

# The Feast of Christ the King & National Youth Sunday "Together"

Sunday was the Feast of Christ the King and the last Sunday of the Church's year. This feast is also the day taken every year by the Catholic Church in England and Wales to celebrate National Youth Sunday, a day when the Church especially prays for all young people. The theme chosen for this year's National Youth Sunday is "together".

Those organising National Youth Sunday have said, "the COVID-19 pandemic has affected every part of life. The way we live, work, study, play and pray has all changed. The most significant change has been that we have not been able to do many of those things together. This year's theme recognises what it means to be 'together'; with ourselves, with others and with God."

This week we will focus on the Feast of Christ the King and on the theme of "together".

**This week's prayers are prepared by  
Laurel Hill Secondary School FCJ & Laurel Hill Coláiste FCJ**



# Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November

The Feast of Christ the King is a day when we celebrate the kingship of Jesus, but what do we really mean by this? What sort of king is Jesus?

The readings at Mass on the feast of Christ the King tell us something about what kind of king Jesus is. He is a king who serves, he is a king who is like a shepherd to his people, to us.

Think about the time at the Last Supper when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples – this was an example of service. On another occasion Jesus spoke of himself as the Good Shepherd and also told a parable about a shepherd who went to find a sheep that was lost. This is the kind of king Jesus is – one who serves, who heals, who seeks out the lost.

The full title for the feast is The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the *Universe*. So, the king of absolutely everything!





# Monday 23<sup>th</sup> November

Today we are going to listen to part of the Gospel from Sunday, the Feast of Christ the King.

A Reading from St. Matthew's Gospel (25:34-40)

Jesus said to his disciples...

'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."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**What do you think this reading is about?**

# Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November

## We pray...

Lord Jesus, as we begin this new week we turn to you in prayer.  
We thank you for the blessings of the weekend  
and ask you to help us with anything which we found difficult.

As we look to the week ahead,  
we ask you to continue to be with us in all that we will do.  
May this week be one in which we bring hope to those around us,  
peace to those we spend our time with,  
and encouragement to those who need it most.

Help us to remember that you are like a shepherd to us –  
that you will look for us when we are lost, that you care for us,  
and that you love us.

**Amen**





## Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November

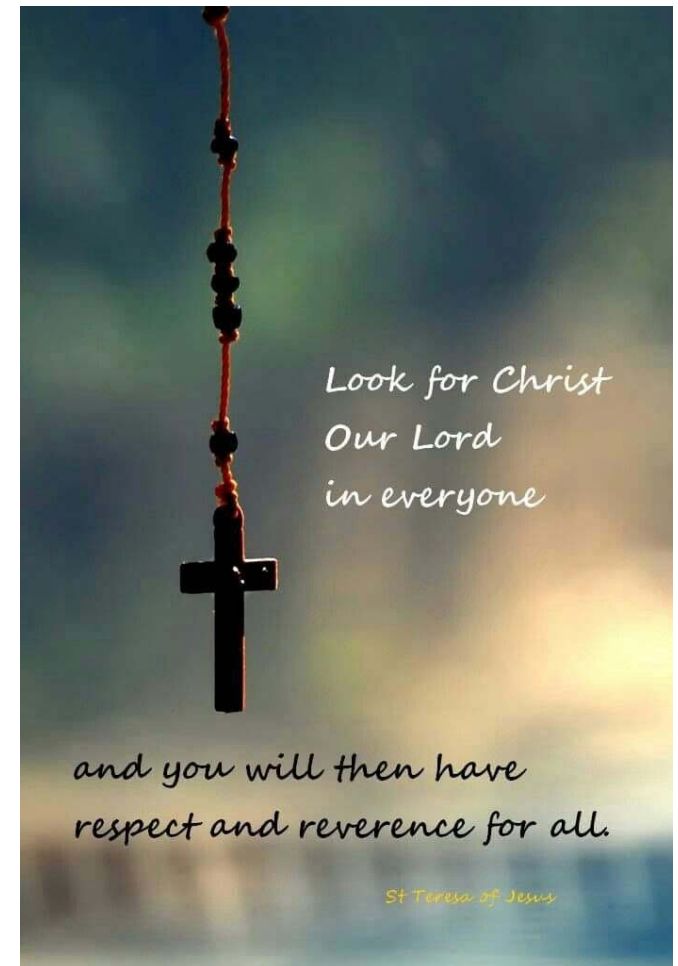
When we speak of Jesus as a King, this is the sort of kingdom Jesus wants – one where no one is hungry or thirsty, one in which the sick and those in prison are visited, one in which no one is lonely or excluded.

This reading can be a challenge and an invitation to us.

*What opportunities might we have this week to help people?*

*When we meet other people, do we think of them as if we are meeting Christ?*

*Do we recognise the presence of God in each person we meet?*







# Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November

## We pray...

Loving God, you call us to care for our sisters and brothers around the world.

We pray for those who do not have access to food, to clean water or to health care.

Help us to do what we can to support people who need a helping hand at the moment.

We pray for those who are unwell, those who are lonely, isolated or in prison.

Help us to offer words of support, and to keep in touch with anyone we know who may be feeling lonely.

At all times, may we remember your presence in each person we meet and so may we treat everyone with dignity, respect and care.

**Amen.**



**Love one another.**

# Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November

Today is Red Wednesday, a day of prayer for Christians who are persecuted because of their faith.

Red Wednesday is organised by Aid to the Church in Need which is a Catholic charity that supports Christians around the world who experience any kind of persecution, oppression or pastoral need. They fund 5000 projects in over 140 countries, and help both Christians as well as their wider communities.

#RedWednesday is their annual, global, campaign to raise awareness for those who suffer the human rights violation of religious persecution.



Aid to the  
Church in Need

ACN UNITED KINGDOM

# Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November

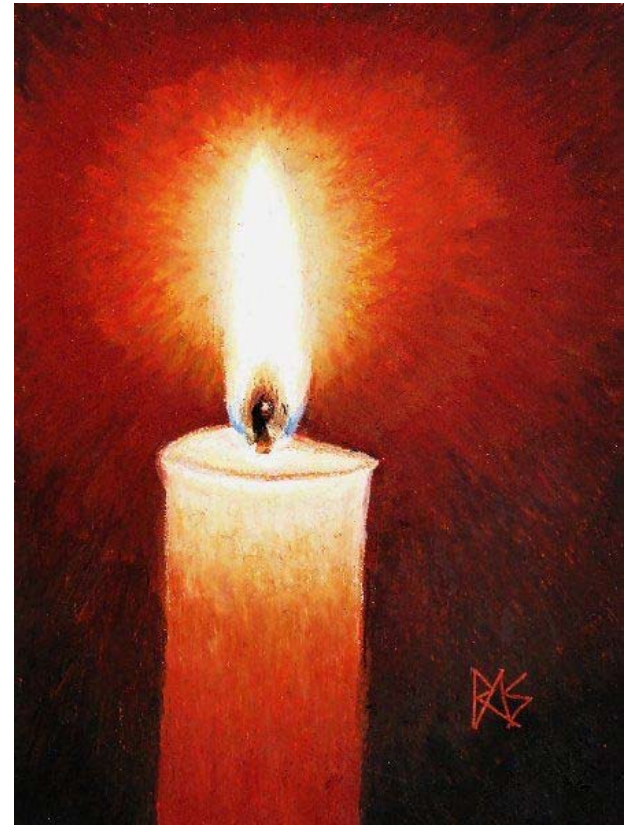
We pray...

Loving God,

We unite ourselves with people around the country today in praying for Christians, and all people of faith, who are persecuted because of their beliefs.

Help everyone in the world to come to understand the beliefs of others so that we can build a world where everyone is respected and able to live their faith without fear.

**Amen.**





# Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November

The theme of this year's National Youth Sunday was "together". It might seem a strange theme since for much of this year we have had to keep apart from other people but in fact the theme is a very important one and invites us to think about what it really means to be together.

So much of Christian teaching is about us recognising that we all need to support one another. This is very clear in the Double Commandment, "Love God and your neighbour as yourself" and is also what companionship is all about.

Pope Francis has said that in order to make the world better after the pandemic than it was before it, we need to work together. He said:

*To come out of this crisis better than before, we have to do so together; together, not alone. Together. Alone no, because it cannot be done. Either it is done together, or it is not done. We must do it together, all of us, in solidarity.*

*Pope Francis, September 2020*



# Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November

Loving God,  
We thank you for the gift of one another;  
for the gift our classmates and each member of our school community.



Help us to remember that things are better when we work together  
and when we support one another.

We pray for world leaders at this difficult time.  
Give them wisdom in their decision making  
and help them always to make decisions for the good of all.

Inspire all people to realise that we need to work together  
as we seek to make the world a better, fairer and more just place for everyone.

We make this prayer through Christ the King. Amen.

# Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November

As we reflect on the theme of “togetherness”  
we are invited to listen to the words of Sirach,  
from the Old Testament:

“Faithful friends are a sturdy shelter: **whoever finds one has found a treasure.**

Faithful friends are beyond price; no amount can balance their worth.”



As you think of your friends and the people you spend your time with:  
Think of a time when you have been cheered up by a conversation with  
others.

Think of a time when someone has thanked you for being with them.  
Think of those family members you had to communicate with by virtual  
means during 2020.

Think of someone you could support if they are feeling low.  
Think about how you can encourage others to stick together.

# Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November

And so we pray...

Loving God,

We thank you for the gift of friends and for the gift of companions.

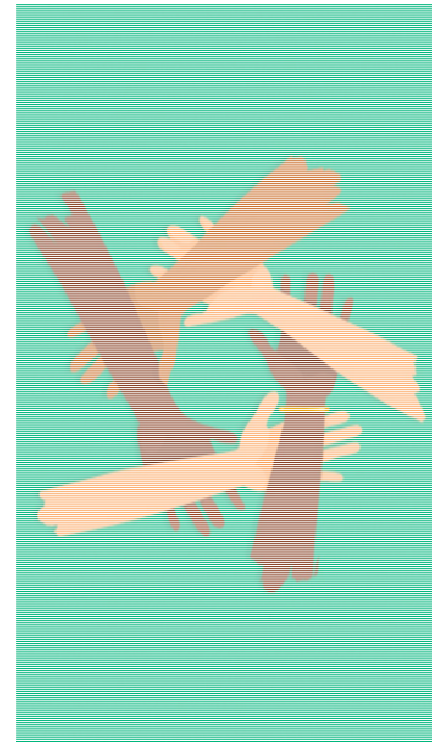
We thank you for the occasions we have just called to mind when we have been cheered up by time spent with others.

We ask you to help us to be attentive today to the ways in which we might be able to cheer someone else up or support them in some way.

And, loving God, as we come towards the end of November, the month of the Holy Souls, we pray for all those who have died and who we would like to remember in a special way.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace. **Amen.**



Advent begins this Sunday and we will think more about this in our prayers next week

The background of the entire slide is a close-up, slightly blurred photograph of numerous small, round, lit candles. The candles are arranged in a dense, somewhat grid-like pattern, and their flames are bright yellow and orange, creating a warm, glowing effect. The candles themselves appear to be made of a light-colored wax or clay.

# Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November

Examen

What or who are you grateful for this week? Take a moment to thank God.

What has been challenging? Ask God to help you with this.

As you look ahead to the weekend, what would you like to ask of God?