

This week at St Lawrence's



23rd/24th November 2013

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
(Missal Page 167 – YEAR C)

2 Samuel 5:1-3; Psalm 121; Colossians 1:12-20; Luke 23:35-43

First Sunday of Advent, CYCLE A (Missal Page 82); Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 121;
Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:37-44



My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In all the Prophets' books of Holy Scripture, God promises salvation through a king. The announcement does not refer however to a king with human powers and force of arms. It does not refer to a king who dominates with political and military might. This is a gentle king who reigns with humility and charity before God and man, a king rather different from the great sovereigns of the earth.

The Apostles remembered the prophet's words particularly following Christ's passion, death and resurrection when, with eyes of faith, they reconsidered their Lord's joyful entry into the *Holy City of Peace*, Jerusalem. Jesus Christ rode a donkey, which had been lent to Him, not a horse as the powerful did. He did not enter Jerusalem accompanied by a mighty army of chariots and horsemen. He is a poor king, the king of the poor of God. He is a king who will make the chariots and steeds of battle disappear, who will break the weapons of war, a king who creates communion and unity, and who brought peace on the Cross, uniting heaven and earth and building a bridge between all mankind. The Cross is the new arch of peace, the sign and instrument of reconciliation, the sign that love is stronger than any form of violence or oppression, stronger than death. And where do we see Jesus' announcement take concrete form today? In the great network of Eucharistic celebrations covering the earth, wherein the prophecy of the prophets re-emerges in splendour. The Lord comes in the Eucharist to divest us of our selfishness, our fixations which exclude others, overcoming rivalry and rancor, and to make us a single body, a single kingdom of peace in a divided world.

Today, at the closure of the *Year of Faith*, I remind you of the encouraging words our Archbishop Vincent wrote to us last weekend: "*let us make visible with our words, with our deeds, with our whole lives the love and compassion of God we celebrate at every Mass. Let us live our faith in every circumstance, ready to stand out by the way we speak and act, not timid about giving an account of our faith, of our love of the Lord.*" This is the opportunity we all have, to proclaim that Christ is our King, who gave up his kingdom and power for you, for me and for all mankind.

May God bless you all.

Fr. Fortunato

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Parish Priest: Fr Chris Vipers

Assistant Priest: Fr Fortunato Pantisano

Parish Sisters: Sr. Katherine O'Reilly, Sr. Monica Killeen, Sr. Nora Gorman

Catechetical Co-ordinator: Bridget Brinkley

Parish Secretary: Florie Fernandes (Office Opening Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-1pm)

ADVENT DAY OF PRAYER – SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER



10.30am-11.45am: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and
Sacrament of Reconciliation
12.00 noon: Holy Mass
12.30pm-2.30pm: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and
Sacrament of Reconciliation
2.30pm: Benediction



(Visiting priests will be available for Confession in the morning and afternoon)

BOOKS FOR ADVENT

The Season of Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of God's Son at Christmas – a time of grace, prayer and expectation. As we journey through Advent we offer two pocket sized booklets – **Walk with Me** which has prayerful reflections for each of the days leading up to Christmas and **Day by Day** which has readings for Mass. These are available at the back of Church at £1.00 each.

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS

We extend a warm welcome to Amy-Leigh Stokes and Kylie Szescilo Moreira Ribeiro who will be baptised this weekend and offer our warmest congratulations to their families.

CONFIRMATION

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 28th November** at 7pm in the School Hall.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

The next session for Children is on **Saturday 30th November** at 9.45am. The Parents Meeting is on **Tuesday 3rd December** in the Parish Centre at 2pm or 7pm.

PARISH NOTICES

IMPORTANT PARKING NOTICE

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE SCHOOL CAR PARK WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR CHURCH PARKING NEXT SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER, THERE WILL, HOWEVER BE ACCESS VIA VICTORIA ROAD FOR PEDESTRIANS.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE MEETING

The Social Committee will meet on **Tuesday 26th November** in the Presbytery at 7pm.

9AM CHOIR

Calling all instrumentalists and singers. We would love to welcome some new members to the 9am Music Group. All you need to do is come up to the Choir loft after 9am Mass on any Sunday, or ring Theresa for more information.

RAFA BAND CONCERT

The RAFA (Royal Air Force Association) are performing a Family Christmas concert here in St Lawrence's Church on **Friday 6th December** at 7.30pm. Tickets available from the Repository or Parish Office. Adults £10.00, children free (accompanied by an adult) but will require a ticket. This promises to be an evening to remember, so early booking advised!!



LIFE COFFEE MORNING AND MINCE PIE SALE

There will be a Coffee Morning on **Sunday 8th December** after the morning Masses in the Parish Centre. Mince pies, cakes, Christmas Fayre to include toys and bric-a-brac will be on sale. Do come in for a cuppa and cake and great bargain too. All proceeds to the local Life Pregnancy Care Centre. Donations of cakes will be much appreciated. For information ring Annie Burke.

PARISH MASS BOOKS – CYCLE A VOLUME 1

The Parish Mass Book for Cycle A will commence on the First Sunday of Advent. If you would like to purchase your own copy, these are available in the repository at £2.50 each.

