



Feast of Christ The King Youth Sunday

Dear Parishioners, Friends, Brothers, Sisters,

This Sunday is the last Sunday of the Liturgical Year, <http://www.catholicstv.org/blog/catholic-classroom-our-lord-jesus-christ-king-the-universe>

the conclusion, reminding us that Jesus Christ, incarnate, preacher, healer, crucified, died, risen, ascended, has sent his Holy Spirit for the empowerment of his body the Church, for the growth of his Kingdom here on earth: all that remains is for him to return in his glory, whenever or however that may happen. He is above all powers and authorities in heaven and on earth; he is King of Kings, Lord of Lords. As every week I have trawled internet pictures to find a suitable picture to head the bulletin. Whilst I had a twentyfold choice of images, I found it very hard to see one that I felt expressed today's feast. A bit like trying to find the right birthday card sometimes. Some were too mushy, even the one I chose he looks like a film star. Another looked too triumphalistic. Perhaps that is the nature of the feast. It is trying to express the God who suffered and died in the flesh is now over all. Perhaps it cannot be expressed in human concept – perhaps we need a more abstract expression? The only one I felt at home with was the one image there of Jesus wearing the crown of thorns. What does it say about me that it was the only one I could relate to? Is it that my encounters with him on this earth are through suffering? And can only relate to him in his power and glory when this life is over? Try Googling “Images for the Feast of Christ the king” and see which images appeal to you.



For a couple of decades it has also been designated as National Youth Sunday. We are challenged to see how we are trying to encourage our young people to be engaged in the life of our Church and Mission. This year we cannot do anything by gathering together. What lockdown is helping our Youth Mission to focus on is that the mission to and with our young people begins at home! <https://nationalyouthsunday.com/>

There is a whole stack of stuff here on this website. I encourage you to click on the tab labelled “Family” Look also at “Parish” and feel free to look at it all of course. I am grateful to our YMT who have been providing us with reflections at different times of the year. If you are so minded could you send your contribution to support the Youth Ministry of the diocese electronically? Thanks.

Following last week's appraisal of the Catholic Church's response to abuse, the Bishops have responded with a statement. (See link attached)

Finally, normally on this Friday night I would be decorating my bike ready for the annual Boundary 500 Santa Ride for Zoe's Place Baby Hospice. For 14 years it has been a load of fun, in early years beginnings at Thornaby Fire Station, transferring to the shopping centre, always concluding at Kirkleatham Hall in Redcar, after a trundle round the seafront and shops, for bacon buttie accompanied by carols played by Cleveland Police Band.

Thousands come to cheer us along the way and support a worthy cause.

<https://www.zoes-place.org.uk/middlesbrough/default.aspx> I am grateful that, even though we have had to cancel because of Covid many have seen fit to support us. If you would like to donate please drop a cheque For Zoe's Place Baby Hospice in the presbytery or on my justgiving site

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/nicholas-jennings3>



Even Mitsu got in on the act

