



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.

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME-YEAR-B-2024

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER SAJI-THE POWER OF SILENCE There is a story about a man who falls into a deep dry well. The desperate man trapped in the well cannot climb out so he keeps knocking, knocking, knocking on the side of the well, hoping against hope that someone will hear him and realise his situation. Finally, after a long time of such banging against the side of the well he hears a responding knock from the outside, someone has heard him! There is an explosion of joyful relief in the poor man. "Thank God!" Somebody finally knows where I am." Many go through life just wanting to be heard, but the noises of the world block out their knocking which leaves them in a deep dry well for most of their lives. Public silence is extremely awkward in a world bombarded with mobile phones, electronic gadgets, laptops and constant stimulation as many people have become addicted to these devices as even down time is saturated with sound and fury. There are individuals who struggle to sit down for a few minutes in silence without looking for something to do or say, which includes constant reminders of activities on the "to do" list that prevents honest reflection about their lives. It appears that in our society there is always something more important than silent reflection upon where our lives are going, the way we are living, and the type of people we are attempting to become. Silence renders the opportunity not just to hear things, but to analyse them. Our liturgy invites us to pray without words several times such as after each of the readings, the homily and again after communion. These are moments of opportunity to give thanks to God in silence for the blessings bestowed upon our lives.

Some see silence as a "passive shutting down" but it is an attentive awareness of an intimate connection with God and with one another that is part of any solid relationship. Silence provides the opportunity to make room for the Word of God so that it is heard, reflected upon, and acted upon. Pope Benedict XVI in writing for World Communication Day in 2012 noted, "In silence the most "authentic" communication occurs...By remaining silence we allow the other person to speak, to express him or herself; and we avoid being tied to our own words and ideas without them being adequately tested. In this way, space is created for mutual listening, and deeper human relationships become possible. If God speaks to us even in silence, we in turn discover in silence the possibility of speaking to God and about God." I recall as a young student in Catholic primary school my teacher who was a Sister belonging to the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament would mention to the class to be quiet upon entering the church as well as during mass when the appropriate behaviour for individuals was silence. The pandemic brought a bit of silence into our presence at liturgy when singing and response to many of the prayers were not encouraged in fear of spreading the virus, yet even today with active participation at mass the attempts to bring silence into liturgy renders an awkwardness as many in the assembly crave to get to the next set of prayers or song in the liturgy. Silence was summarised in such an effective manner through Paul Simon's lyrics that played through the movie, The Graduate, in 1967: "And in the naked light I saw, ten thousand people maybe more, People talking without speaking, People hearing without listening, People writing songs that voices never shared. No one dared, Disturb the Sounds of Silence." In one of the coming weeks I will spend 5 days on a retreat that will invite me to many hours of silent reflection. Jesus says to his disciples, "Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while." May your summer include moments of silence that permit you to rest and ponder the gift of your life so that every minute is not saturated with sounds, but with a bit of reflection that leads you to become the person God calls you to be. Have a great week ahead. BE BLESSED AND BE A BLESSING.

PETER'S PENCE Second Collection July 6/7 This weekend our second collection is for Peter's Pence. It is taken up worldwide each year to support the most disadvantaged including victims of war, oppression, natural disaster and disease. This annual collection gives the Holy Father the means to provide charity and emergency assistance to those most in need.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK Every time we celebrate the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, the Lord Jesus, in the person of the priest, comes close to those who suffer and are gravely ill or elderly. Let us pray that the sacrament of the anointing of the sick grants the Lord's strength to those who receive it and to their loved ones, and that it may become for everyone an ever more visible sign of Christ's compassion and hope,

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

RESPONSORIAL PSLAM Our eyes are on the Lord till he show us his mercy.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! The Word was made flesh and lived among us; to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.

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 Treasurer or office

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

EVERYDAY PRAYERS ARE OFFERED FOR -The elderly and infirm, the chronically ill and their caregivers. For those who attend to the dying and grieving; for medical professionals and first responders; for the homeless and those lost in this world; for those who harbor hatred and especially for those who have no one to pray for them. We also pray for all of those who suffer alone and for all who have died and their families too.

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 or care homes. Because of confidentiality issues, we cannot come to you unless requested to do so by you or your family.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO GLASTONBURY - SUNDAY 14TH JULY -The Annual Pilgrimage to Glastonbury will take place on Sunday, 14th July 2024. This year's pilgrimage will be centred around the theme of 'Mary, Woman of Prayer'. From 12 noon until 3:00 pm, the Shrine Church will transform into a chapel of Exposition and Silent Adoration, offering a peaceful and contemplative environment just opposite the Abbey grounds. During this time, visiting priests will provide the sacrament of Reconciliation in the Shrine Church. In addition, from 12 noon until 3:00 pm, Private Healing Prayer will be offered in a single tented chapel located just inside the Abbey gates, opposite the Shrine Church. At 2:15 pm, the Rosary procession will commence in the Abbey grounds, followed by the Pilgrimage Mass at 3:30 pm, also held in the Abbey grounds. The cost of the whole day out by the coach is just £20 per person.

RECONCILIATION Confessions are held on Saturdays from 5:00 - 5:40 p.m. and other times by request only. You are always free to make an appointment with the priest to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

DIOCESAN DAY - SATURDAY 6 JULY at St Bernadette's Secondary School, Whitchurch, Bristol. The focus of the day will be on Hope. All are invited to join Bishop Bosco as we explore the theme of Hope together. If there is sufficient interest, we will investigate the possibility of taking a minibus. Please do contact the Parish Office in Salisbury if you would like to go.

SUNDAY HOMILY FROM BISHOP ROBERT BARRON - In reflecting on this week's gospel which gives the story of Jesus with his disciples, in a boat, in a storm. Bishop Barron gives us three separate interpretations of this story, all of which have come up out of the ancient Church, and all of which shed light on the spiritual life. To watch and listen click on the 'Sunday Homily' button on our homepage

SUMMER GIVING Making plans for the summer? Make sure to plan for your offertory as well! When your summer travels take you away from Sunday services, eGiving lets you continue to support our church and the ministries you cherish. You can sign up from your computer, smartphone or tablet, and set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift. Recurring gifts sustain our parish through the busy summer months. You'll provide us with consistent support, even if you're away on a Sunday, so the programmes, services, and ministries that mean so much to our community will never miss a beat. You can sign up online as well. You'll provide us with consistent support that helps us always be at the ready with programmes, services, and ministries for our church families and for those in need throughout the community. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family.

THE PROPHECY OF YOU AND ME PROPHET There's a heaviness to this word. It's weighted down with meaning. We think of prophets and we think of Charlton Heston with wild hair and a booming voice, reaching out his hand to work wonders of nature by the grace of God. We think of prophets and we think of ancient Biblical history — someone far away, someone so removed from our everyday life. A prophet is someone who knows something we don't. When I let you in on this secret, it might scare you at first: in a way, God is calling you to be a prophet. He is calling me. He is calling anyone who hears the truth of the Gospel. However, there is no need for the megaphone and the wild locusts. This prophet gig might not be what you're thinking. What does a prophet do? He hears and testifies to the truth, even when it's uncomfortable, even when it's unpopular, even when it results in, as Paul says, "weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions and constraints." A prophet doesn't have to be smart or rich or ordained; heck, he doesn't even have to be particularly willing. All a prophet has to do is listen to the truth. The truth we receive from Christ, through the Gospel and the sacraments, is a mighty gift. But it is a gift that we are not meant to simply keep for ourselves. In possessing it, we are compelled to also pass it on, to share it, to let the Spirit set us on our feet.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK The Anointing of the Sick is often the forgotten or least recognised sacrament. Nevertheless, Pope Francis says "it is Jesus himself who comes to relieve those who are sick, to give them strength, to give them hope, to help them; and also to forgive their sins. And this is very beautiful!" It is not a sacrament only for those who are at the point of death," but states that it "is one of the 'sacraments of healing,' of 'restoration,' that heals the spirit. Anointing of the Sick is more and more a "visible sign of compassion and hope.

MASS SCHEDULE STARTING FROM 6TH JULY-2024

SATURDAY 6TH JULY MASS VIGIL MASS AT 6.00PM PRO POPULO

SUNDAY 7TH JULY MASS AT 11.00AM GAY TARRANT (INTENTIONS)

MONDAY 8TH JULY ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM IRENE PIKE (BIRTHDAY INTENTIONS)

TUESDAY 9TH JULY ADORATION AT 9.00AM MASS AT 10.00AM JOHN NASH FOR WELL-BEING(DONOR JO CHAMBERS)

WEDNESDAY 10TH JULY NO ADORATION OR MASS

THURSDAY 11TH JULY ADORATION AT 9.00AM MASS AT 10.00AM-XAVIER-PRIVATE INTENTIONS (DONOR JO CHAMBERS) REQUIEM MASS FOR LATE PATRICK MONAGHAN, RIP AT 2.00PM

FRIDAY 12TH JULY ADORATION AT 9.00AM MASS AT 10.00AM EMANULLE -PRIVATE INTENTIONS (DONOR JO CHAMBERS)

SATURDAY 13th JULY VIGIL MASS AT 6.00PM PRO POPULO

SUNDAY 14 JULY MASS AT 11.00AM

SHATTERED LOVE (PART II OF II) Last week’s article brought to light the need for support during the breakup of a marriage and the importance for a divorced person to remain attached to a faith community. I also related the way a divorced person must experience God’s love and compassion which is unconditional and unending. This week I’d like to shed light on Pope Francis’s invitation of the church to provide mercy toward anyone whose marriage has failed within the church teaching that a consummated, sacramental bond is a lifelong commitment. Marriage is such a demanding vocation that even the strongest of marriages are tested. In the papal document, “Amoris Laetitia” (The Joy of Love) Pope Francis states, “It is important that the divorced who have entered a new union should be made to feel part of the Church. They are not excommunicated, and they should not be treated as such since they remain part of the ecclesial community.” On a local or parish level it is essential for a Catholic community to reach out to those in relationships that have ended in divorce. It is both the ethical and Christian thing to do as it is the bridge that connects the human with the divine. The church must also support children of divorced parents. One key for children is whether parents are civil to each other in the presence of their children in the aftermath of divorce. Most children believe that their parents will always be there providing security and love. After a separation, adults are often so immersed in their own pain that they may be blind to their children’s need for love and guidance. Much credibility is at stake for the Church to live out a message of mercy which must be filtered into the life of a couple who have divorced. Many good, value centred people get locked into a spiritual prison of their own making due to a divorce since they feel neglected by the church if they are divested of any kind of participation. Some parishes raise a red flag upon an individual’s registration by asking, “Is your marriage recognised by the church?” Did a Catholic priest or deacon celebrate your wedding?” Questions like these lead some to stray from church life, and search for a Catholic community or tradition that is more accepting of their marital history. One solution that comes into play after a divorce is an annulment. The word startles many; some equate it to a “Catholic divorce.” There are countless myths about annulments; yet in explaining the annulment process to many, I have discovered that approximately 1/3 of Catholics who enquire about annulments actually follow up on the process due to the length of time it takes, uncomfortable questions that pertain to their dating and marital history; and, no guarantee that an annulment will be granted. Declarations of annulments are granted whenever it can be shown that some essential or judicial defect made a particular marriage invalid from the beginning despite outward appearance, the good faith of the partners, or the establishment of a family. It should be understood that an annulment does not affect the legitimacy of children of such a marriage, which is a question that many entertain. Statements such as a divorced person is automatically excommunicated, annulments make children illegitimate, only the rich can get an annulment, and your former spouse has to agree before you can get an annulment, are also myths that lead to dissatisfaction about the life of a divorced person in the Catholic church.

The ideals established by Jesus in marital commitments exhibit the fact that human beings are made in God’s image; and must be treated with respect, dignity, and love. I believe that most people enter into marriage with this intention; however, sometimes the ideals of a marriage shift in direction whereby the goals of one or both parties get abandoned. This creates barriers that sidetrack people from their marital covenant and the ability to express their love to each other. Like most other issues that face the church, education on divorce/remarriage is a primary task. If you carry a weight in coming to church due to a divorce and/or remarriage outside the church, I offer you my time to clarify your situation. Please feel free to call, email, etc. to review your state of affairs aware that everyone who enters the church has something that weighs them down. It becomes a freeing experience whenever those burdens are taken away so that the love that Christ calls forth in relationships is enjoyed and cherished.

SAINT OF THE WEEK SAINT AUGUSTINE ZHAO RONG AND COMPANIONS Augustine Zhao Rong, a Chinese soldier, was ordered to escort a bishop to his death sentence in Beijing. The bishop’s courage, patience, and demeanor amazed Augustine and changed his life. Risking his own death sentence, Augustine was baptised, became a priest soon afterwards, and was himself martyred in 1815. In the year 2000, Augustine was canonized by Pope John Paul II, along with 119 other Chinese martyrs who had died for the faith between the years of 1648 and 1930. Of the 120 total martyred, 87 of them were born in China, and were children, parents, catechists, labourers, or diocesan priests. The 33 martyrs not born in China were mostly priests or religious women. “Every piece of my flesh, every drop of my blood will tell you that I am a Christian.” (Chi Zhuzi, an 18 year old martyr.)

SUMMERTIME: Please remember that in the summer, there is no vacation from your vocation of being a Catholic follower of Christ. Remember to participate Mass each Sunday and to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Bring God into your vacation in a special way by continuing to participate in Sunday Mass while travelling.

PETER’S PENCE COLLECTION (SECOND COLLECTION) 6/7th JULY The Peter’s Pence Collection provides for the charitable works and structures of mercy identified by His Holiness, Pope Francis. By supporting this collection, you join with others across the world in supporting urgent projects including emergency assistance to those in need due to natural disasters, communities impacted by corona virus, conflict, oppression and disease. Our generosity allows the Holy Father to respond to those suffering with love and compassion. The Peter’s Pence appeal has been severely impacted by World events and your support will be gratefully received by the Holy See. There will be a **Second Collection this weekend**. Thank you for your generosity.

FACE-TO-FACE CONFESSION- QUESTION: In today’s digital world, do we really need to be face-to-face with a priest to confess our sins? Would Facetime or Zoom ever be allowed? **Answer:** The question of whether or not Catholics can celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation virtually (via social media, by phone, or in some other way) is a question that has actually been around for several years. The recent COVID-19 pandemic brought the question back in a new way, especially as many parishes were forced to introduce a sort of “social distanced” confession, with the sacrament being celebrated outdoors. Although modern forms of technology and communication can help us in our work of evangelisation catechesis, the Pontifical Council for Social Communication has reminded us that, “Virtual reality is no substitute for the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, the sacramental reality of the other sacraments, and shared worship in a flesh and blood human community. There are no sacraments on the internet” (The Church and the Internet, no. 9). Although our encounters with others on the internet and via social media can be considered “real” in one sense, in the sacraments we encounter Christ in a personal and ecclesial way. While the convenience or ease of online celebrations might be appealing for many reasons, at heart, we always want to keep in mind the fullness of the Church’s tradition and the meaning of the sacraments.

“Our deeds are daily, both day and night, reported to the Lord by the angels assigned to us.” St. Benedict of Nursia, abbot

200 CLUB WINNERS FOR JUNE-The winners for the month of June are-1st Peter Thompson £25, 2nd Bernie Barnett £15, 3rd Ixia Barnett £10. Many congratulations to the winners. Our gratitude and appreciation go to Carol Crossland for her dedication and hardwork. Thank you and God bless you!

ON THE WAY- SYMBOLS OF THE SPIRIT: the Seal Unlike some other symbols of the Holy Spirit (fire, wind), the meaning of the seal is not immediately obvious to us...because seals are not a part of our lives. The word “seal” in scripture indicates the hot wax poured on two ends of a paper together to secure them and that is then stamped. Email, our preferred method of correspondence, doesn’t allow us to seal an envelope and our electronic documents don’t carry seals. Still, the symbol is an important one. It figures large in Saint Paul’s theology: “[T]he one who gives us security with you in Christ and who anointed us is God; he has also put his seal upon us and given the Spirit in our hearts as a first instalment (2 Cor 1:21- 22)... In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised holy Spirit, which is the first instalment of our inheritance toward redemption as God’s possession, to the praise of his glory (Eph 1:13)... And do not grieve the holy Spirit of God, with which you were sealed for the day of redemption” (Eph 4:30). The seal teaches us four things about the Holy Spirit’s work in us. First, finality. When a document has an embossed or stamped a seal, we know that it’s the final version. There will be no more changes. When an envelope is sealed, we know that its contents are finalised and ready to go. So, the Lord’s work has been completed in his gift of the Spirit. We have been “sealed with the promised holy Spirit, which is the first instalment of our inheritance toward redemption as God’s possession” (Eph 1:13). Second, ownership. The seal of the Holy Spirit marks us as God’s possession. Christians are set apart as belonging to God. However much we might give our loyalty to another or allow another to “own” us, we still belong to him. This is an ownership of love; we are bound to the lover. Thus, the lover in the Song of Songs says to the beloved, “Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm” (Song 8:6). In this regard, the seal indicates the indelible character that the Holy Spirit imprints on our souls at Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders. Nothing can undo the change effected on the soul by those Sacraments.

A baptised person is always baptised, even when acting contrary to that reality. Our identity as children of God is not a legal fiction or a turn of phrase. It’s an actual change in the soul that the Spirit effects and that can never be undone. The Father has “put his seal upon us” (2 Cor 1:22) not physically but spiritually. We might not act like children of God, but that doesn’t undo our identity. It just means that we’re bad children. Third, authenticity and authority. The raised seal on a document tells you that it is authentic and can be trusted. It is therefore authoritative. So also, every Christian, sealed by the Holy Spirit, is authentically a child of God. And when we live in accord with that, we give authoritative witness to him. Fourth, security. A sealed envelope tells you that the message is secure. It hasn’t been tampered with. So, the Holy Spirit is our security of salvation. Several times, Saint Paul speaks of the Spirit as the “first instalment” of our salvation. In other words, to assure us of our salvation, God has already given us a share of his Spirit as a downpayment or pledge of eternal life.

ALTAR FLOWERS Altar Flowers are a symbol of grace, prayer, and virtue. They are a reminder to us of God's beautiful creation. Fresh altar flowers are a great way to honour a loved one for a special occasion such as a Birthday, Wedding Anniversary, or to remember a loved one on the anniversary of their passing. Your honourarium will be published in the bulletin the weekend the altar flowers are to be given. Please note that flowers cannot be given during the seasons of Advent and Lent. Please contact Ann Larke or Father Saji in the Parish Office or send an email.

POPE’S INTENTIONS FOR JULY. For the pastoral care of the sick. We pray that the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick confer to those who receive it and their loved ones the power of the Lord and become ever more a visible sign of compassion and hope for all.

ASK A CATHOLIC PRIEST-QUESTION-Are my prayers even worthy of God listening and answering? Please know- I have a great life and “Don’t want to bother God with my insignificant needs” Hope that makes sense. **Answer**-Great questions! These are the kind of questions that help us to dive deeper into how much God truly loves us all. "Don't want to bother God with my insignificant needs." Many people feel this way and I would love to know where it came from. God has proved time and time again that everything about us is important. Why I can say this confidently is the Wedding Feast of Cana. Now here is the first time Jesus shows us his power. Notice how it’s not the Transfiguration or bringing Lazarus back from the dead. It’s making sure there is enough wine for a wedding. Now what does that have to do with salvation history? The more I read this passage the more I have come to realise that Jesus is showing us from the beginning of his public ministry that everything is important to him. There is nothing insignificant about you to God. He loves all of you and wants to help all of you. This is how deep and immense God's love is for all of us.

SAINT OF THE WEEK Born **CATERINA DE’ PAZZI**, to a noble family in Florence, St. Mary Magdalen de’ Pazzi (April 2, 1566 – May 25, 1607), has been called the “ecstatic saint” or “The Passion Flower of the Eucharist,” because of the trance-like state, or ecstasy, she entered for long periods after receiving Holy Communion. An ecstasy is when a person’s internal and external senses are completely occupied by God, so much so that the individual is entirely unaware of anything other than God. Caterina learned to meditate at age 9, and took her first communion at age 10, which was young for her time. She was so moved by the experience that she took a personal vow of virginity. She longed to be able to receive the blessed sacrament every day and so at 16, she entered the Carmelite convent of Santa Maria del’ Angeli, which had a special dispensation to celebrate the Eucharist daily. As a novice she took the name Mary Magdalen. In 1584, she became so ill that the sisters feared she would die and so she was allowed to profess her vows from a stretcher in the chapel. What followed was a miracle. For 40 days she would enter a state of ecstasy lasting several hours after receiving Holy Communion. She recovered from her illness and her sisters recorded the teachings she offered during the ecstasies, they are collected in “Revelations and Intelligences.” Her years of ecstasies and visions, which she saw as witness of her sins rather than a reward for her holiness, were followed by five years of temptation, doubt, and suffering. She led an exemplary life of service as mistress of novices and postulants, and eventually the superior. She died on May 25, 1607, after a long excruciatingly painful illness. She was beatified by Pope Urban VIII in 1626 and canonized by Pope Clement IX in 1669. St. Mary Magdalen de’ Pazzi, pray for us!

MAKE THE BEST USE OF YOUR TIME Time is something we don’t know how much we have, but if we use it efficiently, we can achieve a lot in life. Most people don’t value their time. They spend their time in unwanted activities that not only exhaust them but also negatively affect every next moment of life. People who are able to bring about positive changes, secure their future and succeed in life are those who value their present moment, take action and don’t let anything control their mind. To make the best use of your present, engage your mind in things that can help build, grow and learn and take actions that lead to growth. Limit your screen time, don’t indulge in gossip, turn your thoughts into actions and get started. Allow yourself to make the most of your present, as it will ultimately determine your future.

PARISH BBQ-THANK YOU-Thank you to everyone who came to the BBQ on Sunday and to those who donated towards it to defray the cost. Primarily our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation go to Jeff Coy for making it happen through his tenacious efforts and dedication. Thank you! Thank you to our wonderfully gifted ladies who worked hard to make the day a success with their tremendous support with cleaning, arrangement, washing, providing confectionery etc. Thank you to all who contributed to the fun atmosphere with their participation and involvement. Thank you and God bless you!