



OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH

A FAIRTRADE PARISH

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SUNDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 2020 CHRIST THE KING (Cycle A, Psalter Week 2)

BEHOLD YOUR BROKEN KING

"Christ is our King!" If that sounds like an obvious statement, then we may have missed the point. The phrase sounds like a slogan (and has actually been used as a war-cry). This Sunday's feast was certainly promoted in the Catholic Church as an answer to Fascism, Communism and the idolatry of the State in the early twentieth century. Yet everything that Jesus does and is subverts our common understanding of kingship and power. Medieval art and poetry generally got that. The only crown he had was the crown of thorns; his sceptre the rod used to beat him; his royal robes a jesting soldier's cloak; his throne the cross. *"Behold the King of the Jews."*

This Sunday's Gospel (Mt 25.31-46) takes that subversion to the nth degree. What does our King look like? Where might we go to give him homage? Jesus tells us: he looks like the hungry beggar, the homeless refugee, the chronically sick and the long-term prisoner. There's no guarantee of positive emotional feedback in such encounters. They are often awkward, if not downright unpleasant. But that's the point: *"Insofar as you did this to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me."* So *"Behold your King!"* (as Pilate said on Good Friday) – the unrecognisable one who comes in search of us, hidden in brokenness. - **Fr. Rob**

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

All masses are streamed

Sat	9.30am	Decd. Membs of the Sweeney & Donegan Families
Sun	10.15am	People of the Parish
Mon	8.30am	Decd. Membs of the Releputo Family & Friends
Tue	8.30am	Alister Mackenzie RIP
Wed	8.30am	Ana Treves RIP
Thu	8.30am	Decd. Membs of the child & Sillery Family
Fri	8.30am	Fr. Barry Wymes RIP
Sat	9.30am	People of the Parish
Sun	10.15am	Betty Formby RIP

We commend to the Lord all who have died recently, especially Therezinha Gold, whose funeral was on Thursday; and Graeme Comlay and Ana Treves, whose anniversaries of death fall this week. **November Prayer Intentions:** For the Holy Souls and for all who have been bereaved; for *East Elmbridge Foodbank* and all who feed the hungry; for an end to the use of warfare to resolve conflict around the world; and *"that the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind."* (Pope Francis' Intention for November).

Prayers needed? A book of prayer intentions is placed on the altar at all masses. If you'd like a name or intention added to the book, phone / e-mail Fr. Rob.

This Sunday is the Solemnity of **Christ the King**, the last Sunday of the Church's Year, and is normally kept as **National Youth Sunday**, with the theme this year, *'Together'* – see <https://nationalyouthsunday.com>. That may seem ironic, given that we cannot physically meet. But it reminds us that what binds us together is not just the fact of meeting up but the bigger fact of belonging to Christ Jesus, young and old, through our own baptism.

This Monday Bishop Richard is celebrating mass for all who have been bereaved in Weybridge deanery during 2020. This will be streamed at 7.30pm from Christ the Prince of Peace parish, Weybridge: <https://www.cpp.org.uk/>

This Wednesday is **Red Wednesday** – an event organised by *Aid to the Church In Need* to highlight threats to the human rights and safety of persecuted Christians around the world. Normally events would focus on Westminster Cathedral, but this year it is all online, with a string of events through this week. Read more at <https://acnuk.org/event/redwednesday-digital-event/>

Zoom Quiz - Around the World in 80 Minutes: Join in the virtual parish quiz next Sunday, 29 November at 4pm via Zoom and hosted by Tim & Anne-Marie Wake. Send your email request for the Zoom link to karen@haizelden.com. Donations to MNDA: <https://justgiving.com/fundraising/tim-wake>. All welcome!

During Lockdown 'public worship' is banned (except for funerals – limited to up to 30 'close family members'). Until December 2, **Streamed Mass** is now **8.30am Monday-to-Friday, 9.30am on Saturday, 10.15am on Sunday** (and available on demand thereafter). Churches can still be opened for private prayer – when **volunteer stewards** are available. The church is open from **9.00-10.30am Monday to Friday, 10-11am Saturday and 11am to Noon on Sunday**.

In the Narthex: We have to be very attentive to being 'Covid-secure' so **please use sanitiser every time** you enter or leave the building (and always before handling any items such as newsletters, newspapers and repository items). You are also invited to sign in using the NHS Test & Trace app, or pen and paper. Even with no public worship, when the church is open you will find copies of the Catholic weeklies, *The Tablet* and *The Universe*, both of which are worth reading; Pope Francis' new encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, on 'Social Friendship' in this time of pandemic, and some beautiful little Christmas gifts, cards and other helps to our living of the Advent season.

Christmas Gift Donations: Due to Covid we are unfortunately unable to host the Annual Festive Teas for the senior members of our community this year. We are therefore planning on doing something a little different: visiting our community with a Christmas carol and a small gift. If you could help by donating a small, wrapped gift, please contact Julie O'Brien erinsmum08@yahoo.co.uk by the **30 November**. Thank you!

There is a lot happening in our Parish over the Festive season. From family quizzes and preparing for alternatives to our annual festive teas to reverse advent calendars to collect for the Elmbridge Food bank, and our annual hamper raffle. Please visit our website and lend a small hand if you can. <https://olchurch.co.uk/whats-on/>

Christmas Masses: We are beginning to organise our plans for masses at Christmas, but we cannot finalise details until we know what will be allowed after 2 December. Whatever the restrictions may be, there will be a booking system in place to ensure we are compliant as a Covid-Safe building and help to protect the more vulnerable of our community. We will share details of how this will work in due course, but in the meantime, have a think about whether you would wish to attend a mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, and how many in your group will be attending. **NB We can only provide planned services with sufficient volunteer stewards.**

Iraqi Christians in Need (ICIN): Parishioner Suha Rassam's daughter and son-in-law are fundraising for ICIN by providing freshly-cooked, delicious meals Monday-Friday until Christmas. The charity supports Iraqi Christians displaced from their homes by ISIS. Please contact Suha for further information if you are interested: Suha Rassam (ICIN trustee); H: 02083989660; M: 07913403827; email: srassam1@gmail.com.

Every Monday evening at 8pm join us for a **TakeTime** meditation via zoom. *TakeTime* meditations provide a calm, comfortable space in which to meet God. Please email meditations@olchurch.org.uk for the link.

We now have three Advent Prayer Groups that will be running during Advent. Would you like to join one? Would you like to gather some friends and run your own group? To join a group or have a look at the resources, email prayer@olchurch.org.uk Let's make Advent a special time to get together as a community.

Confirmation 2021: It looks as though the celebration of the sacrament will be rather later in the year in 2021 due to the current disruption of parish life. But we warmly invite young people in Year 10 or above to indicate their interest in joining with other young people for a time of formation and reflection on Christian faith in preparation for the sacrament. Forms are available on the parish website [here](#). Please email a scan or photo of your completed forms to the parish office **before 6 December**, or if you are passing post via the office letterbox.

A lovely way of one family helping another as we approach the festive season is to do a "**Reverse Advent Calendar**" for East Elmbridge Foodbank. Each day in December put an item aside to donate to the foodbank. All non-perishable items are gratefully received, but especially: **cleaning products, tinned meat, tinned fish, tinned pies, washing products and toiletries**. If you want to do this in November you could add Christmas items (mince pies, Christmas cake etc). Drop off: in the Narthex when OLOL is open; at Fr. Rob's house; at Clare Wright's house (contact Clare on clarew07@hotmail.co.uk or 07808904470 to arrange). We will arrange for delivery in time for Christmas (for Nov calendars), or after Christmas (for Dec calendars).

Journey In Faith: Have you been worshipping with our community for years (as spouse of a parishioner or parent at St. Paul's) and yet no one has asked you whether you'd like to be a Catholic? Or have you bumped into OLOL parish in some other way and something resonated with your story? Or was it something the Pope said ...? Or having a re-think because of Covid-19? Whatever your story, contact Fr. Rob or e-mail journey@olchurch.org.uk to talk about where the Lord might be leading you.

Live Simply: Improving the energy efficiency and heating in our homes is one way to try to live more sustainably. The Government are offering vouchers to cover two-thirds of the cost of eligible improvements, up to a maximum of £5,000. To find out more: www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-the-green-homes-grant-scheme.

Has this time of pandemic raised questions for you about life and faith? **Alpha** is a place to ask those questions, connect with others and contribute your perspective in a friendly and open environment. Email alpha@olchurch.org.uk to find out more about our next online alpha course.

Science and Religion: Professor John O'Brien will deliver the second of a three-part online and interactive lecture series on '**The False Divide: Science vs Religion**' on Tuesday **24th November** at 7.30pm via the Christ the Prince of Peace *YouTube* channel (type in 'CPP Weybridge' to *YouTube*!). The second lecture will be focusing on '*Science: Challenges and Limitations*' as we seek to better understand the boundaries and meeting points between Science and Christianity in particular.

Online Weekend Individually Guided Retreat: 4-6 December with the House of Prayer, Molesey. This retreat provides an opportunity to step aside from the busyness of everyday life and spend time in quiet prayer and reflection. A retreat guide will be available for daily individual meetings to accompany you through the retreat. Above all, this retreat is a time of listening to God who is present in the experiences of prayer and daily living. All prayer meetings and spiritual direction will be online using the Zoom platform. Retreat from home cost: £60. To book or for more details see www.christian-retreat.org or contact admin@christian-retreat.org / 020 8941 2313.

Help protect babies with cleft lip, cleft palate and club foot: Sadly abortion is currently available in the UK, right up to birth, for babies with cleft lip, cleft palate and club foot. All of these conditions can be corrected. A cross-party group of MPs from the three largest parties in the UK Parliament have come together to bring forward the Abortion (Cleft lip, cleft palate and club foot) Bill. The Bill will change the law to clarify that cleft palate, cleft lip, and club foot are not grounds for abortion in the UK. Can you help with getting your MP to support the Bill? Please visit www.standupandsmile.org.uk to email your MP asking them to support the Bill. It only takes 30 seconds.