

The Magazine of the Chaplaincy of Christ the Good Shepherd, Poitou-Charentes



SUNDAY 21st NOVEMBER 2021

This is the last Sunday before the start of Advent

Today we celebrate: Christ the King



Jesus Christ is the everlasting King whose kingdom is not of this world, but grows in the hearts of His people and lasts for ever

THE COLLECTS FOR TODAY

Eternal Father,

whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever

> God the Father, help us to hear the call of Christ the King and to follow in his service, whose kingdom has no end; for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, one glory.

TODAY'S LECTIONARY BIBLE READINGS

Daniel 7.9-10,13,14

Psalm 93

Revelation 1.4b-8

John 18.33-37

For those who follow such things, this is the last Sunday in the Church Year, ending the second cycle of Readings from the Lectionary. Next week, we start Year C

There are so many names for this Sunday:

- The last Sunday before Advent
- The Twenty-Fifth Sunday ater Trinity
- Christ the King Sunday
- And Stir Up Sunday

Stir-up Sunday is a centuries-old annual tradition where home-cooks spend the last Sunday before Advent 'stirring up' their Christmas pudding.

It revived back in Victorian times, and became a tradition where families would come together to get their fruit puddings stirred up, steamed and stored ahead of Christmas. Each member of the family would take a turn to give all the ingredients a good mix and help tick off the first task of the festive season.

It gets its name from the beginning of the collect for the day in the Book of Common Prayer,

STIR up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Remembrance Sale of Poppies - a note from William Jones

Through our local services, at ex-pat events and on the 11 November at local French commemorations we have been able to raise 94 euros. As a result I have made a **donation of £85** to the Royal British Legion. I feel that it was very worthwhile. We do have some poppies left that I will save for next year to try to do the same again.



READING THE CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE AGAIN

At the end of the year, a complete list of the passages enabling you to read again (or for the first time) the whole Bible in one year, chronologically, will be available by email or in a printed booklet.

Please email me if you would like a copy **even if you have already told me**. The memory is not what it was (!) and I can keep your request in my computer for when the time comes.

Please state if you would like to receive your copy by email or in printed form (with a small cost for printing and postage)

To reserve your copy: email david.hawken@orange.fr

In the meantime, here are this week's readings

READ THE CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE IN A YEAR

Sunday 21st November: Acts 15:1 - 16:40

Monday 22nd: Acts 17:1 - 18:17, 1 Thessalonians 1:1 - 2:16

Tuesday 23rd: 1 Thessalonians 2:17 - 5:28, 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

Wednesday 24th: 2 Thessalonians 2:1 - 3:18, Acts 18:18 - 19:41

Thursday 25th: 1 Corinthians 1:1 - 4:21

Friday 26th: 1 Corinthians 5:1 - 7:40

Saturday 27th: 1 Corinthians 8:1 - 11:1

(Next Sunday 28th): 1 Corinthians 11:2 - 13:13

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SERVICES:

The Chaplaincy is unable to provide any in-person or online services today. Some suggestions for worship at home are provided on the next pages.

WORSHIP AT HOME

Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.

God raised Christ from the dead and enthroned him at his right hand in heaven.

God has given him dominion, glory and all sovereignty: that all peoples and nations shall serve him.

We sing the hymn "O worship the King"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tVs0VsJRyE0

O WORSHIP the King, all glorious above; O gratefully sing His power and his love: Our shield and defender, The Ancient of days, Pavilioned in splendour, and girded with praise.

O tell of his might, O sing of his grace, Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space; Whose chariots of wrath the deep thunder-clouds form; And dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

Thy bountiful care What tongue can recite? It breathes in the air, it shines in the light, It streams from the hills, It descends to the plain, And sweetly distils In the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail, In thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail; Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end, Our Maker, defender, Redeemer, and friend!

O measureless Might! Ineffable Love! While angels delight to hymn thee above, The humbler creation, though feeble their lays, With true adoration shall sing to thy praise. Sometimes when we're singing in Church, it is difficult to take in the words. Let us pause for a moment and read through what we have just sung.

<u>A PRAYER</u>

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts be upon, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love Thee and worthily magnify thy holy name. Through Christ our Lord **AMEN**

Psalm 93

¹ The LORD reigns, he is robed in majesty;

the LORD is robed in majesty and armed with strength;

indeed, the world is established, firm and secure.

² Your throne was established long ago;

you are from all eternity.

³ The seas have lifted up, LORD,

the seas have lifted up their voice;

the seas have lifted up their pounding waves.

⁴ Mightier than the thunder of the great waters,

mightier than the breakers of the sea-

the LORD on high is mighty.

⁵ Your statutes, LORD, stand firm;

holiness adorns your house

for endless days.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end; AMEN

Let's listen now to a hymn of praise which originates from the *Taizé* community

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbG3FS8EEvI

The words of the repeated refrain mean "Praise the Lord, all people"

As we praise God and recognise His worth, we become aware of our own unworthiness to be in His presence. Let us confess to Him:

WE PRAY

Heavenly Father, our Lord and King:

We confess that we are not worthy to be in your presence; We have not loved you with our whole hearts,

Nor have we loved our neighbours as much as we should.

We are sorry and admit that we need your forgiveness and your help.

In your mercy, cleanse us from our sin - the evil we have done and the good we have not done.

Renew a right spirit within us and restore our lives in worship and service.

For the sake of your Son who died and rose for us. AMEN

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." (1 John ch.1 v.9)

May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from our sins, Heal and strengthen us by his Spirit, And raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. AMEN

Revelation 1:4-9

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne,

⁵ and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,

⁶ and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

⁷ "Look, he is coming with the clouds,"[b]

and "every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him";

and all peoples on earth "will mourn because of him."[]

So shall it be! Amen.

⁸ "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who

was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end; AMEN

This is probably the point at which there might be a sermon or a homily or a meditation - but if you look at the words we've said and sung, and the reassurance from Scripture, there's no need for anything else to be said.

So let's move on to our prayers of intercession - it's right to pray for others as well as ourselves.

INTERCESSION

We pray to our Everlasting God, through our Saviour Jesus who is both Christ the King and the Son of Man and who understands our needs and the needs of this world.

Holy God, we raise before you your church, throughout the world, of which your Son is King. We pray that you will draw us together and unite us in the love of Christ that we may proclaim with one voice your justice and righteousness in a broken world.

We pray especially for our own Chaplaincy as we prepare to open our own church building for the first time next month. May it be a centre of worship and witness to bring glory to you.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

Loving God, we pray for your world, of which your Son is King. We pray for peace, reconciliation and healing in the places of war, hatred and terrorism. We pray that the nations of this world may be united and subject to the rule of Christ the King, through whom and for whom all things were created. We pray for earthly leaders, especially Elizabeth our Queen; we thank you for her example as one who follows your Son who lives and reigns as King of Kings.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

Father God, we pray for our communities here in Poitou-Charentes of which your Son is King. We pray for the communities of our friends and families both here and in the UK, our church and our places of work and study. Help us to know the people around us to be our brothers and sisters in Christ and to serve them as He would serve them.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

Loving God, we pray for all those who suffer, among whom your Son is King. We pray that they will know the presence of your Son alongside them and the power of Christ the King within them bringing peace and healing for them and help and encouragement for those caring for them at this time of need.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

Merciful God, we raise before you all who have died and who are now with your Son the King. We pray for those who mourn, that they will receive the blessing of your comfort.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

Faithful God, we give thanks to you for all that you do in our lives. As the church year comes to an end we commend to you all those for whom we have prayed throughout the year and ask that you continue to use us and our prayers to make a difference in their lives.

Merciful Father:

Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

(We thank the Chaplaincy of the Costa Blanca in Spain whose published their intercessions on the internet we have adapted today)

<u>We now sing the hymn</u> "Crown Him with many crowns" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=en7pOd9Ix-M

1 Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne. Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own. Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee, and hail him as thy matchless king through all eternity.

2 Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave, and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save; his glories now we sing who died and rose on high, who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

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3 Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side, rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified; no angels in the sky can fully bear that sight, but downward bends their burning eye at mysteries so bright.

4 Crown Him the Lord of peace Whose power a sceptre sways; From pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise; His reign shall know no end; and round his pierced feet Fair flowers of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

5 Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time, creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime. All hail, Redeemer, hail! for thou hast died for me; thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, The only wise God, the only wise God, Be honour and glory forever and ever,

And may His blessing, Father Son and Holy Spirit, rest upon us and those whom we love, today and until we meet the King in His kingdom. Amen

Introducing a new book written by a Chaplaincy member



If you would like to know more about this book and how to obtain it, please contact the author: <u>henrymartinpaintings@yahoo.co.uk</u>

Next Sunday (28th November) Chaplaincy Worship will be via ZOOM

IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOU TO RESERVE IN YOUR DIARY:

Sunday 19th December (time t.b.a.)

The opening of our church in Chef Boutonne.

Chaplaincy of Christ the Good Shepherd, Poitou-Charentes

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