



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING

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

PARISH PRIEST: Rev Saji Mathew
saji.mathew@cliftondiocese.com

Parish Office Telephone: 01980 622177
Website: Amesbury.cliftondiocese.com
PARISH MOBILE 07412604880

WELCOME TO CHRIST THE KING

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

TWENTY NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME-YEAR- A-2023

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER SAJI-SHOW ME THE MONEY Jesus is not very patient when people try to get him into silly arguments. Most of us can be easily manipulated into an argument before we even know it. Somebody will say a catchphrase or word that makes us angry and off we go into an argument about this or that topic or person. Jesus does not tolerate those silly conversations very long. In fact, in the gospel this weekend, he calls the people who are trying to do this to him hypocrites. Instead of being honest, and having a debate with him upfront, they use an issue to try to trip him up. He will not have any of that. When Jesus asked them to show him a coin, he's trying to get the real issue to the surface. The arguers were trying to start a fight between Jesus and the Romans. Obviously, the Jewish people had to pay a tax to Rome because they had been conquered by them and were enslaved by them. They had to do whatever the Romans told them or, they would be killed. When Jesus takes the coin, he asks them to notice whose face and inscription is on the coin. Clearly that money belongs to Rome. What Jesus knew was that these very people who claimed themselves to be deeply religious had not answered the real issue. Have you given to God what belongs to God? Are you pretending to be religious and dedicated and faithful and still withholding a major part of your life so that your security is coming from somewhere else or someone else? Are you truly living the way the prophets have urged you to live through all these years or not? Jesus lays bare this issue of hypocrisy. It might be a good question for us to ask ourselves. I know that most of us that are reading these words would claim to be a people who believe in Jesus and the power of God in our lives. But have we actually based our lives on the truth, or on some other security, and only go to God in emergencies? Do we truly give to God what is God's? The prophets told us through the ages that we must be attentive to the poor and marginalised as much as we are to ourselves. Is that the way we're living or would Jesus call us hypocrites as well? Do we get in silly arguments about minor issues and pretend as if they are so important? Might that be because we really don't want to change the way we live? Do we claim we don't have time to pray but consume large amounts of our lives in numbing behaviours, thinking that they will relax us or give us peace? Through the last couple of weeks have we made concerted efforts to listen attentively to God's word and failed to hear the word of God that is being presented to us so clearly? We are a couple of weeks away from celebrating the feast of All Saints and All Souls Day. It will be a shame to let this great month of grace pass us by without growing closer to Jesus, and giving more of our lives over to him. Each of us has had several opportunities to give of ourselves more deeply for the work of the church, and the work of Jesus in our midst during the past months. Did you do anything with that invitation? During this past month we were invited to look at our commitment to our parish community. Did you attend to that or simply let it pass by and pretend as if you didn't hear it? Our invitation this weekend is to give to God what belongs to God. Let's take an honest inventory of our lives, and the goods that have been entrusted to us. Are those gifts the gifts that God has given to us? What are those that belong to God and how are we using them in service to God and God's people?

This Sunday is known as World Mission Sunday, which serves as a clarion call to mobilise faith, resources and action in advancing the message of Christ to those living in the farthest reaches of our world. The theme for this year is "Hearts on Fire, Feet on the Move." Please keep people in mission territories throughout distant lands in your prayers and thoughts. Enjoy the weekend and hopefully not another rainy weekend. BE BLESSED AND BE A BLESSING

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Give the Lord glory and power.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! Your word is truth, O Lord, consecrate us in the truth. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.

SUNDAY 22 OCTOBER 2023 -SECOND COLLECTION Today is World Mission Sunday-World Mission Sunday is being celebrated in every Catholic parish around the world today! It supports missionaries who work alongside communities that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. By supporting Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission, you will help missionaries to bring the love and hope of Jesus to situations of poverty and injustice. Please pray for the mission of the Church throughout the world and give what you can to this very important collection this **weekend** which will sustain the future of our Church.

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.

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.

SHINE LIKE LIGHTS IN THE WORLD, AS YOU HOLD ON TO THE WORD OF LIFE. (Phil 2:15d, 16a). This Sunday, Oct. 22, we celebrate Mission Sunday, and I am reminded of the patroness of the missions, St. Therese of Lisieux, who also is known by her religious name, St. Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face, or as St. Therese, the Little Flower, because she described herself as a little flower in God's garden. Her feast day is Oct. 1st, and this year is the 150th anniversary of her birth and the 100th anniversary of her beatification. Although she passed from this world at the age of 24 in a cloistered convent, her writings led St. John Paul II to proclaim her a doctor of the church in 1997. Last week, Oct. 15, Pope Francis gave a letter called "On Confidence in the Merciful Love of God". He draws from one of St. Therese's letters in which she says, "It is confidence and nothing but confidence that must lead us to love" (Letter 197 to Sister Marie of the Sacred Heart). With confidence we are to turn to Jesus and receive the grace of God which overflows into our lives. We are not to doubt God's presence, but seek to see with the eyes of faith that we may behold God where we were blind to Him. Her confidence in God helps her to recognise God's initiative for her salvation. Pope Francis recalls that the gift of the Most Holy Eucharist gave her a different perspective than many have today. When speaking of the Eucharist, she sought to first put the desire of Jesus to unite himself to us and to dwell in our hearts rather than her desire to receive Jesus in Holy Communion (par. 22). Even when she was unable to receive Holy Communion daily, she tells Jesus, "Remain in me as in a tabernacle" (Story of a Soul, pg. 276).

I invite you to take that view of St. Therese to prayer and meditate upon what God is wanting to do in your reception of Holy Communion. Have confidence in what God wants for you! You might be surprised that a cloistered sister is the patroness of the missions. In her book, Story of a Soul, she shows her appreciation of the fact that evangelisation takes place by attraction, not by pressure of proselytism. Think of some people who have fallen away from the faith and how you are invited to present Jesus as attractive to them, to manifest the beauty of God. Pope Francis adds in his letter, "It is trust that brings us to love and thus sets us free from fear. It is trust that helps us to stop looking to ourselves and enables us to put into God's hands what he alone can accomplish. Doing so provides us with an immense source of love and energy for seeking the good of our brothers and sisters. And so, amid the suffering of her last days, Therese was able to say: "I count only on love". In the end, only love counts. Trust makes roses blossom and pours them forth

as an overflow of the superabundance of God's love. Let us ask, then, for such trust as a free and precious gift of grace, so that the paths of the Gospel may open up in our lives" (par. 45). On this Mission Sunday, let us continue to ask for St. Therese of Lisieux's intercession as we place our confidence in the merciful love of God and help make Him known and loved by all people.

VISIT TO WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL being organised by Salisbury Catenians on Wednesday 15 November. Places still available, please contact Steve via email: carrivick79@gmail.com or phone 07887 988123.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2023 Parishes across the globe will celebrate World Mission Sunday. It is a special day that reminds us of our shared baptismal call to spread the Gospel, inviting every Catholic parishioner to participate actively in this global mission. World Mission Sunday is more than just a day; it's a profound testament to the unity of the worldwide Church and our collective mission to serve the poorest, most vulnerable, and most remote communities. As we gather for the Eucharist on this particular Sunday, let us remember we are joined by our brothers and sisters from every corner of the globe. From bustling cities to rural villages, from continents far and wide, we are all united in our faith and mission. Sunday supports the tireless efforts of missionaries across the world. It helps churches in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Pacific Islands to offer the sacraments, catechise the young, care for the sick, and feed the hungry. Each of us has been blessed in countless ways. World Mission Sunday provides a beautiful opportunity for us to share these blessings with our global family. No gift is too small; each contribution is a step towards making the world a better, more compassionate place. As Pope Francis once said, "Mission is a free and conscious response to God's call." This World Mission Sunday, let us respond generously to that call. If you're unable to contribute financially, remember, the power of prayer is immeasurable. Pray for missionaries, the communities they serve, and for the success of World Mission Sunday. Let us come together as one Church, one family, on World Mission Sunday. Together, we can shine our light in the darkest corners of the world and truly embody the mission of the Church: to bring the love, hope, and joy of the Gospel to every soul.

MASS SCHEDULE STARTING FROM 21ST OCTOBER 2023

SATURDAY 21ST OCTOBER MASS AT 6.00PM FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

SUNDAY 22ND OCTOBER MASS AT 11.00AM MARY KELLY (BIRTHDAY INTENTIONS)

MONDAY 23RD OCTOBER ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM HOLY SOULS

TUESDAY 24TH OCTOBER ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM CAROL DRENNAN (INTENTIONS)

WEDNESDAY 25TH OCTOBER ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM PAULINE FLYNN (INTENTIONS)

THURSDAY 26TH OCTOBER ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM IN THANKSGIVING TO GOD

FRIDAY 27TH OCTOBER ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM ALAN LARKE, RIP

SATURDAY 28TH OCTOBER MASS AT 6.00PM ANNE COCKRELL, RIP

SUNDAY 29TH OCTOBER MASS AT 11.00AM MARIA CHAMBERS (INTENTIONS)

COPING WITH THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE Harold Ivan Smith writes in his book, *On Grieving the Death of a Father*, “If I weren’t sitting in a major airport right now, I think that I would have a good cry. But society says no to that behaviour. And my dad was part of that society. He taught me, “Big boys don’t cry.” He discounted my protests: But Daddy, it hurts!” If my sister were here, she would cry, and no one would say a thing. My heartbreak is just as severe, and I am supposed to sit here and take it “like a man.” Right at this moment, I don’t want to be a man. I want some relief from this ache inside. No wonder grown men have aches and pains that physicians cannot find. Dad always said that after he had punished me, “Quit crying, or I’ll give you something to cry about!” Dad, you did just that. By dying.” Most of us go through life with much heartache from thoughts, prayers, pictures or videos of loved ones which bring tears to our eyes. At opportune moments these keepsakes open a window that recalls a life that brought happiness from a person who is no longer with us. Some give honour to these special people by passing down their names to newborn children; while others ponder the elation of a relationship that brought satisfaction and personal growth to life. I commonly remind people who cannot overcome their grief to give God thanks for the blessings of the person who is missed rather than live with never ending tears that may foster blame on God or self for a person’s passing. I also encourage people to live life in the manner that a beloved person would want them to live since God puts some wise, fulfilled, caring and lovable people into every life. On Thursday morning and evening, November 2, at 8.30am, 10.00am and 6:30 p.m. the parish celebrates the annual Liturgy of Remembrance which invites all to recall those special people who are no longer physically with us, but extremely missed. Many recall this as All Souls Day, which is rooted in an ancient Christian tradition in that a memorial of all the faithful departed which is celebrated each year on November 2 became a fixed date on the church calendar in 988 A.D. when the Benedictine Monastery of Cluny chose the date for commemoration, which spread to the monasteries and then to parishes throughout the region. The day points us to the greatest mystery known to humanity which is death. Nobody truly understands death, most are afraid of it and many are mystified whenever it strikes close to home through family, friends or acquaintances. Prior to 988 A.D. the day was celebrated on an assortment of days throughout the church year. Remembering the dead has been part of church tradition from early times; and, whether these special people lived as believers or non-believers, Catholic or non-Catholic, there is need to recall circumstances about individuals who shaped our lives through acts of love and companionship whether it consisted of a day or a lifetime. Our liturgy on November 2 presents a spiritual awakening to rekindle the loving spirit of the dead through prayer and fellowship. Praying with others unfastens hidden feelings that we do not live alone in grief; but, walk through life with hundreds of others in the community who search for answers in the aftermath of losing a loved one. My favourite book about death is *Praying Our Goodbyes*, by Joyce Rupp who addresses the need to surrender a loved one to God, “Surrender walks hand in hand with letting go. To surrender is to give over to God, to give up our power over something that keeps us down or holds us back. When we surrender, we open ourselves up to the mystery of life, to the risks of the future, to the challenge of the unknown.” All are welcome to our Mass of Remembrance on Thursday, November 2 at 8.30am, 10.00am and 6:30 p.m. As per the tradition at Christ the King, the names of deceased members of the parish from the past year will be verbalised, and a candle lighted in their memory which renders an opportunity for conversation with family, parishioners and members. Memories of loved ones help heal the grief and pain that many experience in their passing, and opens us to the pain of a broken heart as we permit God to enter into our brokenness.

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT COFFEE MORNING on Sunday 22nd October Cancer can affect our life in so many ways. We know cancer can affect people physically, emotionally and financially. We do whatever it takes to give people the support they need. This Sunday 22nd October after our 11.00am Mass as usual we will have the coffee morning and cakes in support of the Macmillan Cancer support. If you are willing to bake or donate a cake or contribute money towards the charity you can do so in support of the Macmillan Cancer support. There will be an opportunity for you to buy cakes as well as enjoy them in the parish hall. Thank you in advance for your generosity and support. God bless you always!!

DEAR FRIENDS, As the golden hues of October give way to the muted tones of November, we are reminded of the nature of life and the eternal promise of renewal. For many of us, November is a solemn month—a time to remember our faithful departed, to hold close the memories of loved ones who have passed from this world into the next. It is a month of introspection, prayer, and deep gratitude for the lives that have touched and shaped our own. In the silence of All Souls' Day and the quiet moments of the month that follow, we find ourselves drawn to the memories of those who have gone before us. We recall their laughter, their wisdom, their kindness, and even their shortcomings. For in remembering, we not only honour them but we also acknowledge the profound impact they have had on our journey. In these moments, let us also be reminded of our own mortality. Each day we are given is a gift, an opportunity to love, to serve, to grow, and to prepare for our own eventual journey to the Father. As we remember our departed, let us also reflect on our own lives, seeking to live each day with purpose, gratitude, and an ever-deepening faith. November is a poignant reminder of the communion of saints—the bond that connects all believers, both living and deceased. As we remember our dearly departed, we also recognise our own place in this divine tapestry. We are reminded that every life, no matter how brief or how long, has a purpose in the grand design of God's love. In this sacred month, I invite you all to embrace the practice of remembrance. Share stories of your loved ones, light candles in their honour, and offer prayers for their souls. But also, take a moment to reflect on your own life's journey. Let this be a time to grow closer to God, to seek His guidance, and to find comfort in the promise of eternal life. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

IN MEMORIAM Please remember in your prayers those who recently died and for all the deceased members of our family and parish, the souls in purgatory and those who died in service of our country. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. Amen.

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.

RED BOXES 2023: Through our Red Boxes and donations to Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries we are helping the Universal Church in reaching out to others in their desperate need. It is time for you to return the Red Mission Boxes to the Church in the coming weeks. Please make sure your name and address is written on the sticker at the bottom of the box. Please leave the box in the sacristy – not in the church porch – and you can pick it up again a week later. Thank You! God bless you!

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.

FISH AND CHIP SUPPER WITH FIREWORKS AND BINGO SATURDAY 4TH NOVEMBER AT 7.00PM- Following our successful Fish and Chip Supper in the previous years, we will yet again be holding our parish annual fish and chip supper on Saturday 4th November at 7.00pm. Don't forget to put your name down this weekend for the Fish and Chip supper with fireworks and bingo on Saturday 4th November after the Vigil Mass. Tickets are on sale now and need to be bought in advance. The cost is £12 per adult and £7 for children.

MARGARET THOMPSON-THANK YOU Margaret Thompson would like to thank the whole parish very sincerely for all the love and care that the parish has shown her in celebrating her 99th birthday. Margaret was delighted with the beautiful card and the cake that Louise had made exclusively for her together with the gifts, kindness and appreciation each of you has shown her. Thank you and God bless you!

DO WE SEE THE FACE OF CHRIST IN THE EUCHARIST? Behind the appearances of bread and wine lies the face of our Lord within the mystery of the Holy Eucharist. We might imagine a brilliant merciful face of the Risen Christ. Or perhaps, especially during Lent, we might see that visage miraculously imprinted on the veil of Veronica, who so gently wiped the blood and dirt from our fallen Lord's countenance; or maybe the most dignified face of the crucified Christ crowned with thorns; or maybe the face of Christ at the Last Supper sharing a last meal on earth with his dear friends. Our Lord once said that when He was lifted up, He would draw all people to Himself. The worldwide reception of the Eucharist is but one example. Thus, beneath all these imagined faces, there lies the face of humanity throughout human history, the faces of all of us who have suffered in some mystical union with Christ on His cross, the pulpit of the Son of God. Somehow all of us were swept up through the power of the Holy Spirit into His passion and death as part of His great act of atonement for our sins. Elie Wiesel, a rabbi who survived Auschwitz and Buchenwald, tells the story of how all prisoners in the camp were made to march single file by a boy and two men hung for having stolen some bread. As Elie Wiesel approached, the young boy was still struggling to breathe. The prisoner behind Wiesel said, “Where is your God now?” In his mind, Wiesel says that he heard the words: hanging in front of you. Recall that when the Roman emperor Valerian asked St. Lawrence to bring him the treasures of the church, he brought him the homeless, the disabled, the sick, the disturbed, the outcasts, the marginalised, the poor. For that he was martyred. All of these had faces that lie beneath the face of the Christ in the Eucharist. In the culture of the Hispanic people, there is the Milagro cross. Small metal images of people kneeling, praying, adoring along with other small images of holy candles and other church “utensils” are tacked all over a wooden cross. This cultural artifact, at least unconsciously, recognises the connection of all of us to the Cross of our Lord. Some years ago now, I cut out the faces of family members and friends from a stack of “Kodak moments” and glued them to a large cardboard cross. It reminds me that the path to heaven is mutually mediated in the grace of the Eucharist by all those God has attached to our life journeys.

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.

FLOWER DONATIONS This week, Flowers for the Ambo was kindly donated by Sue Bradwell. Flowers for the statue of St Joseph was donated by Raida and the flowers for the Tabernacle were graciously donated by Ann Larke in memory of her late husband Alan Larke on the occasion of his 4th death anniversary. May his soul rest in peace and rise in glory with God. The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit. Thank you and God bless you all!

DEAR PARISHIONERS: Today the Catholic Church observes World Mission Sunday. This tradition dates back to 1926, when it was created by Pope Pius XI as a day of prayer on behalf of the world-wide mission of evangelisation. The second collection is taken up to support hospitals, parishes, and schools in new, young, or poor dioceses on their journey to becoming self-sufficient. Pope Francis issued a statement for this Mission Sunday 2023. The theme is inspired by the story of the disciples on the way to Emmaus, in the Gospel of Luke: “Hearts on fire, feet on the move”. He writes: Those two disciples were confused and dismayed, but their encounter with Christ in the word and in the breaking of the bread sparked in them the enthusiastic desire to set out again towards Jerusalem and proclaim that the Lord had truly risen. In the Gospel account, we perceive this change in the disciples through a few revealing images: their hearts burned within them as they heard the Scriptures explained by Jesus, their eyes were opened as they recognised him and, ultimately, their feet set out on the way. By meditating on these three images, which reflect the journey of all missionary disciples, we can renew our zeal for evangelisation in today's world.

1. Our hearts burned within us “when he explained the Scriptures to us”. In missionary activity, the word of God illumines and transforms hearts. “As they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them” . . . The Lord takes the initiative; he approaches them and walks alongside them. So too, in his great mercy, he never tires of being with us, despite all our failings, doubts, weaknesses. . . After listening to the two disciples, the risen Jesus, “beginning with Moses and all the prophets, explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.” The hearts of the disciples thrilled, as they later confided to each other: “Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?” Jesus is himself the living Word, who alone can make our hearts burn within us, as he enlightens and transforms them. men and women of little faith. Today, as then, the Risen Lord remains close to his missionary disciples and walks beside them, particularly when they feel disoriented, discouraged, fearful of the mystery of iniquity that surrounds them and seeks to overwhelm them. So, “let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of hope!” (Evangelii Gaudium) 2. Our eyes were “opened and recognised him” in the breaking of the bread. Jesus in the Eucharist is the source and summit of the mission... The decisive element that opened the eyes of the disciples was the sequence of actions performed by Jesus: he took the bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to them. . . The risen Christ, then, is both the one who breaks the bread and, at the same time, the bread itself, broken for us. It follows that every missionary disciple is called to become, like Jesus and in him, through the working of the Holy Spirit, one who breaks the bread and one who is broken bread for the world. . . Here it should be remembered that breaking our material bread with the hungry in the name of Christ is already a work of Christian mission. How much more so is the breaking of the Eucharistic bread, which is Christ himself, a work of mission par excellence, since the Eucharist is the source and summit of the life and mission of the Church. 3. Our feet set out on the way, with the joy of telling others about the Risen Christ. After their eyes were opened and they recognised Jesus “in the breaking of the bread”, the disciples “set out without delay and returned to Jerusalem” (cf. Lk 24:33). This setting out in haste, to share with others the joy of meeting the Lord, demonstrates that “the joy of the Gospel fills the heart and the whole life of those who meet Jesus. Those who allow themselves to be saved by him are freed from sin, from sadness, from inner emptiness, from isolation. With Jesus Christ, joy is always born and reborn” (Evangelii Gaudium) So let us set out once more, illumined by our encounter with the risen Lord and prompted by his Spirit. Let us set out again with burning hearts, with our eyes open and our feet in motion. Let us set out to make other hearts burn with the word of God, to open the eyes of others to Jesus in the Eucharist, and to invite everyone to walk together on the path of peace and salvation that God, in Christ, has bestowed upon all humanity. Our Lady of the Way, Mother of Christ's missionary disciples and Queen of Missions, pray for us!