

THE WORD

Year A • Season Colour: Green • Psalter week 2

CHRIST THE KING



Christ the King Monument, Swiebodzin, Poland

In the first two chapters of Matthew's account, known generally as the *Infancy Narrative*, the theme of Jesus, *King of the Jews* is introduced.

The Magi come to Jerusalem looking for the newborn King of the Jews, a quest which alarms Herod exceedingly. Here at the end of the story of Jesus' ministry this theme of him as King is presented in terms of the final judgment. The term will feature again in the account of the crucifixion: the four evangelists agree that the charge on the cross describes Jesus as *King of the Jews*, and Matthew presents the soldiers as making fun of Jesus the King with the crown of thorns and the scarlet robe.

It might be helpful to remember that in the opening verse of Matthew's gospel, Jesus is called son of *David*, as is Joseph, the husband of Mary. David was the king who united all the tribes of Israel around him. The principal duty of the king in peacetime was the administration of justice, and these two characteristics are to be found in the feast we celebrate today. Christ is the focus of unity, not only for human beings, but for the universe. The vision in the Gospel is that of the glorious Son of Man dispensing justice as King. It tells us that the glorious Christ whom we will meet is the one we encounter today in the poor, the stranger, the sick and those in prison. We are told during the Mass that Christ's kingdom is to be one of truth and life, holiness and grace, justice, love and peace. This is not a kingdom which we can leave to some future existence, but one which we should try to bring about in our own world here and now, in whatever way we can. The idea of judgment is uncomfortable, but it is meant to be. It is intended to remind us that to believe in God, in Jesus is not something completely private, to be expressed only in personal prayer and public liturgy, but also lived out in our dealings with other people. ■

REFLECT

Some symbols which might help us appreciate the kind of king Christ is:

Crib: the word of God took flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary; through the person of Jesus the risen and glorified Christ understands what it means to be human;

Crook: Christ is the shepherd king like David; today's reading from Ezekiel and the Psalm recall the Lord as shepherd, gathering the flock and judging between its members;

Cross: Jesus is proclaimed King on the Cross, the symbol of his complete obedience and dedication to the mission entrusted to him by the Father;

Crown: Jesus is exalted as Son of God through his offering of himself for our sake; this is expressed in the New Testament by means of psalms used at the coronation of the Israelite kings. ■

LEARN

The title *Son of Man* is used in the Gospels in the context of Jesus' suffering; it also occurs in texts to do with the final judgment which echo the book of Daniel.

The true king of Israel was the Lord.

The human king was still subject to the word of God mediated by the prophet.

The image of the *Shepherd King* was common in the Ancient Near East.

DO

Reflect on the scene in today's gospel reading and the criteria the king uses in judging; decide how you could better put your faith into action.

SAY

The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

PARISH OF DROMORE

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Feast of Christ The King

Sunday Mass Times

St Colman's Dromore **All Saints Ballela**
Sunday 11.00am Sunday 9.45am

Weekday Mass Times: St Colman's

Mon, Wed & Fri: 9.30am: Liturgy of the Word
with Eucharist

Tues & Thu: 9.30am Mass

Sat: 10-11am: Exposition of The Blessed sacrament

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 26: Members of The Doran Family

John & Mary Cunningham

Mary McGrath

Willie McAleenan, Kilmacrew

Daniel & Theresa Doyle, Kilkinamurry

Sun 3: None

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 26: Mairead Keery

Kathleen Doherty

Matthew, Margaret & Arthur Brown

Sun 3: None

Offertory Promise Collection £1057.28

Readers - Dromore

Sun 3: Niall Rice

Lourdes Christmas bingo

In Annaclone football club on **Sunday 26th of November at 3.00pm**. The committee are currently running a raffle for a Hamper to the value of £100, to be drawn before Christmas £1 per line, contact any member of Lourdes committee to be in with a chance.

Friends of St Colmans P.T.A Are holding a "Bingo Night" on **Thur 7th of Dec at 7pm** in St Colmans Hall Dromore. Everyone Welcome.

S.V.P Christmas Collection

Will take place on Sunday **10th December** to help many families in our community who are in need of support over the Christmas period. Thank you to all our parishioners for their kind donations throughout the year. Helpline: 07738838187.

Hospice Collection Total £672.79. Thank You.

Sunday 26th Nov 2017

Parish Draw Winners Week 31

£100	Isobel Cunningham	003
£50	David Mackin	161
£30	Nuala Cull	070
£20	Martin McDonald	241

Ballela GAC Lotto

Lotto Numbers: 7 17 20 23

£10 winner: Kathleen McCusker

Seller: Sean Burns

Next week's jackpot £1250

Christmas Coffee Morning

Ballela Community Group are having their Christmas Coffee morning in Ballela School on **Sun 10th Dec** after 9.45am Mass in Ballela. There will be delicious homemade scones, buns and treats for everyone and there will be a chance for all the kids to visit Santa in his Grotto. Holly wreaths for sale.

Admission £2 per person.

Tea & Chat

Will take place after 11am mass on Sun 26th Nov in St Colmans Hall, Dromore. Everyone welcome.

"Action cancer" Coffee Morning

Caroline Connolly is hosting a Coffee Morning on Sat 9th Dec at 26c Shanrod Rd, Katesbridge, from 10am – 5pm in aid of "Action Cancer" Everyone welcome.

Do This In Memory

Will take place in both churches on Sun 26th Nov.

Dromantine Advent Retreat Weekend

8th to 10th December. See notice at back of Church.

Youth 2000 Christmas Retreat

Youth 2000 invites all young adults ages of 16-35 to a Catholic weekend retreat from **8th – 10th Dec** at Newbridge College, Co. Kildare. All meals provided just bring a donation and a sleeping bag. Free buses from various points throughout the country. Book is essential. For more info see www.youth2000.ie, or Tel 00353 (0) 16753690

Annaclone Youth Club annual Craft Fayre

On **Sun 3rd Dec** 11am – 2pm in Annaclone Hall. Stalls, children's activities and refreshments, for more information call Trish Magennis 07957860463.