



CATHOLIC CHURCHES

of

OUR LADY & ST. KENELM, HALESOWEN

OUR LADY OF LOURDES, OLD HILL

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(Part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Registered Charity No. 234216)



LITURGY FOR THE WEEKEND 23rd/24th NOVEMBER 2024 OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

TIMES OF MASS & MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 23rd	Vigil of Christ the King	6.30pm H	November Dead List
Sun 24th	Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe	10.00am H 11.30am OH	Anne Simpson (R.I.P) November Dead List
Mon 25th	Feria	No Mass	—————
Tues 26th	Feria	No Mass	November Dead List
Wed 27th	Feria	No Mass	—————
Thurs 28th	Feria	9am Sch 12noon OH	November Dead List Harold Woodward (R.I.P)
Fri 29th	Feria	12noon H	November Dead List
Sat 30th	St Andrew Vigil of First Sunday of Advent	10.00am H 6.30pm H	November Dead List Nora Petch (R.I.P)
Sun 1st DECEMBER	First Sunday of Advent	10.00am H 11.30am OH	Isaac Harry Ann Shackleton (R.I.P)

MASS INTENTIONS to Father Stefan please

Masses marked H will be at Halesowen, OH will be at Old Hill

Confessions

There will be an opportunity for Confessions at Halesowen from 10.30 am (After Saturday 10am Mass) until 11am. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed during confessions.

Confessions are also available by appointment

Second Collection

This weekend there will be a Second Collection for the Catholic Youth Service

Father Stefan

Today we celebrate the wonders of Christ the King and the end of our liturgical year.

Next weekend begins Advent, the use of our new translation of the readings at Mass and Year C for our weekend readings.

New Lectionaries

As of next weekend, the first Sunday of Advent, we will be using the new lectionaries which contain a different translation of our usual readings.

Unfortunately, due to a Council of Priest meeting on Wednesday, I have had to cancel our lunchtime mass.

NOVEMBER Anniversaries

Remember in your prayers the following deceased members :

May Lee, Jack Stevenson, George Stevenson, Brian Bonehill, Philip Curtis, Shelagh Knight, Frank McCann, Vera Jarvis, John Maddocks, Mick Massingham, Roger Haycock, Cyril Jones, Anne Simpson, Catherine Newman, Lily Williamson, Thomas & Connor Ore, Margery Kurowski, Ann Tillitson, Liz Jones, Sylvia McAndrew, Elisabeth Meredith, Patricia Elliot, Margaret Adams, Ann Shackleton and our former Archbishop Maurice Couve de Murville.

May they rest in peace.

Lately Dead

Please keep in your prayers those who have lately died: Harold Woodward. *May he rest in peace.*

Harold Woodward's funeral service will be at Rowley Regis Crematorium on Thursday 28 November 2024 at 2:30pm.

Parliamentary Vote for Assisted Dying Bill (Assisted Suicide)

Please do get in contact with your MP: for many of us it is Alex Ballinger (MP for Halesowen (which includes Cradley Heath)) alex.ballinger.mp@parliament.uk, with regard to this major piece of legislation. The vote on the second reading is this Friday.

Our Bishop's statement of this bill, can be found at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/bishops-statement-assisted-suicide-nov24/>

The Right to Life UK website, has an example letter and more information can be found at <https://righttolife.org.uk/ASThreat>.

In the past when this topic has come up there has been a period of time to allow reflection and to consider the impact. The way this bill has been introduced is quite alarming.

“It is deeply concerning that MPs and the wider public are only seeing this Bill barely two and a half weeks before it goes to a vote. What is being proposed is a monumental change to our laws, and it's totally unjustifiable and fundamentally undemocratic to try and rush it through without proper public scrutiny.”

This is a very emotive subject of those who are terminally ill and some are using the visual of people suffering to rush this into place, rather than looking at why are people suffering which is due to lack of funding and support for the great work that hospices and others do to support people at this hard time.

Christmas Fayre (Our Lady of Lourdes, Old Hill)

Old Hill will be having a **Christmas Fayre** on Saturday 30th November, 11:00-13:00. Can you spare any donations of gift sets, sweets, alcohol and toys for our tombola? If so, please leave them in the box on the table in the hall.

Christmas Fayre (Our Lady and St Kenelm, Halesowen)

It's that time of year again and we will be having our yearly Christmas Fayre on Friday 20th December at Our Lady and St Kenelm's Church, Halesowen beginning at 6pm.

Just like other years, we will have our Christmas Stalls, bottle stall, tombola, Christmas Raffle, Mince Pies, Mulled Wine (and mulled apple juice for the drivers) as well as a visit from the man himself ... Santa!

If anyone has any old decorations or things we can use in the grotto, please feel free to donate these to Rebecca. We are also on the lookout for Mince Pies and cakes that we can sell off.

Old Hill Foodshare

There is a great need of - **cereals, sugar, toilet rolls, toiletries, detergents along with tinned fruit, tinned fish and tinned meat.**

Do you have an unwanted buggy in good condition?

The SVP Conference is supporting the Halesowen Welcome Group. There is a continuing need to help refugee families with young children and buggies are particularly useful. If you would like to pass one on, then please let Mike Gower know. Telephone 07946 398502

Reflection for Christ the King

Readings: *Daniel 7:13-14; Psalm 93; Revelation 1:5-8; John 18:33-37*

Since Jesus Christ is Universal King, it is only fitting that we honour him as such. He has indeed professed himself to be King, "I am a king" (Gospel). He has come to free those who would be part of his kingdom and spared no sacrifice to rescue them from sin and death (Second Reading). Although he came in humility and poverty, amid silence and darkness and obscurity, he will come in glory and light, in all his majesty at the end of times to judge every soul, living and dead declaring an irreversible sentence of eternal life or eternal death for each individual (First Reading).

Pius XI teaches us in Quas Primas, the encyclical declaring Christ's universal kingship, that "Jesus is King by right of nature and by conquest." By right of nature, "he possesses ... power over all creatures, not that he seized it by violence, nor received it from another, but he possesses it by his own nature and essence; his power comes from that wonderful union which is called by theologians hypostatic. For this reason, Christ is to be adored not only as God by angels and men, but these angels and men owe submission and obedience to him also as man." In fact, Christ as man participates fully in the royalty and sovereign majesty of Christ as God; since as man and as God, Christ is one Person, the second Person of the Blessed Trinity. He is the summit of all creation: the beginning and the end, the King of all things; he holds "the primacy of all things" (see Colossians 1:18)

This perspective was continued in the Second Vatican Council, primarily in Gaudium et Spes which says:

"While helping the world and receiving many benefits from it, the Church has a single intention: that God's Kingdom may come, and that the salvation of the whole human race may come to pass. For every benefit which the People of God during its earthly pilgrimage can offer to the human family stems from the fact that the Church is "the universal sacrament of salvation" (24), manifesting the mystery of God's love.

"For God's Word, by whom all things were made, was himself made flesh so that as perfect man he might save all men and sum up all things in himself. The Lord is the goal of human history, the focal point of the longings of history and of civilization, the centre of the human race, the joy of every heart and the answer to all its yearnings" (25). He it is whom the Father raised from the dead, lifted on high and stationed at his right hand, making him judge of the living and the dead. Enlivened and united in his Spirit, we journey toward the consummation of human history, one which fully accords with the counsel of God's love: "To reestablish all things in Christ, both those in the heavens and those on the earth" (Ephesians 11:10).

The Lord Himself speaks: "Behold I come quickly and my reward is with me, to render to each one according to his works. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end (Revelation 22; 12-13)" (see GS 45).



When Pius XI instituted the Feast of Christ the King, he was primarily responding to the excesses of Marxism and secular humanism, which sought to erase the name of Jesus Christ from human memory. Today, the Feast of Jesus Christ King of the Universe is the occasion to go deeper into this essential aspect of the Faith as well as revisit and re-evaluate the truth of Christ's royalty in the context of the present-day relations between the Church and the modern world. Christ has created us and redeemed us, thus making of us a royal priesthood, participants in his life and nature. Our participation in his royal governance should free us from every type of slavery in favour of a new elevated, purified, consolidated life in Christ (see Lumen Gentium 13). "What could be more pleasing and agreeable than the thought that Christ is Ruler, not only by right of nature, but by right of conquest, which he acquired when he became our Redeemer! O that ungrateful men would remember how much we have cost our Savior! We were not redeemed at the price of gold or silver ... but by Christ's precious Blood. We no longer belong to ourselves, because Christ has paid a precious ransom for us" (Quas Primas). Christ has every right to rule over us. As Paul says "For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet" (1 Corinthians 15:25).

From all eternity, God the Father beheld in Christ, his only begotten Son, all humanity who would be created by him and handed over to his Son as fruits of his victory on the cross. St. Paul says that God Father has set Christ, "at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come" (Ephesians 1:20-21). We have been chosen in him, predestined in Christ "that we might sing the praise of his glory" (Ephesians 1:12). Just as the angels, we have been created to give God glory in Jesus Christ our King. We begin to do so by acknowledging his rights to our praise and gratitude, living in docile submission to his will – not as slaves, but in the freedom of children of God.

The laity, above all, have a special participation in Christ's royal priesthood and are called to exercise it in works that promote the human person, acting as leaven in society spreading the Gospel spirit in their workplaces and homes. They are called to give witness to Christ's kingship through their testimony and works of apostolate to the glory of Christ the King, Redeemer and Saviour of humanity (see Apostolicam Actuositatem, 2).

Christ, the New Man, alone integrates society, elevating us and perfecting us in his paschal mystery. Our willing participation through prayer and apostolate, through lives given over to him and others is the only way to the peace that only Christ the King can give (see GS 22; 32-45; 77-78; 92-93).

Shelagh, Fr Stephen

The Parishes operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. The Parish Safeguarding Representative for Our Lady and St Kenelm is Shelagh Ash. Shelagh can be contacted at:sg.olstkenelm.halesowen@rcaob.org.uk. The Parish Safeguarding Representative for Our Lady of Lourdes is Nadine Hancox. Alternatively, the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.



Christ the King

Entrance Antiphon

How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

Responsorial Psalm

Response: The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed.

Gospel Acclamation

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

Communion Antiphon

The Lord sits as King for ever.
The Lord will bless his people with peace.

(continued overleaf)