



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.

THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME-YEAR- A-2023

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER SAJI-THE UNEXPECTED A young man attended a get-acquainted dinner at his local church. He sat next to one of the oldest members of the community who was also the richest man in town. The young man asked him how he made his money. The older man said, "Well, it all began during the Great Depression. I was down to my last nickel. I invested a nickel in an apple. I spent the next day polishing the apple, and, at the end, sold the apple for 10 cents. The next morning, I bought two apples, spent the entire day polishing them and sold them for 20 cents. I continued this system for two weeks, and by the end of the 14th day I had accumulated over 400 pounds. Then my wife's father died and left me two million pounds. Sometimes life takes some unexpected twists and turns, and like the rich man in the community, unpredictable events occur that redirect our lives in ways that are never anticipated. Frequently this new direction is positive and for the good; however, on some occasions it leads to hardship or loss, which makes it known that we must ready ourselves for the unexpected. Often people turn to God in the aftermath of both good fortune and tragedy in that believers frequently equate blessings as rewards for a holy life and misfortune as punishment. Throughout the course of salvation history, it is common to discover people who suspect that disastrous events stemmed from punishment dealt by God, which is a suspicion that still lingers in some people today. This understanding is drawn from numerous biblical stories written prior to the life of Christ as many placed confidence in the theology that rewards came in this life since belief in the afterlife was a later development within Judaism. Since all lives contain various qualities of hills and valleys regardless of the values upheld, response to these unpredictable moments of the unexpected steer our future in ways that induce inner peace or downheartedness in that God is the source of our strength in the wake of the unexpected. This eliminates the temptation to place blame on God due to hardships, tragedies, or misfortune that release anguish and grief into our lives. This year has brought forth an abundance of crosses to bear as well as a multitude of tragedies and wars that most recently led to the elimination of thousands of lives in the most despicable manner..

Armistice or Veteran's Day is always celebrated on November 11, which is the feast day of St. Martin of Tours who is the patron saint of all soldiers. As a baptised Catholic, Martin was greatly opposed to the execution of heretics; however, as a soldier he became a model for those in the armed forces who carry out humanitarian responsibilities. Veterans Day goes back to the end of World War I with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on June 28, 1919, which came in the aftermath of the burial of two unknown soldiers at the highest place of honour in England, Westminster Abbey. In France at the Arc de Triomphe in a ceremony held on November 11, 1918, this day became known as Armistice Day. Veterans are proud people who look back on their years in the military aware that it was a timeframe in life where God used them to defend our nation aware that their duty to God and country could engender much suffering and sacrifice. Most Veterans will say that when they leave the military, they are better citizens than when they arrived. I have great respect for our Veterans in that they are willing to put their lives on the line to protect our country; however, disabled Veterans are sometimes ignored; but their disabilities signify personal sacrifice. Some of these disabilities include blindness, missing body parts, brain damage, and other sorts of unfavourable conditions that lull them away from a style of life that they hoped to experience upon return from military service; these are many of the unsung heroes of our nation. For so many Veterans each day presents a new battle that challenges them to reshape their lives in order to live with their disabilities; as well as learn unfamiliar methods of existing that could lead to new careers and daily survival. Veterans Day is a time to ponder the achievements of Veterans, and give affirmation to those who served in our military. Today millions of courageous men and women continue to serve our land with hope that our country continues to be the land of the free and the home of the brave. To all Veterans and Military Personnel, the prayers of this community are with you. Happy Veterans Day! Have a great weekend. . BE BLESSED AND BE A BLESSING

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Let my prayer come into your presence. Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! Stay awake and stand ready, because you do not know the hour when the Son of Man is coming. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose, near restful water he leads me.

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.

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.

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.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS Please do all you can to encourage priestly and religious vocations. Your prayers and support make a difference.

THE LAST THINGS The last things are death, judgement, heaven and hell. Death is the separation of man's mortal body and immortal soul. It comes to all men as a result of original sin. It is a temporary state, for at the end of the world, all men shall rise again to be judged by Christ. Thus the whole man, body and soul, will be rewarded for the good or evil that he has done, body and soul, in this life. At the moment of death, each human person is judged by God based on his conduct in this life, and goes immediately to his reward or punishment. Moreover, at the end of the world, Jesus Christ will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. At that time, God's whole plan for the world shall be revealed, and his mercy and justice demonstrated. Heaven is the eternal state of perfect happiness resulting from the face to face vision of God, which is the reward of those who have served Him in this life. Hell is the eternal state of torment and despair which awaits those who, in this life, have freely rejected God and the happiness which He offers. Before the end of the world, there will be an intermediate state called purgatory. There, those who are bound for heaven, but whose love for God is still marred by some imperfection, undergo a temporary period of purifying suffering. When this purification is complete, they are fit to enter God's presence and are admitted to the joys of heaven. So what's our attitude towards these realities? Do we ever think about what Heaven might be like? To see God face to face? To be reunited with our loved ones who have died? To join our voices to the choir of angels and saints? Being in God's Presence is what makes Heaven Heaven. At the same time, do we appreciate the seriousness of Hell? This experience of being in a place where God is not welcome or present? A place of the absolute frigidity coming from the absence of love (for God is love); no one to love

and no one to love you. Do we settle for the idea of Purgatory? Have we given up on dedicated holiness and discipleship because we figure Heaven is too unattainable and Purgatory will tidy things up? Are we settling for fast food instead of the delicacies of God's Banquet in Heaven? While we cannot possibly save ourselves, we have a great deal to do with our eternity. We can walk hand in hand with God throughout this life and walk naturally with Him through the Gates of Heaven. If we don't walk hand in hand with Him here below or we keep Him at arm's length, it's more difficult to find His hand when we really need Him. Our eternal destiny is obviously a sobering thought. It need not be frightening beyond the usual nervousness that accompanies having any experience we've never had before. The Lord Jesus spent His entire public ministry announcing the Kingdom and telling people how to get there through Him. Trust His path. It never goes wrong.

NOVEMBER IS THE MONTH OF HOLY SOULS Our prayer for the faithful departed is very important during this month of November. Please add the names of your loved ones to our NOVEMBER LIST today. All the names will be placed in our Book of Remembrance and prayed for during every Mass this month.

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.

Please pray for God's grace for those who are ill: Please also pray for an increase in vocations, especially in our diocese and our country.

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 November 2023.

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.

MASS SCHEDULE STARTING FROM 11TH NOVEMBER 2023

SATURDAY 11TH NOVEMBER MASS AT 6.00PM FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

SUNDAY 12TH NOVEMBER MASS AT 11.00AM FOR THE FALLEN (HOLY SOULS IN NOVEMBER REMEMBRANCE BOOK)

MONDAY 13TH NOVEMBER ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM ALAN MARROW, RIP

TUESDAY 14TH NOVEMBER ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM HOLY SOULS (NOVEMBER REMEMBRANCE LISTS)

WEDNESDAY 15TH NOVEMBER ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM HOLY SOULS (NOVEMBER REMEMBRANCE BOOK)

THURSDAY 16TH NOVEMBER ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM PEDRO SAN LORENZO, RIP

FRIDAY 17TH NOVEMBER ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM JO CHAMBERS FAMILY (INTENTIONS)

SATURDAY 18TH NOVEMBER MASS AT 6.00PM FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

SUNDAY 19TH NOVEMBER MASS AT 11.00AM EILEEN HADFIELD (INTENTIONS)

BE PREPARED For those of you involved in the scouting movement, you will recognise the title of this column as the motto for the Boy Scouts. There is a special understanding that comes with that phrase that could be very instructive for those of us that live at this present time. Living in this present moment involves a lot of preparation. The reason we pray is not only to lift our voices to God in praise and thanksgiving, but prayer also tills the soil of our hearts, so that when God speaks to us, we can hear and obey. Being prepared is not meant to be a constant state of anxiety, but simply doing what a present moment causes us to do, living it fully and freely so that we can do whatever it is that God asks us to do. The wedding attendants in this weekend's gospel have a job to do. Their job is to await the coming of the bridegroom, and be ready to lead him into the bridal feast. It seems that the virtues that are called for are attentiveness and patience. All the preparations for this moment should have been done at other times, and the attendants should've been able to pay close attention and be watchful. Some of them were not able to do that because they didn't prepare well. They didn't bring enough oil for their lamps. What might this look like in our own lives today? It seems that there are many applications, especially since we are not known for the virtues of attentiveness and patience. We live in a convenience culture and most of us have every one of our needs taken care of all the time. We are so blessed and surrounded by such convenience that we have come to believe that it is our entitlement to live this way. Any small or large inconvenience is taken as a personal insult. Our judgement of others who can't do what we want them to do at this very moment is reflective of what happens in each of our own hearts. Living at this time in the midst of so much luxury makes it difficult to be attentive and patient.

Is God on your timetable or are you on God's timetable? At the coming of God's kingdom, we will be asked to accompany the bridegroom into the wedding feast. Attentiveness and patience are so important so that we would be able to do that when the time comes. It will help if we were on God's timetable, and doing what God has asked us to do. Waiting with patience calls for a lot of trust. God has promised us that when he comes, he will take us with him, but how many of us really believe that. We spend so much time putting our security in bank accounts, larger houses, influential jobs, more possessions, and even better health. Praying and being of service to others is oftentimes at the end of our list of things to do after we have put our security in something other than God. Instead of being fear based, could we begin to be hope based? Hope comes from believing in what is not seen yet, but is promised. God's promise is that he will take us to himself, and that he has prepared an eternal dwelling place for each of us. If we lived in the hope of that promise being fulfilled, we would worry less about securing our own spot in eternity, and be able to do more of passing our hope on to others. Jesus tells us that love is the greatest tool to evangelise the world. We can do all kinds of sacrifices and attend all kinds of religious rituals, but if we have no love, it is worthless. At this time of uncertainty, can we spend our time developing the virtues of attentiveness and patience, believing that God's promises are true, and that he will be faithful to us in those promises?

COFFEE MORNING BY THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN (SPUC) AT ST OSMUNDS PARISH ROOMS. Please come and enjoy a Coffee or Tea with Cake ON **SATURDAY 25TH NOVEMBER from 10.30am-12.30pm.** There will be cake stall, gifts and cards for Christmas, plus raffle. Proceeds are for SPUC-for the important work of raising awareness, education, fighting to change laws and counselling

PRAYING TO THE GOD OF ALL PEOPLE It's the month of November when we experience the changing of seasons marked by the onset of cold weather, falling autumn leaves, and shorter days. If you're like me, you'll take these sombre days as opportunities to reflect more deeply on life and our Christian faith, spending more time in quiet prayer, spiritual reading, and meditation. As a Church, we begin this month by honouring all the men and women who led saintly lives, leaving behind legacies of heroic virtues for us to follow so that we do not stumble in the darkness of these challenging times. We also remember our beloved deceased family members who, despite their flaws, tried their best to show us their love and support. The world and our country may be plagued by wars, which we never imagined would happen in our lifetime and generation, yet we never fail to acknowledge God's sovereignty over our lives and trust in His providence and care. People may be divided in their worldviews and politics; the moral landscape, particularly concerning sexuality and gender, may have drastically changed. But there is one thing that must unite us: our love for God and for one another, which Jesus reminded us last Sunday as the greatest of all commandments. Let us continue to proclaim the Gospel of love, compassion, and mercy. Let us continue to share it with a world filled with hatred and pride. As St. Paul reminds us, the Gospel we preach "*is not a human word, but as it truly is, the word of God,*" and it is actively at work within us who believe. Sending you warm blessings and much love.

THE LORD'S HOUSE Our parish church is a place of prayer where Jesus lives in the Blessed Sacrament. Please keep a reverent and respectful silence before, during and after Mass. Please be respectful of the Lord and those speaking with Him in prayer. Please also arrive on time for Mass so that all the graces of the Holy Sacrifice will be yours.

STARTING SCHOOL? If you have a child born between **1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020**, then **now** is the time to apply for a place at a primary school for admission from **September 2024** onwards. You must complete an application form that is available from the school admissions team of the Wiltshire County Council. If your child has been baptised and you are applying for a Catholic school, you **must** also provide a copy of the baptism certificate to the school. Please ensure you apply by the closing date of **15 January 2024**.

COME AND CAROL Saturday Dec. 9th after Mass 7pm in the Church Hall. 'Come and Carol' You are invited to an all-age Christmas Celebration with music, carols, readings, sketches, poems, children's activities and more! Mulled wine, tea, coffee, mince pies. Donations to 'Mary's Meals'.

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!

WEEKLY SAINT SPOTLIGHT ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND 1045 - 1093 Patron Saint of Scotland Feast Day, November 16 Saint Margaret was an English princess, wife, and mother of 8 children Her good nature and kind spirit helped soften her husband, King Malcolm, by being an example of fervent prayer and service to the poor. She is also credited for promoting the arts and education in Scotland and became lovingly known as "The Pearl of Scotland". "Do not be afraid to show kindness, for it may change someone's life." (St. Margaret of Scotland)

CHURCH FLOWERS-THANK YOU! A huge thank you to Sue Bradwell who very kindly offered the flowers for the statue of the Sacred Heart and Ambo this week. God bless you and your family!

FISH AND CHIP SUPPER WITH FIRE WORKS, RAFFLE AND BINGO- THANK YOU. We had yet another hugely amazing evening on Saturday with Fish and Chip Supper with fireworks, raffle and bingo. The atmosphere was wonderful and everything appeared to go so smoothly. Jeff Coy was so kind and generous with his time and worked so hard to ensure everyone enjoyed the evening. The highlight of the day was the spectacular display of fireworks by Jeff which entertained all who gathered in big numbers. Thanks a lot Jeff for your wisdom in executing the events of the day with meticulous planning and precision. You deserve our gratitude and appreciation. Thank you! Thank you very much to Carol for successfully organising the raffle on the day. Our thanks go to Louise for the help she gave us on Saturday with Bingo and well-assisting Jeff in his hardwork. Our grateful thanks go to all the wonderful ladies and gentlemen for their self-effacing help and wonderfully uplifting and kind gestures with all the arrangements, cleaning and setting up the hall. Last but not least our appreciation and thanks to everyone for their participation, cooperation and help. Thank you and God bless you all!

WHAT IS PURGATORY? Friends, Death can be a difficult topic for us to think about. When the topic comes to mind or comes up in conversation, we often tip-toe around it gingerly, like a child holding his breath as he passes a cemetery. The Church in Her great wisdom reminds us of the importance of reflecting on death. Doing so helps us to keep the old adage: "begin with the end in mind." We are all going to die. That simple recognition changes the way we live. As Catholics, we have a firm belief in eternal life. Death is a kind of end, but not THE end. Those who die in God's friendship are bound for eternal happiness in heaven. When someone dies in God's friendship, but is not fully purified or has not yet done sufficient penance for past sins, they pass through the purification of purgatory. People are often afraid of the topic of purgatory, but the doctrine of purgatory is great news. We hear in the book of Revelation that nothing unclean can enter into heaven (Rev. 21:27). That means that if I die and I am not yet perfect, I cannot enter into heaven. If that was the end of the story, most of us would be in trouble. However, the doctrine of purgatory teaches us that we have the gift of being purified so that we can then be totally prepared to enter heaven. The souls in purgatory actually want to be there because they are being purified of their imperfections. Let's compare this to a bride on her wedding day. As she and her bridesmaids are preparing their hair, her maid of honour spills an entire cup of coffee on the wedding dress—disaster of disasters. Do you think that the bride would shrug it off and wear the dress as is? Of course not! She would do everything she could to appear at her very best for her groom and find a way to clean the dress. In a similar way, the soul that dies in God's friendship but is not yet perfected flings itself into the purification of purgatory with great love and desire to appear its best before the Bridegroom. One more beautiful aspect of the reality of purgatory: the souls on earth can assist the purification of the souls in purgatory through offering prayers, merits, fasting, and indulgences for them. This is why the entire month of November is dedicated to the souls in purgatory—to remind us to pray for their final entrance into the glory of heaven. If you have any concerns still, hear these words of St. Catherine of Genoa speak to your soul: "I believe no happiness can be found worthy to be compared with that of a soul in Purgatory except that of the saints in Paradise; and day by day this happiness grows as God flows into these souls, more and more as the hindrance to His entrance is consumed. Sin's rust is the hindrance, and the fire burns the rust away so that more and more the soul opens itself up to the divine inflowing.

200 CLUB WINNERS FOR OCTOBER: 1st Christine Kinghorn £25, 2nd Lola Faneye £12, 3rd Poppy North £10. Many congratulations to the three winners. Our grateful appreciation goes to the organisers for their hardwork. God bless you

DEAR PARISHIONERS, Pilgrims visiting the Eternal City usually make it a priority to visit the four major basilicas: St. Peter's in the Vatican, St. Mary Major and St. John Lateran (written about last Sunday), and St. Paul Outside the Walls. St. Peter's is the most recognised of the four basilicas: the great dome designed by Michelangelo (the largest in the world) that seems to preside over the entire city; the embracing arms of Bernini's colonnade, as if to reach out to the world and gather to Mother Church all her faithful children; the majestic façade designed by Moderno, from which the Lord Jesus, John the Baptist, and the Apostles watch over the crowds in the piazza. Walking through the great square, pilgrims pass between two towering statues: St. Peter holding the keys given to him by Christ that loose and bind in heaven and on earth on the left, and St. Paul, holding the two-edged sword of the Word of God and a scroll of his epistles on the right. It is fitting that they should complement each other in the symmetry of architecture, because indeed they do the same in the life of the Church. Both Apostles are intimately connected with the city of Rome. Peter was martyred by Nero in 66/67 AD on the Vatican Hill, and his body buried in the place where the great Basilica that bears his name now stands. Paul was beheaded outside the city walls, around the same time as Peter was crucified, along the via Ostiense, the site where the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls stands today. To my mind, Peter has always symbolized our unity in belief and in worship, the unshakeable rock upon which Christ built his Church. He is like the hub of a wheel from which the spokes fan out in all directions but find their stability in the center.

Paul embodies the missionary nature of the Church, like the outer rim of the wheel that revolves with each turn, Paul ever in motion in his many travels and journeys. Both are parts of the whole – Peter, and his successors, the Bishop of Rome, Vicar of Christ, the secure centre of the faith; Paul, the unceasing evangeliser, the Apostle to the Nations. I think of these greatest of the Apostles because this Saturday, November 18, we celebrate the dedication of the Basilicas of St. Peter and of St. Paul. Evidence goes as far back as 258 AD that Christians celebrated these two saints in one feast, June 29 – a holy day of obligation throughout most of the world. That is also the day when the Holy Father traditionally presents the pallium, the white cloth marked with black crosses that is worn around the neck, to newly appointed metropolitan archbishops as the symbol of their apostolic office.

Devotion to Peter and Paul goes back to the very first generation of Christians. They are honoured in the many churches that are entrusted to their patronage. They are frequently depicted together in art, again, in a sort of complementarity. One of my favourite icons is one that depicts Peter and Paul in an embrace of fraternal affection. Peter is usually depicted with a grey beard and curly grey hair, Paul with a longer, darker beard and receding hairline. And there is the tradition that such was in fact their actual appearance. Other traditional icons portray them facing each other, supporting a small church between them, as indeed they support the Church herself. Peter's symbol in art is the crossed keys and the inverted cross; Paul's the two-edged sword and the book of his epistles. In June 2010, a remarkable archeological discovery was made public in Rome – the uncovering of the earliest icons of Peter and Paul yet unearthed, in a catacomb under an eight-story modern office building in an industrial suburb of Rome, not far from the place where Paul was said to have been killed. The images were found in what archeologists believe to be the tomb of a Roman woman of noble birth, buried in the Catacombs of St. Thecla. They date from the second half of the 4th century. As such, they are among the earliest artifacts that establish the devotion that was accorded Peter and Paul from the first centuries of Christianity. The icons were two of four painted on the ceiling of the antechamber to the tomb, the others attributed to St. John and St. Andrew. Vatican officials have said that these icons are being restored by the use of the most modern methods. Laser technology is being used to burn off centuries of encrusted calcium carbonate deposits that have covered the icons, without damaging them or diminishing the bright colours underneath. 21st century technology at the service of 4th century devotion. What could express more eloquently the timeless nature of our faith and the pervasive presence of these Apostles in the life of the Church.