

ENCOURAGEMENT ENCOURAGEMENT

November 2013 – Issue 28

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Christ the King... Master or Servant?

*Christ is our King let the whole world rejoice.
May all the nations sing out with one voice.
Light of the world you have helped us to see,
that all men are brothers and all men one day
will be free. (Estelle White)*

The Kingship of Jesus is a very important feast in November but it is seldom given the prominence and weight of one of the other feasts. Coming as it does just before Advent starts it almost slips in unnoticed so to speak, in spite of valiant efforts on behalf of our pastors to uphold it. The word 'king' has nowhere near the meaning that it once had as Kings today are either replaced by presidents or are titular and have no real power. Yet the word still carries some weight and it most certainly did at the time of Jesus. When Pilate asked Jesus 'Are you the King' Jesus replied in no uncertain terms... 'I am a king' but he added that his kingdom was not of this world. SO powerful was this exchange and the rebuke to Pilate, that Pilate who after all, represented Caesar, a great earthly ruler, had no qualms about putting that title over his head on the Cross. **INRI**, Jesus of Nazareth King of the Jews. We also see that at His birth the wise men, kings maybe, readers of signs and portents looking for this child destined to be great and presenting him with kingly gifts. We can be in no doubt either about the times Jesus spoke of His kingdom and the kingdom to come.

It is one of the most recently added feasts in honour of Our Lord. The feast 'fully known as the feast of 'Our Lord Jesus Christ, the King,' was

instituted by Pope Pius XI on December 11 1925. The purpose of the feast was to renew in the minds and hearts of faithful people the thoughts that Jesus is The Divine King who sits at the right hand of the Father and will return at the end of time in Majesty. But what sort of King is it that we are to rejoice over as the words of the hymn above suggest. What sort of king did he himself show himself to be.



Well certainly he did not live in either a palace, have armies save a bunch of rather everyday apostles too few to fight anyone even if they were asked to, who travelled about the countryside, was a carpenter's son, was rejected by his own people and thought a nothing as he came from Nazareth, a very small place, and who was destined to die young in a most painful and degrading death outside the wall of the city, a ne'er do well. This king who rode on a colt, a donkey, on the one time he was acclaimed publically most certainly did not have the power associated with 'might' and being of noble birth, money, prestige or earthly authority. Yet His kingship was such that thousands came to hear him, see him and gain from him.

This King found authority in coequality with His Father and the Holy Spirit. He came to free people from the slavery of all that corrupts and debases mankind. His words had incredible power to transform people and change them. His great armoury was truth and true humility. He spoke words that cut sharper than any sword and could not be defeated save by aggression against him but

'If we let Jesus Christ reign in our souls we will not become authoritarian. Rather we will serve everyone. How I like the word 'service', to serve my King and through Him all who have been redeemed by His Blood.' St. Josemaria

like all truth simply showed up the assailers. He was infinitely just and totally compassionate. He healed, strengthened, restored, uplifted all those that were oppressed and bowed down. As the first lines of the verses of the Hymn state....

*He came to speak tender word to the poor...
He came to open the doors of the goal...
He came to open the ears of the mute...
He came to heal all the crippled and lame...
He came to love every man on this earth... yes He is the light of the world.*

Light never shines more brightly than in darkness. Even in the deepest gloom a single flicker can be picked out. How often have people who are trapped underground or by any kind of situation been kept alive with hope because of a single light somewhere in the distance. Jesus came to be that light, to give Hope and Courage to mankind. He was one man among many who, in earthly terms, held more power yet their words and lives have faded His grow stronger with faith.

But how was he a king? No earthly ruler could perform the miracles that he did. No earthly ruler could speak word that came from The Father. No earthly ruler could promise to return with majesty at the end of time, in other words have authority over life and death in the way that Jesus did and does... No earthly ruler could speak in absolute terms of a Kingdom that was eternal and would never end. Earthly kings rise and fall. The Kingdom of Heaven speaks of eternity. This kingdoms success is guaranteed.

How do we get into that kingdom.. A king leads his subjects by setting an example and showing a way. Kings in history have led armies and prophets lead with words that found an echo in peoples' lives so that they wanted to follow. This King showed that great mastery can be had by the very reverse of power and domination but by living totally selflessly even to the point of death. It involves suffering. A strange King indeed who wants to be servant and becomes masterful in the way he shows this. He does lead and shows a way and many called Him Rabbi, teacher, but by total self-giving to others. He teaches that love conquers

all and that if we want to be kingly like himself we too must love utterly without reserve. Jesus does so perfectly. He is master not only of all that was made but King of all attributes of love, justice freedom and beauty for He is the 'essence of perfection'. He says of Himself 'I am the Way the truth and the life'. The Greek word for 'I am' is very strong it mean I, and no other. The fact that he was claiming to be God and in relationship with the Father was understood for the Pharisees wanted to stone him for blasphemy.

So should we rejoice at The Kingliness of Jesus. Truly we must for it is liberating and ennobling. If we want to enter His kingdom we must do as He did. WE must serve each other with love and humility. WE do not have to be considered great or important but humble servants of the master who was not afraid to wash feet and bind up wounds. We must build up His Kingdom starting here and for all eternity a new heaven and earth.

'Just as the Son of man came not to be served (ministered to) but to serve and give up His life as a ransom for many'... This Kings call us all by Baptism to do the same. If we follow this King we will become kingly servants. H.H.



POPE FRANCIS I

“Real power is found in service. Just like Jesus, who didn't come to be served, but to serve. His service was seen on the Cross. He humbled Himself unto death, He died on a Cross for us, to serve us, to save us. It's with this path that the Church moves forward. For the Christian, getting ahead, progress, means humbling oneself. If we do not learn this Christian rule, we will never, ever be able to understand Jesus' true message on power.” May 2013 Casa St. Marta. Rome.

November Feasts: Those who truly served... Feast of All Saints 1st November - A Holy Day of Obligation. Feast of All Souls, 2nd , St. Martin 11th, Christ the King Sun 24th. St Andrew the Apostle 30th.

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