CHRIST THE KING - YEAR A

SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2020

REFLECTION By Sr Veronica Lawson rsm

"It has long been a common custom to give to Christ the metaphorical title of King." These are the words of Pope Pius XI who established this feast between two world wars in the hope of counteracting the growing secularism "in public affairs and politics" and finding a way towards global peace. Peace would never be achieved, wrote Pope Pius XI, until and unless individuals and nations accept the "rule of our Saviour". In some ways, hope for the global reign of the Prince of Peace seems more remote than ever. The challenge of the so-called Islamic State in the Middle East, of Boko Haram in Africa and of the White Supremacist Movement in the United States have marked new low points in more than a century of violent and ongoing conflict which has claimed the lives of some 180 million people across the globe. COVID-19 has underscored the vulnerability to violence of those rendered poor by the prevailing inequitable economic system. From a Christian perspective, the world needs the sort of leadership that Jesus of Nazareth advocated in first century Palestine, the kind of leadership that Pope Francis is offering to our world. The gospel for today provides a blueprint for Christian living in general and for leadership in particular. Matthew presents Jesus as both shepherd and sheep: as judge and king on the one hand and as a suffering human ("the least") on the other. Works of mercy are the measure of justice or righteousness. Those who feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, and set the prisoners free are "the righteous/the sheep" who will inherit God's empire or kin-dom and have life. Those who fail in these respects are the unrighteous/the goats who fail to recognise the presence of the shepherd/king in the suffering of "the least". Why sheep and goats? While goats grazed with the sheep, they were never imaged as God's people, somewhat unfairly, I suggest. "Sheep", on the other hand, is a frequent biblical designation for the people of God's fold. This gospel story is replete with mixed metaphors. It is the gospel source of the spiritual and corporal works of mercy that have informed the Christian way of life for centuries. It focusses on suffering humanity. In proclaiming an eighth work of mercy, care for our common home, Pope Francis has asked us to expand our horizons and to extend our concern to the suffering of the whole Earth community, human and other-than-human. The Feast of Christ the King brings the church year to a close. It invites us to consider ways to achieve the things that make for peace. If we wish God's reign of peace to be realised on planet Earth, then we might heed the invitation of Pope Francis to care for our common home: to engage in "grateful contemplation of God's world" on the one hand and in daily gestures that "break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness" on the other.

MASS AT ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL.

With changes expected this Sunday 22 November to number allowed in places of worship we will adjust our booking procedures to allow for the maximum of people to attend daily Mass.

Due to the size of the Cathedral and the stringent, mandatory obligations around cleaning and sanitizing our re-opening for Masses is being staged.

Mass times are as follows.

Saturday 6.00pm.

Sunday 8.00am

9.30am

11.00am (also available on C31 and live streamed on CAM). 6.30pm

Weekday Masses

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 1.00pm. (Weekday masses will continue to be live streamed).

Saturday 8.00am and Monday 1.00pm.

Masses will continue to only be live streamed at this stage.

Bookings for these Masses will have to be made via Trybooking https://www.trybooking.com/BMYOM

available on the Cathedral website or by ringing the Cathedral Office on 9662 2233, between 9am -5pm Monday to Friday. Calls made outside these times will not be guaranteed a place at Mass.

Adhering to Government regulations, all people wishing to attend Mass.

Need to provide their names and a phone number.

We ask that people arrive 10-15 minutes before Mass and you will be seated in assigned places by an usher.

Masks will be mandatory on entry to the Cathedral. On entry to the Cathedral you will need to have your temperature taken.

You will need to sanitise your hands.

You will need to follow strict social distancing requirements while waiting and while in the Cathedral.

Entrance will be from the front door of the Cathedral only. (Corner of Gisborne Street and Cathedral Place.)
Exit will be via a side door only; ushers will direct you on the day.
Weekend Mass cut off time will be Friday at 3.00pm.
Unfortunately, we will not be able to allow anyone to attend Mass if they are not registered and pre-booked.

At this stage we are not offering the sacrament of Reconciliation as we are still working through the stringent requirements around sanitizing and cleaning as well as offering anonymity for the sacrament.

We thank you for your co-operation in these matters and we continue to hold each other in our prayers.

With warmest regards,

Fr Werner Utri.
Dean St Patrick's Cathedral.

TODAY'S LITURGY—YEAR A

1st Reading Ezekiel 34: 11-12.15-17 You, my flock, I judge between sheep and sheep.

The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest – it is the Lord who speaks.

I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them.

As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

(R.)

(R.)

(R.)

Responsorial Psalm Ps 22:1-3.5-6 The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

- 1. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.
- Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit.
 He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name.
- 3. You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes.My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing.
- 4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life.
 In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

 (R.)

2nd Reading Corinthians 15:20-26.28 He will hand over the kingdom to God the Father, so that God may be all in all.

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

Gospel Acclamation

Mark 11:9-10

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David! Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 25: 31-46 He will take his seat on the throne of glory, and he will separate men one from another.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the

shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me." And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'

DID YOU KNOW? Points of interest and Catholic lore

- The 'Son of Man' is a title that is often used of Jesus in the gospels. Scholars still debate the precise meaning of this title and whether Jesus used it of himself. The term, as used in the Book of Daniel, has messianic overtones; that is, it is used as a title for the Messiah.
- Service has always been at the heart of the church's work. Traditionally, the 'corporal works of mercy' are loosely based on Jesus' words in this gospel and include feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead. See The Catechism of the Catholic Church, §2447.

EXPLORING THE WORD

Over the last few weeks, the gospel texts have dealt with issues of being prepared, staying ready, and using our gifts well. In some ways, all these themes culminate in today's text. This gospel presents us with the bottom line! Are we judged worthy of a place in the kingdom? The criteria for being judged worthy are very clear—it is how we have served those most in need. This is what will count. If we do not see Christ in our brothers and sisters in need, then our faith is blind and will not lead to the kingdom. There is another aspect of this gospel that should not be overlooked. It is the apocalyptic vision of the Son of Man coming in glory and reigning over all the nations as King. To the King belongs the right of judgement and reward or punishment. While Matthew's community was in the 'inbetween' time, the evangelist held before them the central truth that the Son of Man, the King, will come again in his glory as judge.

- During his life, Christ was not a king in a political or autocratic sense. Far from it. The subjects of his kingdom are called to service with the marginalised, the poor and the powerless.
- How does your community engage in this service? How might you and your family become involved?

For Catholics, November is traditionally the month of remembrance for the dead, a time when we remember all those holy men and women who have gone before us marked with the signs of faith.

We remember in a particular way our own departed family and friends who we hope and trust are now resting with God.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen

A Global Gift is a special Christmas card that gives twice. First, your donation will help families struggling with poverty and injustice. Second, your card will bring a smile to someone you love. It's called a Global Gift because it's a gift that will send joy, hope and love across the globe for the people who need it most. You can bring joy to the world's most vulnerable this Christmas.

All Global Gifts reflect real items that will help assist some of the world's most vulnerable people in their fight against poverty and injustice. Your purchase of a specific gift is representative of the type of community development work you will be supporting through Caritas *Australia's programs*.

For more information go to: www.globalgifts.org.au



This year CatholicCare is launching the Giving Tree Appeal where we aim to deliver **food hampers to 500 families and individuals in need** and, with extra support, provide subsidised and much needed services like counselling to support mental wellbeing.

We invite you to make a donation to help a struggling family or individual. Every gift, great or small, will make a difference this Christmas.

Together we can achieve our mission to help others "live life to the full"!

Donate or learn more at

www.ccam.org.au/GivingTreeAppeal



Reaching Beyond 2020

People of all trades and professions are being requested by communities abroad seeking to build the capacity

of their organisations and the skills of their people.
Restrictions this year have made communities' needs acute, but your assistance will help to self-reliance and sustainable solutions to poverty. Palms Australia will provide you with thorough preparation to ensure your readiness as travel resumes, and support on assignment.

For more information go to www.palms.org.au or ring Roger on 0431 995 058, or email palms@palms.org.au

CATHEDRAL MUSIC - SUNDAY CHRIST THE KING - 22 NOVEMBER 2020

Entrance Hymn: Christ is the King! O friends rejoice

(Vulpius) CWBII 398 v1,2,3,5 **Mass Setting:** Jubilation Mass

(Philip Matthias)

Psalm: 22 (23): 1-3a,5-6

Response:

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

(Owen Alstott) **Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessing on him, who come in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!

Alleluia!

(Jubilation Mass, Philip Matthias)

Memorial Acclamation: We proclaim your death, O Lord.

Great Amen: (Jubilation Mass, Philip Matthias) **Communion:** Laudate Dominum (Mozart)

Praise the Lord, all nations: Praise him, all people.

For He has bestowed His mercy upon us. And the truth of the Lord endures forever.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and forever, and for generations of generations.

Amen.

Recessional Hymn: Hail, Redeemer, King divine!

(Rex) CWBII 400

Cantor: Judith Dodsworth and Craig Everingham

Organist: Dion Henman

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Monday 23 November

- St Columban and St Clement

Tuesday 24 November

- St Andrew Dung-Lac and companions

(Memorial)

Wednesday 25 November

- St Catherine of Alexandria

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL YOUTUBE MELBOURNE

AustralianCATHOLICS 2020/2021 parish edition advertises, St Patrick's Cathedral with a link to a Youtube tour of inside and outside of St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne.

St Patrick's has the distinction of being both the tallest and overall the largest church building in Australia.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ee4AFpXyi-Y

ONLINE CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you to all who are making regular contributions through the Catholic Development Fund App available on the Cathedral website. Thank you for your generosity.

www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au

(Cathedral is listed as Melbourne Cathedral Parish)

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (All bow) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. (Continue) For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory To judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER to ST JOSEPH



You were receptive to God working in your life. Help us by your prayers at this time of trial. You kept Jesus and Mary under your watchful care: may your prayers assist our local Church to respond to those in need.

You taught the Christ Child your trade and prayers: help us to follow his example of love.

You were part of God's plan for all humanity: assist us to be vigilant and responsible this day. You spent your life in service:

may we be mindful of others, particularly the elderly and vulnerable, caring for them in these difficult days. You trusted in the clear primary of God over all history and every situation: help us to grow in faith and prayer to the Father, Thy will be done. Amen

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

We pray for the sick and for all who have asked for our prayers. We pray for all who have died recently, especially Robert Lodge and those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially John Pearson and Daphne Wallace.

May they be welcomed into the heavenly kingdom.

Archbishop

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli

Dean of

St Patrick's Cathedral

Very Rev Werner Utri

Assistant Priest

Rev Trevor Tibbertsma Cathedral Master of Ceremonies

Priest in Residence

Rev Zaher Mhanna

Chaplain: St Vincent's Hospital

Sacristans

Antonio Hoang Mark Nguyen Nadhun Buthpiyiya

Music & Cathedral Choir

Philip Matthias Director Dion Henman **Organist**

Judith Dodsworth Paul Hughes Cantors

Cathedral Singers

Christopher Mason Director Thomas Grubb **Organist**

Child Protection Officer

Julie Allan

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SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND ALL VULNERABLE PEOPLE

We hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and all vulnerable people as a central and fundamental responsibility for our community. The Cathedral Statement of

Commitment and Reporting Process are on display at the entrance of the Cathedral and all Diocesan Policies are available on the website or at the parish office.

https://www.cam.org.au/ **Professional-Standards/ Statements**