why.' And parents know that a toddler's why can become insatiable. This is wonder! Jesus tells us that unless you become like little children you will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven. We must again learn to ponder why and be amazed. So much beauty surrounds us in this life, yet we seldom stop to ponder it. Our daily lives are packed with mystery, but we too often have it 'figured out.' The first step to regaining a sense of the sacred, that God reveals himself all around us, is to be humble. To say with the psalmist David, "When I see your heavens, the work of your hands, the moon and stars that you set in place, What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for

him?" Our world is disenchanted with mystery. But we as Catholics cannot be. The Lord has filled our world with marvels to be pondered and He reveals Himself through them. As the temperatures cool, sweaters come out, and pumpkin spice is back in everything, I have had the pleasure of sitting outside and pondering. Even nature and the changing of the seasons reveal the dynamism of God and the mysteries of a beautiful existence He created just for us. I have the great honour to be very near the mysteries of God, saying Mass and hearing confessions almost every day, yet even these can become perfunctory unless I approach them with childlike wonder. If we want a rich and full spiritual life we must be willing to be amazed on a daily basis. God is hiding in plain sight all around us, if we stop to recognise Him. How can it be that the omnipotent God of all the universe took human flesh, lived, suffered, and died for me, and even more, is waiting for me in the Tabernacles of the world, hidden in a tiny white host. This love is unfathomable, but we must ponder it! My friends, pray for the spiritual gift of Awe and Wonder and be amazed how rich and beautiful life can become. Pax et Bonum,

MASS SCHEDULE STARTING FROM 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023

SATURDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER MASS AT 6.00PM FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

SUNDAY 1ST OCTOBER MASS AT 11.00AM JO CHAMBERS FAMILY (INTENTIONS)

MONDAY 2ND OCTOBER ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM FEAST OF THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS

TUESDAY 3RD OCTOBER ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM CAROL DRENNAN (INTENTIONS)

WEDNESDAY 4TH OCTOBER NO MASS OR ADORATION -ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI MORNING PRAYER AND ROSARY AT 10.0AM

THURSDAY 5TH OCTOBER ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM ST FAUSTINA KOWALSKA (PRIVATE INTENTIONS)

FRIDAY 6TH OCTOBER ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM EDWARD JOSEPH EYRE, RIP

SATURDAY 7TH OCTOBER ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY AND MASS AT 6.00PM FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

SUNDAY 8TH OCTOBER MASS AT 11.00AM

DEAL WITH MENTAL FATIGUE An effort is needed to achieve anything in life, but when our effort doesn't seem to yield the results we want, we feel more tired than we actually are. When the mind is tired, it loses its capacity to think, plan and perform. To replenish our minds, we need to allow a period of rest. Rest doesn't cause delay; rather improves our ability, so we can do things efficiently. Allow yourself to rest. For some time, take your mind away from what you want, involve yourself in activities you enjoy, and surround yourself with positive people. After you rest, begin with a fresh mind and think that you have just started; your enthusiasm and motivation will also return.

VISIT TO WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL Salisbury Catenians have arranged a coach trip to Westminster Cathedral on Friday 6 October. The cost is £25 pp. Please book via email: carrivick79@gmail.com or phone 07887 988123.

The mercy of God, hidden in the Blessed Sacrament, the voice of the Lord who speaks to us from the throne of mercy: "Come to Me, all of you" - St. Faustina

HUMAN LIFE DESERVES RESPECT FROM WOMB TO TOMB

This month the church takes time to ponder the road that links us to God's gift of human life, which aims to generate greater sensitivity to ways we render respect to all life so that we strive to generate a culture of life through radical, sacrificial Christ-like love. This calls forth a mindset that embraces all facets of human life, and opens eyes to the vulnerable aware that the church teaches that every life (born and unborn) has innate dignity and value. This overcomes the temptation to close our eyes to particular lives that many believe do not have a right to live, or are looked down upon with the false belief that they add nothing positive to society. From our next door neighbour to the unknown people living thousands of miles away, each of us has immeasurable worth. The goal is to share that worth with others. This includes poor, defenceless and despised people of the world, which is a tremendous challenge for each of us. The theme for this year's Respect for Life month is: "Radical Solidarity" which presumes the creation of a mindset that gets involved by word and deed in people's daily lives, and challenges us to ask the question, "What radical, out of the ordinary actions have I taken to help a pregnant or a parenting mother in need, or to proactively contribute to a culture of life in some other way." St. John Paul's II's encyclical "Evangelium Vitae" (The Gospel of Life) touches upon the sacredness of all human life. The document contains strong statements on the need for world leaders to do their part in protecting human life in that the encyclical was composed as a reminder to value human life as it warns people against violating the sanctity of life. The present day war in Ukraine is an enormous violation against human life. The foundation for a well-constructed "Respect for Life" ethic is the ability to cultivate honourable values with the belief that all life is sacred. Some proclaim this, but ignore particular facets of respect for life issues that are connected to Catholic Social Teachings.

The Church's entire social doctrine is guided by the fundamental principle that every human life has innate dignity and incomparable value. In "Evangelii Gaudium" (The Joy of the Gospel), Pope Francis declares, "Every human being is the object of God's infinite tenderness, and he himself is present in their lives." The objective is to put our love for others into action, which is to commit ourselves to the common good. Abortion is a central respect for life issue, which it should be since it prevents an unprotected life to be born in that the right to life is a core element of other rights, but should not be seen as the only issue in "Right to Life" causes. Some look for shortcuts that lessen responsibility toward a multiplicity of respect for life concerns. Today, the divide among people of different faiths, ethnicities, ideologies and resources is astounding; therefore, as a society and church it is easy to miss the mark on demonstrating the value of human life from conception to natural death. Outside the abortion circle, church teaching brings to light that disrespect of life is initiated through nastiness, gossip, pollution, cheating, unfaithfulness, pornography, and neglect. Catholic Social Teaching enlightens people on these concerns as it reminds believers that they cannot act as if they do not have obligations in these areas of life. Other violations against human life include lack of attention to victims of unjust wars, corruption, hate crimes, bullying, sexual abuse, or laws of nature that render destruction. It is effortless to stumble into a pitfall that supports one particular life issue unaware of God's presence in all lives born or unborn since it is painless to pass off responsibility that pertains to these concerns, and simply go about business every day. The promotion of human life is the backbone of Catholic morality; the scriptures instil countless reminders of lifestyles, which respect human life that includes the parable of the Good Samaritan. The paramount sins of humankind are those that victimise human life; therefore, generous doses of understanding, charity, and sensitivity need to come forth to those wounded through injustice as well as those who seek forgiveness of serious infractions against human life. This generates a starting point that sets sights on creating a world that respects all facets of human life.

DEAR PARISHIONERS, This Saturday, October 7, is a day of historic significance as well as one of traditional Catholic devotion: the memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary. It was originally instituted as Our Lady of Victory in thanksgiving for the victory of the Christian fleet of the Holy League on that day in 1571 over the Ottoman Turks in the waters off Greece, thus thwarting the Moslem advance on Cyprus, and ultimately on mainland Europe. Venice and her overseas possessions had long borne the brunt of the Ottoman aggression in the eastern Mediterranean. In September 1570, the Turks seized the town of Nicosia on Cyprus, and when the colony of Famagusta eventually fell to their forces, the Adriatic door to Venice and Europe itself was open to their threat. The pope at the time, St. Pius V, appealed for help. He convened what became known as the Holy League – the Papal States, the Republic of Venice, the Spanish Empire (which included the Kingdom of Naples and the Kingdoms of Sardinia and Sicily), and the Republic of Genoa – to join forces to repel the Turkish fleet. The allied naval forces were under the command of Don Juan of Austria. Knowing that the Christian forces were facing overwhelming odds against the much larger Turkish fleet, Pius V appeal to the Christians of Europe to pray the Rosary to beseech Mary's intercession on behalf of the Holy League.

On October 7, 1571, after five hours of intense naval warfare, the Christian forces decisively routed the Ottomans. It was a great victory, and the last great sea battle that employed oar-powered galleys. The age of the sailing ship was about to dawn. In thanksgiving, Pius V proclaimed October 7, the date of the battle, as the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. There is probably no more important "Catholic" devotion than the Rosary. We are all familiar with the tradition that Our Lady appeared to St. Dominic in 1214 in Prouille, France, and presented him with the Rosary, which was particularly propagated by the Dominican Order. While that tradition is held in great affection, some scholars have proposed other theories as to the origin of the Rosary. First, the tradition that Mary appeared to Dominic was not advanced until the 15th century by Bl. Alan de la Roche, over 200 years after Dominic's death. Historians note that there is no mention of the apparition in early Dominican chronicles or any Church documents. Today, there is no definitive answer. Very possibly the Rosary evolved over centuries, and the devotion was adopted by Dominic as a prayer to accompany the preaching of his friars. We know that the use of "prayer beads" was a custom of the desert hermits. Originally the beads were referred to as Paternosters ("Our Fathers".) Over time, the Paternosters were replaced by Aves ("Hail Mary's"), the prayer most associated with the Rosary, in groups of 10 ("decades"), each decade introduced by a Paternoster. In the early Middle Ages, such devotions were referred to rosariums, ("rose gardens" or collections of prayers) – hence, the "Rosary." With three sets of "Mysteries" (Joyful, Sorrowful, and Glorious, which date from the 16th century), the Rosary became a kind of Marian Psalter (Psalm Book) for those unable to read the Scriptures. The 150 Aves represented the 150 psalms that would regularly be prayed in monastic communities. The mysteries gave the Rosary its scriptural context.

The Rosary continued to evolve over time. (E.g.: the addition of the "Fatima Prayer" that often concludes each decade. I was never taught it as a child. It certainly did not date from the Middle Ages. I still choose not to include it in my private recitation.) Perhaps the most recent adaptation to the Rosary was the most striking: the addition of the Luminous Mysteries by Pope St. John Paul II in 2002. John Paul wrote that the Rosary is a Christo-centric devotion more than Marian. (Any devotion to Mary should always lead to her Son.) The Mysteries of the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan, the Wedding at Cana, the Proclamation of the Kingdom, the Transfiguration, and the Institution of the Eucharist are clearly drawn from the gospels. Also, when John Paul proclaimed the Luminous Mysteries he was clear that they were optional, that no one is required to pray them (just as no one is required to pray the Rosary itself – it is a devotion, not a dogma.) But it is certainly one of our most cherished devotions. We are blessed to have it as part of our Catholic spirituality.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS -All parishioners are invited to bring their pets to the *Blessing of the Animals* on Sunday, October 1, 2023 at 1 pm. All pets are invited to this very special annual blessing that takes place in front of Our Lady's Grotto and Rose garden.

ON THE WAY- CATECHESIS ON THE EUCHARIST: Fulfilling and Surpassing The story of the multiplication of the loaves and fish ends dramatically. Its conclusion reveals how Jesus both fulfils and surpasses the expectation of the Israelites. They awaited a Messiah who would feed them as Moses did. Jesus is that, but more. "When the people saw the sign he had done, they said, 'This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world'" (Jn 6:14). So, what is the sign and who is "the Prophet" it points to? Well, first, the sign is our Lord's miraculous feeding of the crowd in the deserted place. John describes Jesus' miracles with the word "sign" to emphasize their revelatory and teaching power. The multiplication of the loaves and fish isn't a mere party trick; it's a sign of who he is. It's something done that reveals him to those able to read the sign. Specifically, this sign makes them think of "the Prophet." In his last discourse to the Israelites, Moses promised them, "A prophet like me will the LORD, your God, raise up for you from among your own kindred; that is the one to whom you shall listen" (Dt 18:15). In light of those words, the Israelites expected the Messiah to be a prophet like Moses. And an essential characteristic of Moses was that he fed the people with manna in the desert. In our Lord's day they awaited a Messiah who would again give them bread from heaven. The sign Jesus had just done confirmed in their minds that, indeed, here was the one they awaited, the Prophet promised by Moses. Indeed, it is precisely to confirm this identity that Jesus works the miracle. Thus he fulfils their expectations. But he also surpasses them. "Since Jesus knew that they were going to come and carry him off to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain alone" (Jn 6:15). Jesus was indeed the fulfilment of their expectations, the one promised by Moses. But he was also more than that. The danger was that the crowds would misinterpret the sign and reduce him to an earthly, political king. His Kingship is, of course, much different. So, he removes himself from the crowd. He doesn't allow them to reduce him to their expectations and desires. What follows explains just how much he surpasses their expectations. First, Jesus comes to the Apostles walking on the water. After the miracle, he had remained alone while the Apostles got into their boats to cross the Sea of Galilee. "When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they began to be afraid. But he said to them, 'It is I. Do not be afraid'" (Jn 6:19-20). A better translation would be "I am. Do not be afraid." It's the first time our Lord speaks those words – I am – to the Apostles. But not the last. Here the words have no predicate nominative, but they will in subsequent verses. For now, they are simply a statement that he is. This, of course, is enormously important because it's the Name uttered by God to Moses on Mount Sinai: "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you'" (Ex 3:14). Jesus is claiming for himself the divine Name. He is not just the new Moses but the One who spoke to Moses from the burning bush. He is "I AM." This helps us to understand the extraordinary importance of what is to come in the Bread of Life discourse.

WEEKLY SAINT SPOTLIGHT St. Faustina Kowalska 1905 - 1938 Feast Day, October 5 St. Faustina felt a calling to enter religious life at the age of 7 after spending time in Adoration. Not until the age of 20, did she take her final vows with the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. Being accused and evaluated for insanity due to her conversations with Jesus, her confessor encouraged her to start keeping a diary, which we now know as Divine Mercy in my Soul. "We do not know the number of souls that is ours to save through our prayers and sacrifices; therefore, let us always pray for sinners." (1783) - St. Faustina, Divine Mercy in my Soul

TIME FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL If you have a Year 6 child (born between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013), then **now** is the time to apply for their secondary school place for September 2024. To make your application: you **must** complete the secondary transfer **application** form provided by your home Local Authority (available on the **LA** website) by 31 October, **and**:if you are applying for a baptised child for any of the Catholic secondary schools listed below, you should **also** additionally complete their Supplementary Information Form (available on the **school's** website) and provide the school with a copy of your child's baptism certificate, also by 31 October. St Augustine's College, Trowbridge, St Bede's College, Bristol, St Bernadette's Secondary School, Bristol, St Gregory's College, Bath, St Joseph's Secondary School, Salisbury, St Joseph's College Swindon, St Peter's High School, Gloucester.

DEAR FRIENDS As we enter the month of October, I thought unity would be a good theme for us. So often in our lives we look to that which divides us, that which makes us different, and in a world and a Church with so much division perhaps we need to look to something or someone who can unite us and the month of October offers us the perfect unifier. October, as you may know, is traditionally known as the month of the Rosary, but do you know why? On October 7, 1571 a great naval battle, the Battle of Lepanto, took place near Greece in which the Christian kingdoms of Europe were vastly outnumbered by the Turks. It looked bad for Europe and for Christendom, but in the time leading up to the battle, the Pope had asked all the Catholics in Europe to pray the Rosary for the preservation of Christendom. United together in prayer with the Blessed Virgin Mary, the people of Europe won the great battle against great odds, which is why we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on October 7th . In our time and in our place, we also stand against great odds. So much distraction in society, so many lies are leading countless people away from the Church. It can seem at times like we are fighting a losing battle with the culture. That is why we need to turn to Mary our Mother. No matter what our differences are, Mary unites us and leads us to her Son Jesus. As we begin this month of the Rosary let us renew our dedication to our Mother through praying the Rosary. Together with Mary's help we can meet the problems of our time and place with confidence and faith. United together we can become a strong force for evangelization in our broken culture which is in desperate need of Christ Jesus.

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. 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.

TALK ON THE SHROUD OF TURIN-Tuesday 3 October, 7pm St Osmund's Parish Rooms - The Tomb was not empty. The mysterious cloth known as the Shroud of Turin, held by many to be the shroud in which Christ's body was wrapped and buried, is the most scientifically studied artefact from antiquity in the world. Is it true that the latest research points most compellingly towards its being authentic? Fr Robert Stewart, parish priest of Aldershot in the Diocese of Portsmouth, is coming to St Osmund's to give a presentation on the scientific study of the Shroud, from the 1980s up to the most recent developments which hit the headlines this year. All are invited.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY at Christ the King will occur at 11am Mass. The liturgy is for children in Year 3 and below, please note children younger than school age need to be accompanied by an adult.