



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.

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT-YEAR-B-2024

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER SAJI: MOVING WITH JESUS TO THE MOUNTAIN TOP Our life of discipleship is filled with living, dying and rising. It is the same pattern of the life of Jesus. It is a pattern built-in to all of God's creation, and we are a part of it. This weekend our gospel story takes us to the top of the mountain with Jesus. He takes Peter, James and John with him. While there, they have a vision, in which they see Jesus and Moses and Elijah. This trip to the mountaintop is situated in the midst of their journey toward Jerusalem. The disciples of Jesus have already experienced some of his miracles, healings and great teaching. They've also experienced some ways in which he is redefining what it means to be the Messiah, and they have seen him be rejected by people who misunderstand him. They are on their way to Jerusalem, where many difficult things will happen. Jesus invites the disciples to the mountaintop so that they can glimpse the glory of God as they are on their way to Jerusalem. It was part of the rising before they experienced more living and dying. Without a concentration of living, dying, and rising, we lose sight of the cycle and rhythm of life. We can begin to feel entitled if we latch onto and become paralyzed in the rising parts of our lives. We can become disillusioned and depressed if we get paralyzed in the dying parts of our lives. If we feel stuck in the ordinary part of living, we can give into the temptation of escaping or numbing how we feel. The mixture of living, dying and rising, does allow us to stay in the rhythm of our lives, and the life of all of God's creation. This season of Lent is meant to be a mixture of all of those pieces of our lives. Just because we're fasting, praying and almsgiving doesn't mean that we won't live, die and rise. That cycle continues no matter what the season of the church is. Don't be afraid to take the trip to the mountain top with Jesus this weekend, but also hear the story of Abraham and his son Isaac. Trust in God does mean just what it says. Walk with him step-by-step wherever he is taking you during the season of Lent. Do not let your fear paralyze you where you are, or let your joy keep you from the sacrifices that you are being asked to make. Let Jesus take you where he wants to take you, and lead you through living, dying and rising.

Our opening reading for Sunday's masses (Second Sunday in Lent) is from Isaiah about the test of Abraham who is called to sacrifice his son. It can be a disturbing reading for many; especially anyone who has been abused in their childhood. However it denotes Abraham's trust in God. The reading also challenges us in the way we treat children as well as the number of children who are sacrificed in hunger or war so that others may enjoy luxury in their lives. Enjoy your weekend and the endless opportunities to gain closeness to God during this Season of Lent. BE BLESSED AND BE A BLESSING

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY APPEAL 24/25 FEBRUARY Lent Second Collection at both Masses this weekend . This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools and training to feed their families for good. Give this weekend using the envelope if you are a UK tax payer and please join us in praying with James that our sisters and brothers around the world have what they need to feed their families. There will be a second collection this weekend in aid of CAFOD's Charity's overseas mission project. Your support for CAFOD this Fast Day helps hardworking people like James to return home safely and feed their families for good.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK How do I think God would want my life to be transfigured this Lent? Am I willing to say "Here I am!" to accept that change to my life?

WEEKLY LENTEN QUOTE "Carry your cross on your back and take it as it comes, small or large, whether from friends or enemies, and of whatever wood it be made." (St. John Bosco)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Glory and praise to you, O Christ! From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard: 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him!' Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

"The Eucharist is connected with the Passion. If Jesus had not established the Eucharist we would have forgotten the crucifixion. It would have faded into the past and we would have forgotten that Jesus loved us. There is a saying that to be far away from the eyes is to be far away from the heart. To make sure that we do not forget, Jesus gave us the Eucharist as a memorial of his love ... When you look at the Crucifix, you understand how much Jesus loved you then, when you look at the Sacred Host you understand how much Jesus loves you now." St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

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

DEAR PARISHIONERS-Lent has begun, so I thought I'd put together a series of articles over the coming weeks about the seven capital sins so that we might be able to examine our consciences and seek the mercy and forgiveness of God as He helps us grow through purification to deeper relationship with Him. We begin with the grand daddy of them all, the sin or vice of pride. First, I think a distinction needs to be made between what is a "good pride" and what is a "sinful pride". It is good for us to take pride in, that is to delight in or to prize or honour, something that is good in us, others or our accomplishments. This "good pride" always recognises God's role in our good and gives Him due honour and glory for that good. Now on to "sinful pride". The sin or vice of pride, according to the Catechism "is undue self-esteem or self-love, which seeks attention and honour and sets oneself in competition with God." In other words, pride attributes a good to us rather than to God and seeks for oneself the honour that is rightfully due to God. As such, we generally associate the sin of pride with those who are outwardly arrogant or those who tend to make themselves the centre of attention, and while that might be true, the dangerous thing about pride is that often times it is much more subtle than we think and can rear its ugly head in people who appear outwardly humble. Many volumes have been written on this subject, but perhaps just a few thoughts here can help us all reflect on the subtle pride to which we so easily fall prey. One of the things that pride can do is to lead us to live in a way in which we simply ignore the fact that all the good in our life should really be attributed to the goodness of God. Do we live in that way, simply living as if it was all from me and my own efforts, forgetting to give gratitude to God? Another expression of pride is to exaggerate our own good qualities (even in our mind) while downplaying or ignoring our weaknesses. In relation to others, this could look like us being overly critical of another's defects, especially if the person is a superior to ours in any way, like our boss. Pride can also rear its head in other vices such as presumption, ambition or vanity. Presumption leads us to believe we can do things that are actually beyond our strength or abilities. Perhaps we live as if we are our own guides to heaven or as if we do not need the mercy of God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, instead of recognising that we need the direction of the Church and the mercy of God. Ambition seeks honour or authority over others because we believe we too much in our own strength and thus consider ourselves superior to others. Here there is the obvious stepping on others to get to higher positions, but it also leads us to stubbornly impose our own ideas on others without the possibility of open discussion. Vanity is an inordinate love of the esteem of others and makes one boast of themselves and their accomplishments. Pride is a dangerous vice which leads us away from God and the greatest remedy to it is to grow in humility which is the honest recognition of who we really are before God. One of the best ways

to grow in humility is to examine our consciences and go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Hopefully this little reflection gets you thinking and praying. As the weeks go on, we will examine the other capital sins so that we can all truly "turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel" this Lent.

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.

MASS SCHEDULE STARTING FROM 24TH FEBRUARY 2024

SATURDAY 24TH FEBRUARY MASS AT 6.00PM FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

SUNDAY 25TH FEBRUARY MASS AT 11.00AM JAMES CHAMBERS (BIRTHDAY INTENTIONS) (DONOR JO CHAMBERS)

MONDAY 26TH FEBRUARY ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM JULIAN BEACHAM (INTENTIONS)

TUESDAY 27TH FEBRUARY ADORATION AT 9.00AM MASS AT 10.00AM MAURA O' MAHONY (HEALING AND WELL-BEING)

WEDNESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY ADORATION AT 9.00AM MASS AT 10.00AM IRENE PIKE (HEALING)

THURSDAY 29TH FEBRUARY ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM PRIVATE INTENTIONS STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT 7.00PM

FRIDAY 1ST MARCH ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM MASS JO CHAMBERS (SPECIAL INTENTIONS) STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT 10.30AM

SATURDAY 2ND MARCH MASS AT 6.00PM GORDON BURT, RIP

SUNDAY 3RD MARCH MASS AT 11.00AM TERESA AND REG MARGETSON, RIP

MORE FOR LENT-Stations of the Cross- Every Friday during Lent **10.30 AM AND 7.00PM. The Lent Encounter-**Stuart Ford, who spent a year in Salisbury parish as a seminarian, and who now works for the Bible Society, has edited and contributed to a series of Lenten devotions called: **The Lent Encounter: where is Jesus in the Old Testament?** Take a journey through the Old Testament this Lent to find the answer. Sign up for free at: <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/resources/the-lent-encounter-sign-up/> and you'll receive a free daily devotion from Ash Wednesday to Easter.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION DURING LENT: Throughout the season of Lent we will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation every Friday from 6-30-700pm before the Stations of the Cross at 7.00pm. Apart from that Sacrament of Penance is administered every Saturday from 5-5-40pm prior to the Vigil Mass **"The life of a Christian is nothing but a perpetual struggle against self; there is no flowering of the soul to the beauty of its perfection except at the price of pain." St. Padre Pio**

ON THE WAY- THE SEVEN LAST WORDS: Father, forgive... This wasn't what they expected. When he was in the peaceful hills and plains of Galilee, Jesus spoke beautifully about the Father, about his mercy and forgiveness. And always to the detriment of the scribes and Pharisees. But what would he say when crucified? A crucified man typically cried out in regret, anger, and even hatred. Surely, the carpenter from Galilee wouldn't be any different. Surely, he couldn't maintain the façade of forgiveness when he met that fate. What would he say? Would he still insist on God as his Father? Would he still speak of mercy, of loving one's enemy, of doing good to those who persecute you? So reasoned the chief priests, scribes, Pharisees, and the rabble they recruited.

At Jesus' crucifixion, they "reviled him, shaking their heads and saying, 'You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, if you are the Son of God, and come down from the cross!...He trusted in God; let him deliver him now if he wants him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" It was the same taunt Jesus had heard at the beginning of his ministry, when the devil whispered, "If you are the Son of God..." At least his tempter and persecutors got it right: his being the Son of the Father of mercies was everything. It was the purpose of his entire life and ministry to reveal this. Now it's the first thing that he proclaims from his greatest pulpit, the Cross: "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Lk 23:24). Father, forgive... His attention and energy are strained, as always, toward the Father and his mercy. For Jesus, there is nothing more important. This phrase summarises his entire life and mission. It is one of his "last words" not only because it comes at the end of his life but also because it summarises his life. He came into the world to reconcile us to the Father, to give his life for this reconciliation, and to cry out to the Father for forgiveness. These words don't interrupt but complete his life and message. For they know not what they do. This is a curious appeal to the Father. It's as if Jesus is making excuses for them. But they did know what they were doing. They sought his life from the very start. And they did so precisely because he claimed to be the Son of the eternal Father. They did know. And we know. That's what makes sin so horrible, that we know it's wrong and do it anyway. But in another sense, we don't know. How could we? How can a creature understand its rebellion against the Creator? How can our finite minds grasp an infinite offence? No, we don't appreciate the full meaning of sin, of what it does to God's creation, to God's image in us, and to his own Sacred Heart. Even what we call "perfect" contrition doesn't grasp the full import of sin. It's perfect only according to our limited human nature. They know not what they do. But he knows. Jesus knows the fullness of our sins – our No to the Creator, our repudiation of the Father, our renunciation of his gifts. He sees clearly into the depth of our sinfulness and knows the full effects of our rebellion. Knowing this, on the Cross his Sacred Heart offers perfect human sorrow for all sins and for every sin. And in the Sacrament of Confession he opens for us the way to share that perfect sorrow. In the confessional, our sorrow is united with his and thus brought to perfection.

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.

COMMUNAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT There is an old German folktale, "Stone Soup" which describes a group of soldiers who come into a village looking for food. The people of the village make it known that they have no food to share with the soldiers so the soldiers begin to make "stone soup" from water and rocks. The village people are fascinated by the creativity of the soldiers so they bring potatoes, carrots and meat to the soldiers so that the quality and quantity of the soup is improved. The folktale ends with both the village people and the soldiers sharing in a delicious dinner as a newfound friendship is discovered due to the fact that the people did not rip each other apart, but worked together. This week the church celebrates the Second Sunday of Lent. It is worthwhile to evaluate all that brings us together as Christian people and as a community at Christ The King Church in that the scripture readings thrusts forth a message of transformation. This guides us to see ourselves as people in transformation through our Lenten spiritual journey. The season invites us to ponder ways that some of the old, accepted bad habits or sins of the past may be transformed into beautiful qualities that make our faith community role models for neighbourhoods, work places and institutions of education. Sometimes we all need reassurance, and a bit of affirmation to ignite paths that demonstrate concern for others, and their enjoyments while maintaining a healthy concern for self-preservation and fulfilment of personal needs. Many people look to various places for their source of happiness with belief that a new home, job, or car will generate contentment to life; however, these items only dim our light and short circuit the hope of fulfilment in life. Lent invites us to take an honest inventory of our lives to determine all that we are presently experiencing, and avoid concentration that focuses on things we do not have as God has blessed each of us with particular talents that may easily be taken for granted. This shows the way to spiritual growth since it is so easy to forget that everyone adds something to the bowl of soup we call our Christian family. Some of us go through life waiting for things to get better without acquiring new attitudes and skills that change behaviours. Lent entices us to reenergise the way we relate to those in our community of faith so that we are a family of welcome and hospitality to all.

Lent is an opportunity to uncover new aspects about prayer, and encounter fellowship with others in the parish. Getting in touch with the depth of our prayer leaves a positive mark on a faith community in that it transforms a parish into a wholesome, spiritually well-rounded community. Although we are not called to brag about our Lenten prayer and works, Lent poses ample opportunities to know the difference between spiritual endeavours that measure up to Lenten regulations, or prayer spirituality fixed in love for God. Adherence or an obsession to the letter of the law is quite common throughout Lent; however, it is the spirit of the law that brings forth transformation. The Disney classic, Beauty and the Beast generates such a healthy metaphor for Lent in that it challenges us to look at the inner qualities and worth of all people rather than the outward, physical appearance. This teaches us respect, care, and lack of discrimination toward anyone we come upon in life. This Lent seek to make a special effort to be present for the Masses on Sundays and special devotions within our parish. It will dispense greater depth to your spiritual life as it affirms a verse we hear in Sunday's scripture reading from Paul to the Romans, "If God is for us who can be against us.?"

"Lent is like a long 'retreat' during which we can turn back into ourselves and listen to the voice of God, in order to defeat the temptations of the Evil One." Pope Benedict XVI

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: The Society of Our Lady of Lourdes (SOLL) are pleased to announce that their annual pilgrimage of the sick to Lourdes will be on the 24th to the 31st May 2024. SOLL seeks to ensure that sick pilgrims are offered an opportunity to travel to Lourdes, minimising the barriers of disability and finance. Applications are now open. Please think if there is someone in the parish who SOLL can help. Applications are also welcomed for volunteer helpers, carers, nurses, doctors and priests! For further information, please contact SOLL on [0208 8489833](tel:02088489833) or www.soll-lourdes.com or call your parish contact, Sacha Blanchard on [07768 622880](tel:07768622880)

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: This year's Word Day of Prayer, prepared by the women of Palestine, is being held at Christ The King, Amesbury on Friday 1st of March at 7.00pm. Everyone is welcome, women, men and children. Please come and join our fellow Christians in this ecumenical service. It is all the more important particularly this year with all the trouble in this region of the world. Please keep the people of Palestine and Israel in your special prayers.

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 emphasized 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- 3rd March at 12.15pm Sunday 10th March at 12.15pm Sunday 17th March at 12.15pm Sunday 14th April at 12.15pm Sunday 21st April, Sunday 28th April at 12.15pm Sunday 5th May at 12.15pm and Sunday 12th May at 12.15pm **First Holy Communion Mass on Sunday 19th May at 12.30pm.**

POSITIVE THINKING HELPS US IN THE DARK PHASE OF LIFE-Darkness of life is a phase when we face challenging times, life seems unfavourable and things do not go as we want. This stage is often accompanied by disappointment, but if we try to remain optimistic, we can make that phase favourable for us. There is no doubt that staying hopeful in life requires an unwavering trust but what can really help in times like these is our own attitude towards life. During difficult times, we become too focused on our problems, adversities and sorrow. We need to focus more on the solutions, happiness and good times we experience in life. Focus your mind on the positivity of life. Try to find ways to overcome your challenges. Think about happy moments, times you enjoyed, all the good times in life. This will reset your mind and you will be able to get through the difficult phase of life with positive thinking. Remain positive even at the last streak of light. A new ray of light will soon touch your life.

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 every one for taking part. Carol Crossland.

LENT QUESTION: After attending a retreat and feeling much better and stronger about my faith, I want to make this Lent worthwhile. What can I do to keep the spirit and practice of Lent? Answer: You've already taken the first step by going on the retreat. It is important for us to "tune up" our faith, taking some time to renew ourselves through prayer, meditation and education. By deepening our knowledge and understanding of faith, we are often better attuned to its richness and meaning for our life. Lent is an intense retreat, a forty-day period of reflection and penance that prepares us to celebrate the passion, death and resurrection of Christ. Our communication with God and our awareness of him is the purpose of prayer. Setting aside extra time each day helps intensify the season. Prayer includes daily Mass, Stations of the Cross, communal penance services and private confession. Making restitution for sin as well as disciplining our hearts and minds to focus on God is the purpose of penance. It helps us restore a sense of balance to our souls, thrown off kilter by sin. Penance includes personal sacrifice, self-denial, fasting, almsgiving and charitable works. Finally, spiritual practices help us sharpen our understanding and insight into the meaning and understanding of our faith. When you take your faith seriously, you do what is necessary to follow Jesus more closely, to integrate your life and your faith more carefully.

PERSEVERE IN CHARITY Our Gospel this Sunday reminds us of the Transfiguration, and we can have a taste of the joy that the three disciples had who witnessed this event. Even during the Lenten Season, it is good to reflect upon this event to remember that as we go through difficult trials, the Lord Jesus does not allow darkness to have the last word. Especially during Lent, the devil will tempt you to stay as you are and not "repent and believe in the Gospel" (Mk 1:15b). However, we do know better that we are seeking journey through this fallen world towards heavenly life, and that involves purification that reaches the heart. We at times can go through moments of darkness in our lives, stumbling as we encounter the demands of the Gospel, which calls us to spend our life in service and lose it in love, rather than preserving it for ourselves. We need the light of faith, which illumines life and helps us move beyond the criteria of this world. As the disciples climbed the mountain and experienced the Transfiguration of Jesus, we too are called to climb up the mountain, to behold the beauty of God and allow that light to shine throughout our lives. A downfall though is to become spiritually lazy. At this time, we cannot stay on the mountain and enjoy the blissful encounter. Jesus leads his disciples down the mountain, and he leads us to the valley where we might live amongst our brothers and sisters. Coming down does not mean we live our lives as if the mountain experience never happened, forgetting the revelation of God, no! The purpose of the experience is not just to give us a beautiful spiritual feeling. We have this encounter with God so that having been enlightened by Christ, we might make His light shine everywhere. We help ignite the light in people's hearts so that they too may be lamps of the Gospel, spreading the love of God to others. This week, how is God inviting you to be a lamp of the Gospel amongst your brothers and sisters?