

# Parish of Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham

Parish Priest  
Monsignor Patrick H. Daly

Presbytery  
2 South View Avenue,  
Caversham,  
READING RG4 5AB  
Telephone: 0118 947 1787  
Office email: [o.l.a.s.a.office@gmail.com](mailto:o.l.a.s.a.office@gmail.com)  
Parish Secretary: Miss Lis Leddy  
Parish Priest email: [o.l.a.s.a.priest@gmail.com](mailto:o.l.a.s.a.priest@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.ourladyandstanne.org.uk](http://www.ourladyandstanne.org.uk)



Thirty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time 23/24 November 2019  
'Above him there was an inscription: "This is the King of the Jews."  
Luke 23, 38



**Thirty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Solemnity of Christ the Universal King (Year C – Luke):** The feast of Christ the King was introduced into the liturgical calendar in 1926 by Pope Pius XI [originally the last Sunday in October, now much more logically and theologically significant, the final Sunday of the liturgical year] in the wake of World War I which saw the collapse of a number of empires [German, Austro/Hungarian {Habsburg} and Ottoman] and kingdoms. The fragility and vulnerability of earthly potentates were cruelly exposed by WW I and also the capacity of emperors and kings to protect their people. Today there are still kingdoms within the European family of nations but they have been stripped of much of the pomp, circumstance and splendour which they possessed in the past: the outward glitter of their power has faded. It is against this background that we can see Jesus Christ as king and the values of the kingdom of God, bearing in mind that in his own day Pilate questions his royal credentials and the Jews found his claim to be a king pretentious and faintly ludicrous. It is the crucified Christ who is at the focus of attention today, the cross is his throne, entrance for us to his kingdom has been won through his sacrificial death on that same cross. As we solemnly proclaim at the opening of the Easter Vigil, Jesus is the Alpha & Omega, the beginning and the end, and it is in the light of that truth – expounded on by Paul in his letter to the Colossians – that we celebrate the *absolute* monarchy of Jesus and his universal kingship.

**First Reading (OT): 2 Samuel 5, 1– 3:** Israel had a troubled history in so far as its monarchy was concerned. Getting it established at all was one thing, then how to position the king in society was another headache. The king did not place himself at the centre, God was at the centre. Those kings who refused to give the priority to God (and they were the majority) courted deep unpopularity with the people. There were exceptions: David, not without failings, became the ideal king. He profiled himself as shepherd who took care of his people.

**Second Reading (NT): Colossians 1, 12 – 20:** There is a lot of confusion and conflict in our world, the powers of darkness often seem to have the upper hand. Yet here Paul presents the structure which lies behind the kingdom of God, with Christ as king, in which he encourages the Colossians to place their faith. This is a great theological portrait of Jesus as mediator, and as lord of all creation.

**Gospel: Luke 23, 35 – 43:** Any claim to be king in the Roman Empire represented a frontal assault on the authority and dignity of the Emperor in Rome. It was on account of the claim that Jesus was “king of the Jews” that the Romans put him to death. Jesus never relinquished his claim to be king, but his kingdom was not of this world. Perplexity to the Romans, held in derision by the Jews, and yet king.

# Masses and Intentions

## Week 34 in Ordinary Time

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 10.00 People of the parish  
*Feria in Ordinary Time*

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

**Year C**

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 17.30

Catherine O'Brien

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November 10.00  
 18.30

Mary Esther Kelly RIP

Bridie & Jimmy O'Sullivan RIP

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November 11.30  
*Feria in Ordinary Time*

Requiem Mass - Noreen Mansfield

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 09.15  
*Feria in Ordinary Time*

Our Lady & St Anne

Wednesday 27<sup>h</sup> November 09.15  
*Feria in Ordinary Time*

Joan Jiggins RIP

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November 08.00  
*Feria in Ordinary Time*

Frank & Gwen Booth

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 12.30  
*Feria in Ordinary Time*

People of the parish

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 10.00  
*Feast: St Andrew*

Deceased of McAdden family

**First Sunday of Advent**

**Year C**

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 17.30

Tony Lundy RIP

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 10.00  
 18.30

Sean & Andrew Morris RIP

Nancy Lynch (b/day)

Confessions:	Saturday	10.30 - 11.30
		16.45 - 17.15

Exposition & Benediction:	Saturday	10.30 - 11.30
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Evening prayer, Rosary:	Saturday	16.45
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