

### Isn't this all too easy?

It would be better to say that is very simple. It is simple and efficacious because it is a GIFT. We simply have to ask for it and desire it. If we do these things, God is on fire to grant us the gift.

BUT, it has a cost. We must be prepared to surrender our own will totally and absolutely and for good – not of course the faculty of our will which enables us to choose and to love – but our own desires etc. We must be prepared to accept the Will of God for us unconditionally, seeing in it all good. We must accept also that living out Christ's life means that we will be granted a share in his passion and suffering. However, do not be put off. God will not ask anything of us that we can't handle and all through He will accomplish everything in us. We have to desire it, have courage and be patient. But the rewards are of such greatness that we should be on fire for this gift.



Once we realise the power of Christ and the Cross, we shall undergo such a transformation that we shall scarcely recognise ourselves. We shall learn how much Christ suffered for us, how much he loved us and thereby, we shall learn to love him and suffer for love's sake alone.

So as we celebrate this feast of Christ the King, let us remember too Mary, our Queen, from whose hands this gift will come and who will not rest until she has seen her children conformed to her son in every detail.

Jesus' words in John 17:22-23 sum all this up:

"I have given them the glory, you gave to me, that they may be one, as we are one with me in them, and you in me, may they be so completely one that the world will realise that it was you who sent me and that I have loved them – as much as you loved me.

What a grace to be alive in these times! Jesus, Mary and Joseph pray for us!

### From the Parish Priest's Desk.....



Dear Faithful,

### The Kingdom

We celebrate this Sunday the feast of Christ the King to whom belongs all glory, power and honour, praise and thanksgiving. Christ came to rule as King and to usher in the Kingdom of Heaven. This is important! Christ came not only to redeem but to restore that Kingdom, present in the garden of Eden, but lost through the fall. It was founded during his life time but is yet to reach its fullness.

We are living in that time when the fulfilment of the Kingdom is imminent. Whilst no one knows the time or the day, we do know it is soon. In the Our Father we have been praying for this for almost exactly two thousand years....."Thy Kingdom Come!" This triumph has many names: the "Era of Peace"; "the New Pentecost" or the "Triumph of the Immaculate Heart." This is why the world is in turmoil for the birth pangs are upon us.

### Why is Christ King?

Christ is King of this Kingdom because through his perfect submission of his human will to the Divine Will of God, he had the power and grace to bring about this restoration. All Christ did, said, suffered or thought was always animated by the Father's Will and for his glory – nothing escaped this from his death on the cross to his first breath. He came to teach us how much the Father loves us and how worthy He is of our trust and submission and how he is on fire to restore in us this Kingdom.

Christ rules from the cross because it is here, he perfectly demonstrated his total fidelity to the Will of the Father.



## Our Response

We are now being invited by a gift into union with Christ whereby we are able – like him – to carry out the Will of God as it is carried out in heaven: “thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” This is something that Mary accomplished from the moment of her Immaculate Conception, being the spouse of the Holy Spirit: “be it done unto me according to your will.” Her whole life was a complete surrender to God. So we too simply need to give complete freedom for God to operate in us. There is no hidden paths or gateways, it is as simple as desiring it.



We could say that there is a golden rule that we desire it and remove our own human desires, thoughts, decisions and Jesus does the rest little by little. This is the greatest of all gifts that God is putting at our disposal his own Divine Will with all the goods that it contains. This is the sanctity of sanctities, what St John Paul II called a new and divine holiness. What does God ask of us? Surrender and Trust. Let us think about what he is gifting to us.

## The Nature of the Kingdom

The Kingdom is a Kingdom of light – the uncreated light that is God; no darkness may enter. The soul is completely filled with light which brings with it God’s beauty and likeness (remember only Adam and Eve were created in his image and likeness – we were created in his image but have to bring about his likeness). It brings about oceans of joy and peace and places at our disposal all the graces of Christ and all his mysteries. It enables the soul to bear everything in peace and tranquility and even in the midst of the greatest suffering, it maintains this joy and peace. When brought to its completion on earth, there will be dramatic changes in nature, in health, in sanctity. We shall still live in a fallen world but there will be a huge decline in sin, anxiety, war etc. But we must note this is not the second coming, this is the establishment of the spiritual kingdom of Christ and the period of peace referred to in the book of Revelation.

## How are some of the ways it will effect us?

Firstly, we shall find ourselves concentrating on giving glory to God, first and foremost. When we allow God’s will to animate our lives, it means that we can give back to God the perfect glory that is owed to him and which has been lacking. We can compensate (make reparation) for all those that fail to do God’s will, who fail to thank him and to praise him.

Secondly, we will see as a priority to console the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Jesus is looking for souls now who will be with him especially in those times when everyone deserted him at the hour of his passion. We shall not simply meditate upon it or feel compassion – great as those things are – but we shall enter into it. Psalm 116 says, “What shall I give back to the Lord for all that he has given to me, I shall take (a sip) of the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord.” We will allow his whole life to be lived out again in us. (See St John Eudes CCC 521)

Thirdly, we shall have a great impact on souls and on all of creation; because we are now allowing Jesus to operate in us, the power of the prayers and sacrifices we make in him are multiplied and across time and space. We shall no longer be alone but will bring all souls with us.

