

JESUS CHRIST, KING OF LOVE ON CALVARY

(LUKE 23:35-43)



Today's Gospel passage puts before us what it means for Jesus to be the "King of the Jews". He is on the cross.

But even now, we see that important themes which have run through Luke's narrative continue. There is division among the people over Jesus: he is mocked by the soldiers while the faithful people stand watching. The soldiers and the notice above him on the cross proclaim him sarcastically as "King of the Jews", but ironically, they are correct. The soldiers challenge him, "If you are the King of the Jews", save yourself, which reminds us of the devil's provocative testing, "If you are the Son of God...": will Jesus be truly the King of the Jews, truly the Son of God, or will he try to avoid his destiny? The two criminals also reflect the division over the person of Jesus: one repeats the taunt of the soldiers and includes himself in the possible deliverance, whereas the other accepts his responsibility for his fate and expresses his faith in Jesus. It is this appeal for mercy which enables him to be forgiven, and he is promised Paradise. In Luke's Gospel, salvation means the restoring of the people by the forgiveness of sins. Here on the cross, Jesus still offers forgiveness, even to those who were crucifying him. His death is a perfect summary of his life. If he is a king, it is certainly not in the normal understanding of the title. ■

SAY

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom (Luke 23:42)

LEARN

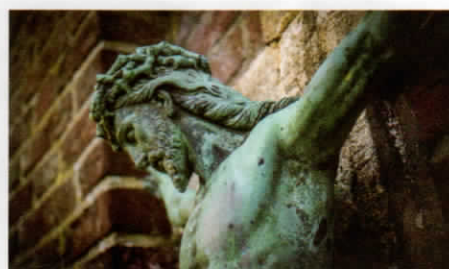
The persons crucified with Jesus were criminals, not thieves.

Death by crucifixion came through the person suffocating because they could no longer push themselves up by their legs and so could not breathe, due to the pressure on their chest.

Jesus was crucified on a political charge as King of the Jews, not for a religious offence, such as claiming to be Son of God.

DO

Look at a crucifix which depicts Jesus as king: it is the cross which shows what Jesus being a king really means.



REFLECT

Many people say that the Third Gospel, the version according to Luke, is the one they find most attractive and meaningful of the three Synoptic narratives. Jesus emerges from those pages especially as a sensitive person who is attentive to the needs of those whom he encounters. His exchange with the criminal on the cross is a moving conversation, which reveals his ongoing concern for those individuals who feel themselves rejected and marginalised by mainstream society.

The Feast of Christ the King was introduced by Pope Pius XI in 1925. Its full title is 'The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe'. Christ is presented as having universal authority from God the Father, as St

Paul tells us. This is not a triumphalist notion, but emphasises the mutual relationship of all human beings, that we are all brothers and sisters in God's family. Christ's rule is not envisaged simply as being directed at people, but also over the universe: human beings are the stewards of creation, of the natural world, and as such should treat what is in their care as the Lord intends.

Luke's Christ the King, whom we are celebrating today, is one who gives his life for others: who even as he is dying, still reaches out with forgiveness. Perhaps if we take the lesson of today's Gospel and try to show by our own lives that we accept Jesus' teaching, then the Kingdom may well come on earth, as it is in heaven. ■

PARISH OF DROMORE

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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 & Thurs : Liturgy of the word - 9.30am

Tues & Fri: Mass 9.30am

Weekday Mass times: All Saints

Thurs: 7pm

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 24: Mary McGrath

Doran Family

Sun 1: Daniel & Teresa Doyle

John McCormac

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 24: Mairead Keery

John & Kathleen Doherty

Sun 1: None

Offertory Promise Collection £1004.20

Readers – Dromore

Sun 1: Niall Rice

Masses for those who died since Nov 2018

Will be held in both churches on **Sun 24th Nov**.

Hospice Collection

Total for Hospice collection was £1414.39. Thank

You for your generosity.

St Mary's Primary School, Dechomet

Open Night on Tuesday 10th December 2019 from

6.30pm – 8.00pm. Christmas Plays on Tuesday 17th

December 2019 at 10.00am and 7.00pm.

Trócaire Gifts Of Love Trócaire brochures are

available at the back of the church.

Family Advent craft evenings

We invite families to join us in **Ballela School** at 6.00

pm on the Sundays of Advent for prayer, reflection

and crafts in preparation for Christmas. Activities for

all the family as we make mangers – you will need

shoe boxes and lots of card-board wrappings from

your on-line deliveries!!! We commence on 1st

December.

SVP Christmas church door collection

Will take place on **Sun 8th Dec** in both churches.

Sunday 24th Nov 2019

Parish Draw Winners Week 35

£100	Noel Finegan	224
£50	John Beggs	469
£30	John McEvoy	347
£20	Aileen Gracey	170

Ballela G.A.C Lotto

Sun 13th Nov: 10 11 12 21

No £10 winner's

Seller: Sean Burns Jackpot £2000

Festive Flower Arranging

Ballela Community group are having an evening of

Festive Flower arranging on **Wed 27th Nov at 7.30pm**

in Ballela school. Admission is £5 which includes

mulled wine, shortbread and mince pies and also a

free ticket for the raffle for a flower arrangement.

Arrangements will be made by Donna Morgan and

there will be lots of ideas for everyone to decorate

their home this Christmas. Date for your diary

Christmas Coffee morning **Sun 8th Dec**.

Night of Music

The Irish Pilgrimage Trust is having a night of music in

St Therese's Church Banbridge on **Sun 8th December**

at 7.30pm. Singers are Malachi Cush, Liam Lawton &

Karl McGuckin with special guests Fiona Flynn & Mary

Queen of Peace Junior Choir. Tickets are £20 and can

be purchased at Banbridge Parish office, Newry Parish

office or by ringing 07855 802 011.

The Giving Tree

This Christmas St Vincent de Paul ask for your support

with a Christmas Present Appeal by donating new,

unwrapped toys and gifts for children and adults who

might not otherwise receive a Christmas present. The

gifts will then be wrapped and distributed to those in

need. How to take part? Take a tag from the tree in St

Colman's Church, buy the gift and return it in a bag

with the tag attached. Please return the gifts no later

than **Sun 15th December**. Leave in the box at the back

of St Colman's Church. Thank You SVP.

Abbey Grammar School, Newry

APTA Remembrance mass for all Past Pupils, staff,

family and friends on **Mon 2nd Dec 5pm**, The Oratory

Abbey Grammar School, Newry.

Do you need financial or practical assistance or even a friendly chat?

The St. Vincent De Paul Society is here to help. You can contact us through our helpline number: 07738838187