

Reflection:

In today's gospel, the last in the Church year, we read how Jesus is put to death on a cross and how he is laughed at and made fun of.

The crowds can't understand why Jesus, the Son of God, can't save himself. They are very confused. To them a king is someone who has power, money, land and who dresses in expensive clothes - not someone who ends up on a cross with a crown of thorns on his head.

This Gospel shows us that Jesus is King, but not the kind of king we might have imagined or expected. As modern disciples of Jesus, we struggle at times to recognize Jesus as our King. We can make our own judgement about this if we open our eyes to see the truth and show others that we are His followers when we live our lives following in the footsteps of Jesus. He shows us that you do not have to be rich or powerful to be important. He teaches us that what is more important is how you treat others.

Pope Francis comments on the response of the characters in this gospel: **First**, there is the response of "the people", who "stood by, watching". He tells us that, "we, too, can be tempted to keep our distance from Jesus's kingship and not accept completely the scandal of his humble love, which unsettles and disturbs us."

Second, there is the response of the religious leaders and of the first of the criminals to be crucified alongside Jesus. They all jeer at him, saying that if he is the Messiah he should save himself.

Finally, there is the response of the second criminal. Suffering on a cross alongside Jesus, he recognises that, in Christ, there is a different kind of glory and a different kind of victory being won. He cries out, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. Jesus forgives him.

Gospel Reflection

Feast of Christ the Universal King – Year C

Luke 23:35-43

The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One."

The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself."

There was a written notice above him, 'This is the King of the Jews'

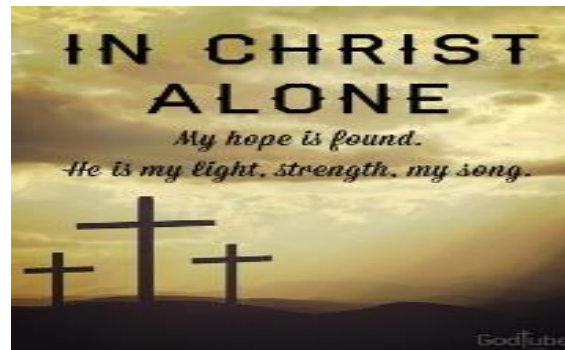
One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

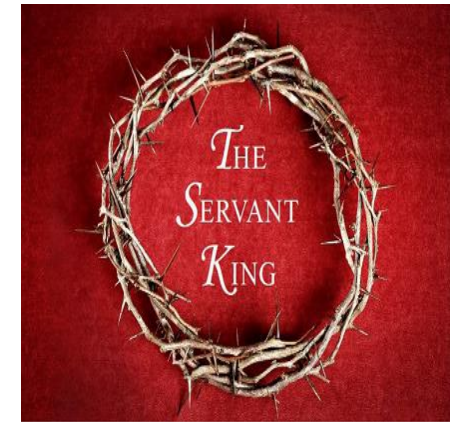
Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

This week, when things are difficult, remember that God is always with you. And when you see that things are difficult for others, perhaps you can try to do all that you can to help and serve them, so they know that they are not alone and forgotten either.



Post-it Challenge:

Jesus came to serve others and so is known as the 'Servant King'. Jesus is the king of love, justice, peace and forgiveness.



We are called to help and to serve one another: in our homes, in our community and in the world around us.

If we live by the rules that Jesus gave us, others will see the face of Jesus in us?

When did you see the face of Jesus in another person who was kind to you?

How will you let others see the face of Jesus in you today?

"I pray because I can't help myself. I pray because the need flows out of me all the time, waking and sleeping. It doesn't change God, but it changes the person who prays"

C.S. Lewis

Let us Pray

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. St Thomas, pray for us

