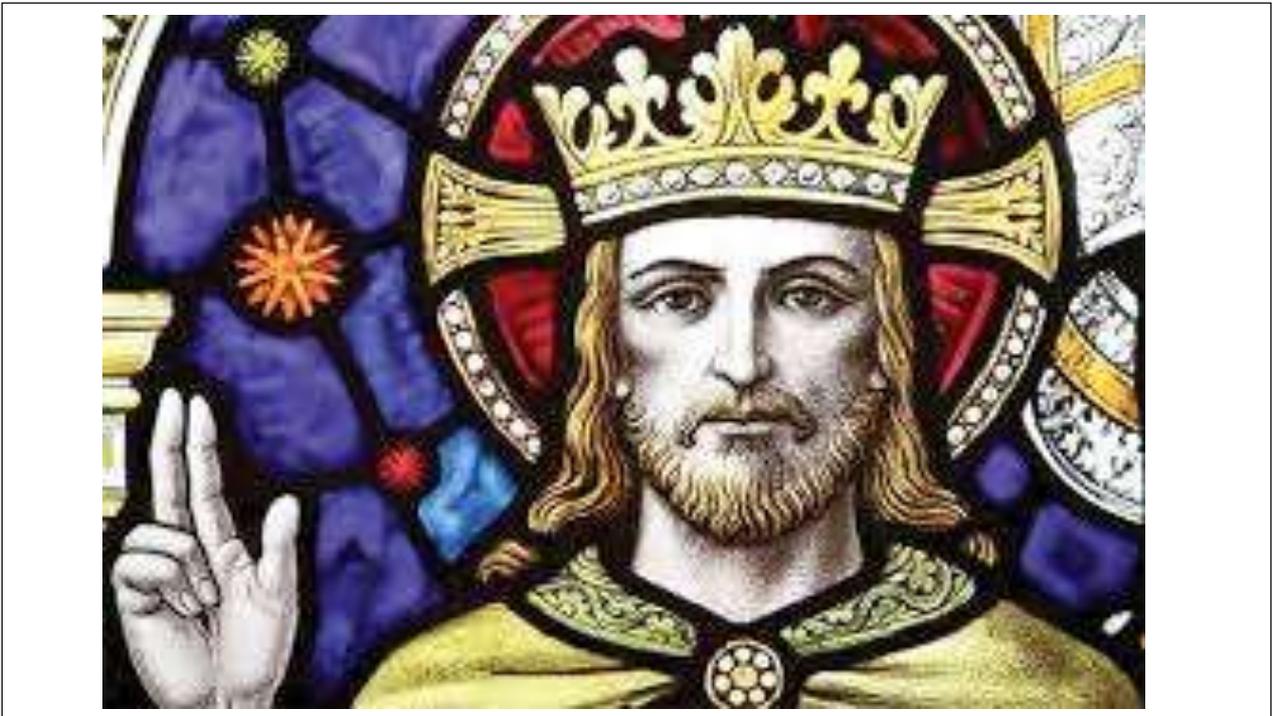


Parish of Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham

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Solemnity of Jesus Christ, Universal King 24 November 2018

“Yes, I am a king. I was born for this. I came into the world for this:
to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth
listen to my voice”

John 18, 37

Last Sunday of the Year (Year B – Mark): Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Universal King: In this centenary of the end of World War I, Remembrance Day was celebrated with particular poignancy. It was less about victory and Empire as it had been in days gone by, it focused rather on the lives, so many of them cut short so early, lost in the greatest collective act of folly in the history of humankind. There was prayer for the dead and prayer for the grace to avoid history being repeated. In 1918 empires collapsed and were wiped off the map, royal families dethroned and banished, in one tragic case – the Romanoffs – executed. The post-war period saw the creation of new nation states and the birth of fledgling democracies: henceforth all the people, thanks to the principle of universal franchise, had a say in how the country of which they were citizens could be run. The move to the secular state and democracy was anything but smooth. Initially the Church saw it as a threat. Hence the institution by Pope Pius XI of the feast of Christ the King in 1925. In the light of the increasing militancy of secularism in the west and Bolshevism in the East, the image of a kingdom with Christ as sovereign was seen to preserve those gospel-based values which lay at the foundation of any society where human dignity was preserved and all men and women counted equally. The vision of Church and society which emerged from the Second Vatican Council, especially in the two crucial council documents *Lumen Gentium* (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church) and *Gaudium et Spes* (Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World), sits much more easily with the underlying ideas Pius XI wished to make part of the Catholic Church’s heritage in instituting the Solemnity of Christ the Universal King. Today’s celebration is the crowning crescendo of the liturgical year.

First Reading (OT): Daniel 7, 13 – 14: This late OT book was written at a time of foreign occupation and persecution. It presents the Israelites with an alternative power structure. It places God firmly on his throne, bringing order into chaos, supervising justice in his domain. It awards a role to the Son of Man whom we encounter in today’s reading. He is a figure who, in God’s name, secures the establishment of a new lordship on the earth.

Second Reading (NT): Apocalypse 1, 5 – 8: Like the Book of Daniel, the Apocalypse (Revelation) is a book of consolation. It tells of the “second coming” of the Lord on the clouds of heaven. He is the first born of the dead and returns as Lord of all the kings of earth. Our belief in resurrection alters completely our perspective on earthly realities. Today we contemplate the kingdom of Christ and how it transforms the values by which we live.

Gospel: John 18, 33 – 37: Here in this dramatic scene on the first Good Friday the power and prestige of the Roman Empire is in direct confrontation with the kingdom of God. It is important to remember that Pilate considered Jesus a king and insisted that the inscription above the cross on which he was crucified identify him as such.

The readings for today’s Masses are to be found in Parish Mass Book : pp 160-162

Masses and Intentions

Thirty-fourth week in Ordinary Time

Saturday 24th November 10.00 Jackie Clyne RIP
Feria in Ordinary Time

**Solemnity of
 Our Lord Jesus Christ
 King of the Universe**

Year B (Mark)

Saturday 24th November 17.30 Tony Lundy RIP
 Sunday 25th November 10.00 Carmen Picallo Gomez RIP
 12.00 Baptism
 18.00 Mapledurham Mass
 18.30 Jim & Bridie O'Sullivan RIP

Monday 26th November 09.15 Holy souls
Feria in Ordinary Time

Tuesday 27th November 09.15 Holy souls
Feria in Ordinary Time

Wednesday 28th November 09.15 Holy souls
Feria in Ordinary Time

Thursday 29th November 08.00 Holy souls
Feria in Ordinary Time

Friday 30th November 12.30 Holy souls
Feast: St Andrew

Saturday 1st December 10.00 Matej & Maria Grestiak RIP
Feast: St Edmund Champion

First Sunday of Advent

Year C (Luke)

Saturday 1st December 17.30 People of the parish
 Sunday 2nd December 10.00 William Henry Stubbs
 18.30 Th'giving: Our Lady & St Teresa

Confessions: Saturday 10.30 - 11.30
 16.45 - 17.15

Exposition
 & Benediction: Saturday 10.30 - 11.30

Evening prayer, Rosary: Saturday 16.45