



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.

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

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER SAJI-THE ATTITUDE OF TRUE GRATITUDE Much of the coming weeks will be spent getting ready for Christmas celebrations. Families will gather for social and religious events, special dishes and meals will be prepared, and many people go out of their way to make sure that they're with someone that they can celebrate Christmas with. My question to you today is whether this is a one shot deal or is it a habit of your life? One thing we know for sure is that when we focus on gratitude and appreciation, it makes us better people. We tend to be more loving and kind to those around us, and we are more forgiving and understanding than in usual situations. Gratitude opens up a special part of our heart and we can exercise those virtues in a deeper way than normal. How do you think our lives would change if we made a habit of being grateful? What impact do you think we would have on the world if we were giving thanks every day of our lives? Is it possible for you and me to make a habit of this gratitude thing? Or should it be just one day of the year? There are a lot of benefits to making this a habit. In addition to us becoming better people as we focus on gratitude and appreciation, it will inevitably affect those around us. As they experience examples of generosity and compassion, they will see what that looks like and maybe even try to imitate it in their own lives. We will begin to notice more deeply, the virtues and gifts that people are around us and tend to see them less as enemies and more as us, companions, allies, and friends. I know that most of our communities of faith have an outlet for our gratitude. Many communities have Saint Vincent de Paul societies or Good Samaritan groups, food bank that regularly care for the needs of those who are hungry or thirsty or naked or a stranger. These groups do much of the work for us since we are called to be attentive to those who are less fortunate than we are. But why let all that work up to someone else when we are capable of doing it ourselves as well? Are there people in your neighbourhood who are in need? That might be a silly question since many of us don't even know the people who live next-door to us. Maybe it's time to get to know them. Maybe it's time to keep our eyes and ears and hearts open to the needs of others, instead of looking the other way. Maybe it's time to see others as our brothers and sisters instead of feeling their presence as a threat that makes us afraid. Are you willing to form a habit of thanksgiving and generosity? Are you willing to do more than once a year in terms of compassion and noticing the needs of others? Are you aware that nearly every day someone comes to the front door of the presbytery and asks for assistance? Are you willing to be part of any ministry that takes care of those needs and prays for those who are less fortunate than we are? One of the images that is used in the scripture to help us to imagine the final judgement before God is the gathering of the peoples of many nations. When the people are gathered, there is one observation made about each person. When I was hungry, did you feed me? When I was thirsty, did you give me a drink? When I was naked, did you clothe me? When a stranger, did you welcome me? These are the habits that the disciples of Jesus are called to form and live out. Are you included in that group of disciples of Jesus who do what he asks them to do?

In our relationship to God, gratitude is even more fundamental. St. Thomas Aquinas tells us that it is the first duty of the creature to the Creator. Every Mass calls this to mind: "It is our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, Holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord." Not every now and then, but always. Today we consider the question of St. Paul: "What do you have that you did not receive?" Today we offer our thanks to God for the bountiful gifts and freedoms we enjoy as a nation while imploring God to help us respect and preserve them. Giving thanks to God "always and everywhere" may seem a challenge and even a struggle. But true spiritual gratitude embraces the entirety of our lives, the good and the bad, its joys and sorrows. The challenge in being a truly grateful person is to see in the pains and struggles of the past the pruning work of God, purifying my heart, strengthening me, helping me reorder my priorities allowing new and more abundant growth to take place, providing me with an opportunity to walk with the Lord. A Greek Orthodox monk wrote: "If we have a constant feeling of gratitude toward God, then every single thing we encounter is a gift from him (even if it comes in a dirty, ugly box) which has the potential to deepen our communion with Him and the true understanding of ourselves. Let our gratitude and appreciation awaken memories of the precious gift of people who make life joyful and wonderful as well as God who sustains you through the unforeseen challenges that come each day. Have a great weekend. . BE BLESSED AND BE A BLESSING

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: O blessed are those who fear the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! Even if you have to die, says the Lord, keep faithful, and I will give you the crown of life. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord.

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.

OUR PATRONAL FEAST DAY 26th November On the last Sunday of each liturgical year, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, or Christ the King. Pope Pius XI instituted this feast in 1925 with his encyclical *Quas primas* ("In the first") to respond to growing secularism and atheism. He recognised that attempting to "thrust Jesus Christ and his holy law" out of public life would result in continuing discord among people and nations. This solemnity reminds us that while governments come and go, Christ reigns as King forever.

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

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 DEAD 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.

WEEKLY SAINT SPOTLIGHT SAINT CECILIA, 180-230AD Feast Day, November 22 Patroness of Music Saint Cecilia came from an extremely rich family and was given in marriage at a

very young age. With the aid of an angel, though, Cecilia vowed herself to a life of virginity. Her husband asked to see the angel as proof that this was true. Cecilia told him that once he was baptized, he would. Not only was he baptized, but his brother was also. For refusing to worship idols, Cecilia was eventually condemned to death by fire. This was an unsuccessful attempt, so her executioner tried to decapitate her. This, too, proved to be an unsuccessful attempt to end her life. However, it was the 3 days of bleeding that followed which led to her death. (Catholic Saints.com) "Men call me Cecilia, but my most beautiful name is that of a Christian." (St. Cecilia)

HOW ARE YOU USING THE GIFTS OF GOD: We all want to be considered God's good and faithful servants and God gives us all we need to be his disciples: sacraments and their grace, God's word and a community of faith. What we need to do is to risk pouring out our lives as Jesus did and not clinging to our life and gifts out of fear. We can do this by giving our lives away and learning that so much more is given when we spend ourselves in God's service to others. If you don't believe this, ask someone who has served in a ministry to others like the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Communion ministry to the sick, prison ministry, pro-life ministry or any other in your parish. They will report the rich rewards they receive.

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!

REFLECT BACK ON YOUR DAY Life teaches us daily; we just need to keep ourselves open to learning. These lessons prepare us for the expected or unexpected events. Sometimes, when we face an event in life, we feel that we are not at all prepared for it. We wonder whether we have the capacity to handle such an event or situation. The truth is that life never brings anything just like that. It teaches us in many subtle ways, and if we look back, we find that every event of our life is connected and every event is an opportunity for us to learn and grow. Take time to reflect on everyday events of your life. Every meeting you have and every situation you come across is a lesson that you can better yourself, grow from and be prepared to handle your life ahead. Life teaches us every day. It prepares us for the events we will face next.

MASS SCHEDULE STARTING FROM 18TH NOVEMBER 2023

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

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

MONDAY 20TH NOVEMBER ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM MARY CHAPPEL (BIRTHDAY INTENTIONS)

TUESDAY 21ST NOVEMBER ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM CAROL DRENNAN (INTENTIONS)

WEDNESDAY 22ND NOVEMBER ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM MAVIS OWENS, RIP (HEAVENLY BIRTHDAY)

THURSDAY 23RD NOVEMBER ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM PRIVATE INTENTIONS

FRIDAY 24TH NOVEMBER ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM HOLY SOULS (BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE)

SATURDAY 25TH NOVEMBER MASS AT 6.00PM FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

SUNDAY 26TH NOVEMBER MASS AT 11.00AM PETER BOUCHER, RIP

FINDING CHRIST IN OUR NEIGHBOUR A neighbour peered over his fence and noticed that little Joey was in his backyard filling in a hole with dirt. Curious about what the youngster was up to, the neighbour asked, "What are you doing Joey?" Tearfully, little Joey replied, "My goldfish died and I've just buried him." "That's an awfully large hole for a goldfish, isn't it?" the concerned neighbour asked. Patting down the last bit of earth, little Joey replied, "That's because he's in your cat." People often voice compliments as well as faults with their neighbours. Small petty issues such as blowing leaves or snow on the property of another coupled with unintentional slights, misinformation, gossip or an out of place comment may erect walls that render dislike toward other people. Philosophical issues that pertain to religion, politics, race and culture may also lead people to distance themselves with neighbours. Some of these disputes go on for decades with people frequently forgetting the real reason for lack of friendly speech or companionship with a neighbour. There is also a beautiful side to those called neighbours. I've been exposed to countless people who maintain chummy relations as neighbours despite issues that may surface in a relationship. These people go to all heights to look after another during illness, transport a neighbour to a doctor, the store, or even care for the property of a neighbour during times of absence, as well as assure that a neighbour is not lonely or lacking a place at the table during Christmas. Good neighbours do simple things in quiet ways; especially during crisis moments. Recently I met with the nursing staff in a parish. These women take on so much in reaching out to people who need assistance as they become neighbours to all. Their ministry reminded me of their value of service to the vulnerable and the ongoing ways that they extend care to many who are afraid to ask for help as well as those who take part in education programs or blood pressure check-ups.

Teresa of Avila once stated, "Though we do not have our Lord with us in bodily presence, we have our neighbour, who, for the ends of love and loving service, is as good as the Lord himself." Each day provides an opportunity to be a good neighbour; however, the opportunity can be missed by giving priority to a personal agenda that discredits unexpected occurrences as invitations to be Jesus for another. It is worthwhile to ponder the question that Jesus so often poses in the Gospels, "How may I be a good neighbour?" In the scriptures a "neighbour" is defined as everyone; therefore, this shatters limitations in reaching out to someone in need. It is common to miss this point; yet, in the Gospels there is a constant call to be "neighbour" to others with the reminder that a true neighbour sees beyond the immediacy of one's own life; and responds to need even with individuals who maintain qualities that render one unlikeable to much of society. The target in being a Christian neighbour must be practical, and consist of actions that stem from the answer that challenges us to see God in our neighbour. Although there are occasions when it is hard to discover God's presence in our neighbour, The Works of Mercy (spiritual and corporal) render a perfect starting point for those who wish to make themselves better neighbours. The Works of Mercy call for courage, faith, and understanding. In a homily given on March 17, 2013 Pope Francis stated, "I think we are people who, on one hand, want to listen to Jesus, but on the other hand, at times, like to find a stick to beat others with, to condemn others. And Jesus has this message for us: mercy. I think and I say it with humility, that this is the Lord's most powerful message: mercy". As the pace in November steadily increases with efforts toward Christmas, aim to be a good neighbour. This leads to the discovery that God is not only found in church, the scriptures, or at Eucharist; but also in the faces of people whom we call our neighbour.

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.

COFFEE MORNING BY THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN (SPUC) AT ST OS-MUNDS 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

CHILDREN'S NATIVITY Sunday December 17th 4pm the Children's Liturgy Group will produce the Nativity in the Church, followed by a Bring and Share Supper. If you would like your child/children to be involved please see me, Sharon Jameson, after Mass or contact mob 07933785368 jamesonsharon11@gmail.com Rehearsals will be after Mass in the Church Nov 26th and Dec 3rd /10th and 17th . If you have not yet completed a Parental Consent Form please collect/return to Children's Liturgy Team asap. Thankyou.

CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN AND YOUNGER: This will once again be run by the teenagers of the parish supported by Sue Winfrey-Harvey and Helen James. Date = Saturday 16th December from 11am until 2pm in the Parish Hall. Food and entertainment will be provided and we hope Fr. Christmas will be able to pay a visit too. If your child is below 5 they should be accompanied by an adult. Please sign up at the back of church. Any teenagers who would like to help Sofia, Jerome, Darryl and Ropa with the party should let Fr. Saji know.

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'.

WORLD YOUTH SUNDAY - 26TH NOVEMBER 2023-SECOND COLLECTION Next weekend, 25-26 November, there will be a 2nd collection in support of the Catholic Youth Service, a collection taken to support Youth Work in the Diocese and beyond, especially the Clifton Catholic Youth Service. Any money raised on will go towards supporting those in need of financial support to go on pilgrimages and to events, as well as allowing the Diocesan Youth group to continue running events, such as the monthly Youth Masses, provide support and training to those working with young people and so much more. Please pray for all our young people that they may consider their vocations in the religious and priestly life for the future of the church and for those who work with them.

CHRISTMAS CARDS Christmas cards will be available in the Parish from next week.

DEAR PARISHIONERS, As we reach this mid-November weekend, it is difficult not to sense the year approaching its final weeks. The hours of sunlight lessen as the days continue to grow shorter. The autumn foliage has peaked and the once bright leaves are falling and being gathered to await kerbside collection. The harvest season is nearly over. A pre-winter quiet seems to hang in the air. Even the liturgy has a feeling of finality. Next week we will celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, the last Sunday of the liturgical year. On this penultimate Sunday, the scriptures speak of accountability, that when the Master returns he will ask of us an accounting of how we have used the talents and time entrusted to us during our lives, what we have done through the days and years. We are asked not only to look back on what we have accomplished, but to look ahead to the time yet to come, to see what we hope to still achieve. Sobering thoughts indeed. In that vein, I am reminded of a favourite poem, Alfred Tennyson's Ulysses. It stands apart from the usual themes favoured by poets, when we are accustomed to associating poems with youthful enthusiasm, romantic love, and sentimentality. In Ulysses, Tennyson reflects on what it means to see the years go by, when we seem to have more past than future. It is a poem about growing older. Not surprisingly, it has come to say more and more to some of us as the years have added up. If you enjoy verse, I recommend that you read the entire poem. The "Ulysses" of the title is, of course, the mythological hero of Homer's epic, The Odyssey. He has returned from the Trojan War and his long years of wandering, and is once again home in his kingdom, Ithaca, with his faithful wife, Penelope, and his loyal son, Telemachus.

In the poetic device known as dramatic monologue, he reflects on his circumstances: It little profits that an idle king, By this still hearth, among these barren crags, Match'd with an aged wife, I mete and dole Unequal laws unto a savage race, That hoard, and sleep, and feed, and know not me. What is it all about, he wonders, this life he has returned to? What is he accomplishing as he tries to govern an unruly people who seem to care little about his efforts? The images of age, idleness, fatigue, and apparent emptiness abound: an aged wife, a cold hearth, a barren landscape, inadequate justice. As he looks back and remembers the excitement and adventures of the past, both good and bad, he is not ready for the final curtain. He believes there is something yet to be discovered. I cannot rest from travel; I will drink Life to the lees. All times I have enjoy'd Greatly, have suffer'd greatly, both with those That loved me, and alone... I am become a name; For always roaming with a hungry heart... How dull it is to pause, to make an end, To rust unburnish'd, not to shine in use! As tho' to breathe were life! Life is more than breath; it is action and challenge. So, he decides to leave the governance of the kingdom to Telemachus and to turn his face to the years that remain, to continue to push the boundaries of his world, to look for more. Old age hath yet his honour and his toil. Death closes all; but something ere the end, Some work of noble note, may yet be done... 'T is not too late to seek a newer world... The poem concludes with an affirmation, that what remains will be encountered not with a whimper but with a bang: Tho' much is taken, much abides; and tho' We are not now that strength which in old days Moved earth and heaven, that which we are, we are,-- One equal temper of heroic hearts, Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield. Sad, depressing, defeatist: Made weak by time and fate? I do not think so. No, I think it is filled with strength, vitality, vision, with purpose, enthusiasm, challenge. He does not deny that the years have taken their toll: We are not now that strength which in old days moved earth and heaven. But there is undaunted expectation for the future: Tho' much is taken, much abides. Perhaps a worthy reflection as the days of this year dwindle down to a precious few. We are reminded that every day is only as precious as we make it.

SECOND COLLECTIONS FOR OCTOBER-THANK YOU!

The totals raised by our parish during October for various charities are the following. Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee morning raised £405.00, World Mission Sunday raised £270.00 CAFOD Harvest Fast Day raised £286.00 and Mary's Meals raised £301.00. We also hosted a Bingo Afternoon to raise funds for The Amesbury Hopper Bus, a vital community service at the request of The Mayor, this event raised £830.00. As a result of this success we will be holding another Bingo on Thursday 30th November. Thank you very much for your generosity and support with every venture and endeavour of our parish with reaching out with selfless love and tireless devotion. Thank you and God bless you!

ON THE WAY- CATECHESIS ON THE EUCHARIST:

The Real Presence Saint Paul concludes his narrative of the Institution of the Eucharist with this powerful description of the liturgy: "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." Contained in this statement is the understanding that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine. For if they were just symbols, the celebration couldn't possibly carry that kind of proclamation. It is because Christ is truly, substantially present under the form of bread and wine that the celebration of the Eucharist is also the making present of his Sacrifice. The Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist that Saint Paul teaches here has become a distinctly Catholic doctrine. Although clearly the understanding of the early Church, it is now absent in Protestant worship and teaching. But what precisely is it that the Church believes? What do we mean by "Real Presence"? If he's really present in the Eucharist...does that mean that he's not present elsewhere? No, because God is omnipresent. Nothing would exist if God did not sustain all things in being by his presence as Creator. There's nowhere we can go where God is not. So...how is the Eucharist different? Maybe an analogy to Christmas will help. On that day, at the moment of Christ's birth, God was spiritually present everywhere throughout the world. But at that moment he was also present in a unique way in Bethlehem. There, lying in a manger, he was not only spiritually present but also physically present by way of his human body. Our Lady, Joseph, and the shepherds didn't encounter him just spiritually but physically. This is the great mystery we celebrate, that God is with us in a new and unique mode. So, if you were alive on that first Christmas, you wouldn't have shrugged and thought, "Well, after all, God is everywhere." No, you would have, like the Magi, hastened to Bethlehem so that you could look upon and touch God present in that specific place. Now, we should think of the Eucharist as the extension of the Incarnation. It continues to make him present not just spiritually but also bodily. You can encounter God spiritually wherever you go. In fact, you should. You should often remind yourself of his presence. You should make a spiritual communion by lifting your heart and mind to him and likewise inviting him into your soul. That he is spiritually omnipresent means that we can always be with him. But in the Eucharist we have the added reality of Christmas. The omnipresent God is uniquely present in a specific place that we can go and visit.

In the Eucharist, we encounter Jesus Christ more than just spiritually. His Eucharistic presence is what the Church calls real and substantial: his Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity. Beginning with Saint Paul's account, the Church has always taught this. Not long after Paul, Saint Ignatius of Antioch, in his Letter to the Smyrnaeans in the year 110 A.D. laments those who "not confess that the Eucharist is the flesh of our Saviour Jesus Christ, flesh which suffered for our sins and which that Father, in his goodness, raised up again." In about 189 A.D., Saint Irenaeus (a disciple of Ignatius) argued for Christ's divinity from what he clearly regards as the common Christian belief: "If the Lord were from other than the Father, how could he rightly take bread, which is of the same creation as our own, and confess it to be his body and affirm that the mixture in the cup is his blood?"