

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS:Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service of God are essential aspects of our Catholic education and faith. Many of us attended Catholic Schools in our formative years, which brought a transmission of faith and values through classroom experiences. Catholic schools originated from the hardwork of parishioners, parents and through donations who were determined to foster a spirit of the Catholic faith into their children as well as a high level education. Today millions of children are getting educated in hundreds of Catholic Schools across our nation. In Annemarie Scobey's article, Expensive Blessings, January 2016, the author quotes kindergarten teacher, Mary Anne Mullaney, in response to the question, 'why do people send children to Catholic Schools?' We were talking about saints and a little girl named Piper said, "There is no Saint Piper. So I'm going to be the first one. I don't really know how yet, but I'm going to try and find out how God wants me to do it!" One important virtue that I witness in our Catholic Schools is teacher's presence with the children. Each member of our faculty maintains special love for their students with a desire to steer each student in a direction that thrusts academic success and Christian values into their lives. Many staff members take time out of their personal lives to accomplish this task. In a column titled, Unplugged but Connected, illustrates the importance of student/teacher relationship and brings on the question, "Who Should a Catholic teacher be?" Our answer should be that Christ serves as a role model for all teachers in a Catholic school and adds "that for Christ, the most important thing was not relaying information but turning others toward him first by being present to them. Pope Francis stated, the greatest challenge facing us today is to learn once again how to talk to one another, not simply how to generate and consume information. In knowing each one of our staff members and administrative staff in our Catholic Schools, an enormous strength in our school is their ability to communicate verbally with students, which leads to a healthy encounter between student, teacher, and staff. I have also discovered that the presence of the teachers in the classroom lead to healthy relationships with students and staff that otherwise would never develop. Christ The king School is an important component of the parish as it empowers young people with values and education. It also fuels the parish through school activities, enthusiasm, parental involvement, ministries, and liturgical presence. This nurtures the environment in the parish as well as our area. Parents who make the investment and sacrifice to send their children to Catholic Schools place confidence in the fact that their children are given a quality faith based education. In addition to academics, there are a number of extracurricular activities for students that stress friendship, teamwork, and character development which include sports and music. These activities foster intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual growth.

Pope Benedict noted that "Catholic Schools, which always strive to join their work of education with the explicit proclamation of the Gospel are a most valuable resource for the evangelization of a culture." Throughout my life I have met countless people who have been formed through Catholic Education aware that sometimes it takes years for individuals to realise the positive influence Catholic Education has on their decisions that helps develop self-reliance and self-worth so that a graduate may reach his/her potential in life; therefore, it is where the bright future of so many begins. Our school fuels the parish with much energy and a loving presence from students who come together at weekday liturgies as well as through a host of parents who volunteer time to support the mission of the church with participation in ministries. Like any ship sailing through the seas, sometimes some unanticipated storms or waves splash water onto the deck which makes moments of the journey more challenging than anticipated; however, in most cases these occasions invite all to use their unique gifts to keep the ship afloat. Families who send their children to Catholic Schools make an investment and sacrifice. Catholic Schools never underestimates anything that a student can do that guides a student to success in secondary school as well as a deep appreciation of life.

I want to thank you for your hard work in trying to hand on the faith to your beloved children. I know it is certainly not easy, but it is worth it and because it is your role to be their first teachers in the faith, God will abundantly bless your efforts to hand on the faith. Our parish is dedicated to assisting you in this great mission of forming your children into the saints of the next generation. Finally, I would like to say a thank you to all those dedicated to Catholic education, especially those who are at Christ The King School.

MARY CHAPPEL, RIP: It is with great sadness that I pass on the news that Mary Chappell died peacefully on Wednesday. Mary's death has been described as peaceful and it is also said that she died with a smile on her face. Mary was a much loved parishioner at Christ the King for many years whose loyalty and dedication are exemplified in all the works she undertook and accomplished with meticulous precision on behalf of the parish. It is comforting to know that she was accompanied by the members of her family praying at her side. We send our sincere and heartfelt condolences to her family of whom she was very fond and proud. Our Parish community is greatly indebted to her for the many years of her devoted service at Christ the King. Our Parish has cherished memories of Mary who worked tirelessly to maintain our parish in every way possible often sacrificing her own comforts. She served with great sense of commitment and utmost care coupled with inculcating Gospel values. There are many of you who will have personal recollections to bring a smile to your faces and warmth to your hearts as we commend her to God's eternal love with great trust and deep gratitude. Some of you will recall her energy, enthusiasm, determination, and kindness shown in so many ways. Her attention to detail in preparing children for the sacraments and the support she offered parents was especially appreciated. The Requiem Mass for Mary will be celebrated at Christ the King and the date has not been arranged yet. Our sincerest condolences go out to Mary's family. May God's love surround you and bring you hope and strength during this difficult time. Requiescat in pace!

WHITE FLOWER APPEAL- Thank you! Mary Eyre, our parish representative for the White Flower Appeal (SPUC) would like to thank the whole parish for the incredible generosity you have shown through the White Flower Appeal which raised £490.00. Your support for the pro-life movement is an indication of the way you bear witness to the Gospel values and the culture of life. Thank you and God bless you always!

PASTORAL AREA PENITENTIAL SERVICE WITH BISHOP DECLAN AT CHRIST THE KING- Our pastoral area Lenten Penitential Service with Bishop Declan Lang will be on Wednesday 20th March starts at 7.00pm in our Church. It will be a wonderful opportunity for us to join the Bishop and other priests, and people of the deanery to celebrate God's mercy through the Sacrament of Penance. Bishop Declan will be the principal celebrant.

CHRISM MASS - CLIFTON CATHEDRAL - WEDNESDAY 27 MARCH Since some of you attended the Chrism Mass at Clifton Cathedral last year, I am writing you to ask whether you would like to join our priests and deacons at this year's Mass on Wednesday, 27 March. We are considering whether to book a coach again; therefore, it goes without saying that we need enough people to make the booking work. Please can you consider whether you'll be attending the Mass, and let us know if you plan to do so by Monday, February 12th . The cost will be £15 per person. Salisbury and Amesbury will be the pick-up locations, and the following times (TBC) will apply: 07:55 Coach arrives at Central Library, Amesbury SP4 7AN 08:00am Coach departs Central Library, Amesbury travels to Clifton Cathedral. 13:00 - 14:00 (dependant upon length of Mass) Coach departs and returns dropping off at all pick up points.

CHRIST THE KING 200 CLUB- NEW MEMBERS ARE VERY WELCOME! The 200 Club was set up over ten years ago, to raise funds for our Church and School, with half the money raised given out in three cash prizes each month, and the other half divided equally between the Church and School each December. During 2023 we had 93 members, with more members, monthly prizes will increase, but more importantly we will raise more funds for the church and the school. The cost is £12 per year for one number in the draw each month. Carol Crossland will be collecting money after masses throughout January, alternatively this can be placed in an envelope, clearly marked 200 Club, with your full name and telephone number, and left with Father Saji at Church, posted, or handed in to the school office, clearly marked in an envelope. We also will accept bank transfers (please state Name, and Church or School when making your payment) Sort Code 52-10-03 Account No 66287715 Please note this IS NOT the same as the account used by Fr Saji for donations each week. Thank you to everyone for taking part. Carol Crossland

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: First Holy Communion is a wonderful moment in a child's life and represents a sign of growth in the knowledge and love of God for each and every child. Parents who bring their child or children for First Holy Communion are fulfilling the vow they made publicly at their child's baptism some years before to be the "first and best teachers of their child in the ways of faith". Now they are more actively fulfilling this vow. The celebration of First Holy Communion each year is primarily a Parish Community Celebration. There is great expectation that the family are full practising members of the community and that they regularly come to Mass. On this understanding, the parish will provide all the necessary help to parents and children, particularly those children not attending Catholic schools. The support from parents for this and other elements of the course cannot be emphasised enough. No child will be denied First Holy Communion; however, children who miss two or at most three sessions will have missed key catechesis. In such cases and after discussion with catechists and parents, the parish priest may remove a child from the course and invite parents to reapply for the following year. Sports events, parties and other such competing attractions must come second to First Holy Communion preparation and the regular attendance of Mass during the First Holy Communion year.

First Communion Class Schedule: 28th January at 12.30pm, Sunday 4th February at 12.30pm Sunday 11th February at 12.30pm Sunday 3rd March at 12.30pm Sunday 10th March at 12.30pm Sunday 17th March at 12.30pm Sunday 14th April at 12.30pm Sunday 21st April, Sunday 28th April at 12.30pm Sunday 5th May at 12.30pm and Sunday 12th May at 12.30pm **First Holy Communion Mass on Sunday 19th May at 9.00am**

JOURNEY IN FAITH: This is a programme for adults who are interested in Christianity but who are not confirmed Catholics. The next meeting is on Sunday 21 January at 4.30pm in the Parish Rooms next to St Osmund's Church on Exeter Street. For more on this programme please visit 'Exploring Your Faith'

QUESTION OF THE WEEK: Can I identify an unclean spirit in me that seeks to destroy me? Can I find the courage to ask God to free me from this demon?

"Do not fear what may happen tomorrow. The same loving God who cares for you today will care for you tomorrow and every day. God will either shield you from suffering or give you unfailing strength to bear it". Saint Francis de Sales

DEAR PARISHIONERS, This Friday we observe a feast that Christians have been celebrating for centuries under different titles: The Feast of the Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple –the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary –the "Encounter" – Candlemas. It occurs 40 days after Christmas – 40 being the length of time prescribed by the Mosaic law for the purification of a woman after childbirth. That custom continued in the Catholic tradition until the 1960's. It was not uncommon to see a woman kneeling at the Communion rail after Mass, holding a candle, as the priest said specific prayers of blessing. It was commonly called "being churched" – an expression of thanks to the Lord for speedy recovery. While it might seem to focus on Mary, the feast is more properly understood as Christological in nature. This ancient commemoration dates from the 4th century. The Church celebrates the presentation of Christ in the Temple. The feast, which began in the East under the title of the Occursus Domini, or the "Meeting/Encounter of Jesus with Simeon," was celebrated with the blessing of candles and a public procession, and eventually acquired the name Candlemas. Over time the feast acquired a Marian character, in reference to the ritual purification of Mary following the Mosaic prescriptions, 40 days after the birth of her Child. However, the feast is primarily about Christ, in Simeon's words, a "Light of revelation to the nations." It is described by one of my favourite Church historians, Egeria, in her pilgrimage diary. (She is a wealth of information about the liturgical life of the early Christian community. I have written about her description of the Holy Week liturgies in Jerusalem. – particularly the Palm Sunday Process and the Veneration of the Cross on Good Friday.) She also leaves a narrative of the Feast of the Presentation and how it was celebrated in 380. She writes: Certainly the Feast of the Purification is celebrated here with the greatest honour. On this day there is a procession to the Anastasis [which contained the tomb of Christ]; all go in procession, and all things are done in order with great joy, just as at Easter. All the priests preach, and also the bishop, always treating of that passage of the Gospel where, on the fortieth day, Joseph and Mary brought the Temple, and Simeon and Anna the prophetess, the daughter of Famuhel, saw Him, and of the words which they said when they saw the Lord, and of the offerings which the parents presented. And when all things have been celebrated in order as is customary, the sacrament is administered, and so the people are dismissed.

We celebrate Christ: a light of revelation to the nations and the glory of his people Israel. As Catholics we are people who express and nourish our faith, our experience of God's presence in our lives, not only through the celebration of the Sacraments, but also through signs and symbols and traditions – through SACRAMENTALS. Sacramentals are objects or actions that inspire and encourage us to grow in faith and deepen our appreciation of God's nearness in our everyday lives. Sacramentals do not confer grace in the same way that sacraments do; rather, in a somewhat more oblique manner, they dispose us to receive God's grace with open hearts. Like our devotion to the saints, sacramentals are among the most "Catholic" of our traditions and devotions. We are familiar with sacramentals that are particular objects: holy water, crucifixes, a Miraculous Medal, images of saints, blessed ashes (Ash Wednesday: February 14), blessed palms (Palm Sunday: March 24), rosaries, etc. But there are also those sacramentals that are practices, such as the Sign of the Cross, the Blessing of Throats (the Feast of St. Blaise: February 3), Lenten fasting and abstinence, a genuflection or bow to the tabernacle. They are part of the "culture" of our Catholic faith, visible and tangible in our lives and in our homes. And perhaps it is a good time, given the topic, to take stock of sacramentals in our homes.

An image of the Sacred Heart was a standard for a Catholic home. A depiction of the Last Supper in the kitchen or dining room. A crucifix on the wall in each bedroom. A priest friend made it his practice to give a crucifix as a wedding gift to couples he married. First Communion is an opportunity to give a girl a cross necklace or a religious lapel pin to a boy. The same for Confirmation. I make it my practice to give a Christmas Creche to newly-married cousins or friends for their first Christmas. A religious house-warming gift is another opportunity. We are only limited by lack of imagination



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.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME-YEAR-B-2024

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER SAJI: LIVING WITH CREDIBILITY Why was it that so many people were impressed by the teaching and life of Jesus? Why were so many people threatened by the life and teaching of Jesus? People noticed something different in the way that Jesus lived. For us to be his disciples, we should probably know what that difference is, and try to mimic it with our lives. We do know that at the time of Jesus, there were many people who were teaching. There were leaders of the temple and synagogue. There were leaders of various religious factions. There were leaders of the Roman Empire. So you can imagine how much teaching was going on at the time of Jesus. Why did the teaching and life of Jesus stand out to other people? The word used in scripture is authority. Jesus spoke and acted with authority. It had nothing to do with the position of power or influence that he had in society. He really didn't have either of those. It could've had something to do with the miracles that he was performing, but we know that those were happening through other people as well. It could've been through the creative words Jesus was using in his teaching, but there were many other people who were given the gift of tongues at that time. So what was it about Jesus that allowed people to listen and give him authority in their lives? That Jesus had a unique combination of the words that he spoke, and the life that he lived. He did not place burdens on other people's shoulders that he was not willing to help carry. He did not take advantage of the weak, disregarding those who lived at the margins of society. Whenever he spoke, his words were truthful, whether they were offensive to those who were listening or words of calm, peace and security. His words did not play to the crowd in front of him but we're honest and truthful. His actions always backed up his words. I'm sure you have noticed that we live at a time when institutions and leaders are being called into question. People are losing their trust because leaders are not living lives of authority, like Jesus did. For certain, many leaders have the power to pass laws to try to make people do what they want them to do. But they do not have the power to change hearts and to call people to follow them in the direction of life. Instead, we have leaders who are calling us to division, hatred, and condescension. Now and then we hear an experience of leaders who do have authority, whose lives do match their words, and whose words match their choices. Somehow they are lost in the noise of all the rest. We cannot change the lives of others, but we are certainly responsible for each of our own lives. We do have the choice to lose hope because of what other people do, but that is certainly not the choice that the disciple of Jesus would make. We should not give into the hopelessness or darkness that many of our leaders are calling us to embrace. How would Jesus act in our current circumstances? He would certainly be attentive to those who are at the margins of life. He would be attentive to immigrants, the homeless folks, the imprisoned, the sick, those who are judged as unworthy of God's love, and any other group that is judged to be outside God's mercy. Are those the groups that we are spending time with? Are we living lives of authority? When Jesus left this earth, he shared with us his power and authority. We have the privilege and opportunity to do what he did. What choice will we make this coming week that allows people to see in us the authority of Jesus, and possibly lead them to a conversion of mind and heart closer to Jesus?

Today the church celebrates the Conversion of St. Paul, the Apostle, which highlights Paul's new direction in life. Like Paul, it is so difficult to get ourselves in gear, and change directions in life while enjoying comforts with the style of life we embrace. Upon his conversion, Paul used tremendous energy and became known as the Apostle to the Gentiles preaching Christ to many Roman lands. The scriptures for this weekend touch upon Moses serving the reminder that his authority comes not from his own merit but from the people's reliance on God. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus arrives in Capernaum and begins to teach in the synagogue, which leads to him recognising a troubled man's humanity. Like Jesus we are called not to judge those who cry out for help, but to address their needs with compassion. Take time to ponder ways you respond to the most vulnerable people in your life, which may include those impacted by the effects of racism, economic injustice and health disparities. Have a great weekend. BE BLESSED AND BE A BLESSING

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you

RESPONSORIAL PSALM O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

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 or from Jeff Coy, our parish treasurer.

ON THE WAY CATECHESIS ON THE EUCHARIST: How to receive Communion? The Church's doctrine is the most important element of our devotion to the Eucharist. You cannot love what you do not know. The Church gives us the truth about the Eucharist as Sacrifice, Presence, and Communion with Christ so that we can know him more, love him more, and more devoutly receive. But there remains the logistics about how to receive this great gift. How we receive flows from and should point to what we believe. If someone who knew nothing about the Eucharist observed our reception of Holy Communion, would he know its importance? So, we do well to review how to receive our Lord. Fast for one hour. To heighten our appreciation for the Eucharist as heavenly food, the Church requires us to detach from earthly food. The Church's law is simple: "A person who is to receive the Most Holy Eucharist is to abstain for at least one hour before Holy Communion from any food and drink, except for only water and medicine." Examine yourself. Cardinal Ratzinger once observed, "The practice of indiscriminately presenting oneself to receive Holy Communion, merely as a consequence of being present at Mass, is an abuse that must be corrected." It isn't necessary to receive Communion at Mass and sometimes we shouldn't. We should first ask, Am I properly disposed? Am I free from mortal sin? Have I confessed grave sins? Do I actually believe what the Church teaches? As Saint Paul bluntly puts it, "A person should examine himself" (1 Cor 11:28). Communion at the rail. Stand at the Communion rail to receive. You are also permitted to kneel if you so desire. Think of the rail as an extension of the altar, around which God's children gather to be nourished. Say "Amen." The minister presents the Host and says, "The Body of Christ." The communicant says, "Amen." That Amen - Yes...So be it - is an assent to the truth of Christ's presence in the Host. Further, because the Eucharist is the source and summit of our worship and the mystery of faith, that Amen is an assent to all that the Church teaches. Communion on the tongue. Note, on the tongue. Not in the mouth. If you choose to receive in this manner, open your mouth, extend your tongue, and rest it on your bottom lip. Allow the minister to place the Host on your tongue. Please do not bite down on the Host as the minister extends it. Communion in the hand. If you choose to receive in the hand, please make sure that your hands are clean. You should also not be carrying anything or anyone. The chances of a dropped Host are increased when the communicant is trying to corral a child while also handling the Host. If both hands are not free to receive the Host, please receive on the tongue. Use two hands. Present the hands flat, one on top of the other (typically, the dominant hand is under the other). Do not present your hands side by side, as that presents the risk of the Host falling between the hands. After the Host is placed on the top hand, take the Host with the bottom hand,

and place it in your mouth. Remain where you are while doing this. Do not consume the Host while moving. The Host is to be consumed where you receive It. Under no circumstances should you bring the Host away with you. Obviously, that movement increases the chances of a dropped Host. It also increases the chances of being pursued by a priest who reasonably wonders where you're going with our Lord.

ORGANIST/PIANIST NEEDED Christ The King Church is in need of an organist and/or pianist who could fill-in as needed. If you would like to contribute to this most important ministry, please contact Father Saji Mathew.

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.

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.

REST IN PEACE May those who have died enter into the mercy of God and the joy of the Kingdom.

VISITS TO THE SICK If you cannot come to church because of illness, please be sure that we are notified so that we might minister to you either at home, hospital, or nursing home or in any care facility. Because of confidentiality issues, we cannot come to you unless requested to do so by you or your family.

RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION: Receiving the Eucharist is the greatest gift imaginable. Before receiving Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, we are asked to make an act of reverence. After the priest, deacon or extraordinary minister of Holy Communion says, "The Body of Christ," each communicant responds, "Amen," before receiving the Sacred Host. This response is a sign of our belief in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Please consume the Host in front of the priest, deacon or extraordinary minister. If you are receiving the Host in your hand, please be careful to ensure that no particles remain on your hands.

MASS SCHEDULE STARTING FROM 27TH JANUARY 2024

SATURDAY 27TH JANUARY MASS AT 6.00PM PRO POPULO

SUNDAY 28TH JANUARY MASS AT 11.00AM DAN, WILLIAM AND PAULINE FLOOD, RIP

MONDAY 29TH JANUARY ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM ALEXANDER ROGER, RIP

TUESDAY 30TH JANUARY ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM MARY CHAPPELL, RIP (Donors Christine Kinghorn, Margaret Ryan)

WEDNESDAY 31ST JANUARY ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM BARABARA FINNAN, RIP

THURSDAY 1ST FEBRUARY ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM GAY TARRANT (INTENTIONS)

FRIDAY 2ND FEBRUARY ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM JO CHAMBERS (INTENTIONS)

SATURDAY 3RD FEBRUARY MASS AT 6.00PM ANN COCKRELL, RIP

SUNDAY 4TH FEBRUARY MASS AT 11.00AM PRO POPULO

"Every Christian needs a half-hour of prayer each day, except when he is busy, then he needs an hour."— Saint Francis de Sales