

Holy Trinity Catholic Church

41 Brook Green, London W6 7BL

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Website: www.holytrinityw6.org Parish email: brookgreen@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Centre website with details re hire: www.trinityfocus.org

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Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe 22nd November 2020

Today's Readings p.620-624

Ez 34:11-12,15-17; Paul 15:20-26,28; Mt 25:31-46



Service Times

Saturday Vigil Mass 6 pm, Sunday at 8.30 am, 10 am, 11.30 and 6pm

Sunday at 1 pm Syriac Rite, in Arabic and Aramaic

Mass daily 9.30 am & 6 pm Benediction: Sat. 5-5.40 pm

Rosary: prayed in church Mon-Fri at 6.30pm, after Mass

Confession: Saturday 10-10.30 am and 5.15-5.40pm

First Friday Adoration: 6.30-7.30pm

OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Friday 10am-1pm and 2pm-4pm

Today's Bible Readings

Today, the Feast of Christ the King, is the last Sunday of the Christian Year. For the previous few Sundays we have already been anticipating the themes of Advent, (starting next Sunday,) and this process comes to its climax today: Christ's second coming in glory, and the last judgement. The Gospel and the other readings today portray Christ both as Shepherd and King. We have this year been reading St Matthew's Gospel, which in various places shows us Christ's Kingship, though previously in a hidden way. The visit of the Magi shows the infant Jesus to be King of the Jews, though this is only recognised by the Magi through their royal gifts to the Christ child, and in his Passion Jesus is described in kingly terms – Pilate asks him if he is a King, the soldiers dress him up as a mock-king, and the title on the cross, intended ironically, describes Jesus of Nazareth as the King of the Jews. But on the day of judgement, described in today's parable of the sheep and the goats, Jesus is recognised by all as King in all his splendour, seated on his throne of glory. On today's feast we are anticipating the day when Christ's universal Kingship will be recognised.

In the parable he judges the nations on the basis of the way they have treated the least of his brethren, (meaning his disciples.) Some have truly served their needs, and in doing so have served Christ himself. They are the sheep who will have a place in Christ's kingdom for their heritage. Some have not served their needs, and so have also not served Christ. They are the goats, who will go to eternal punishment. The least of Christ's brethren is often extended to mean not just his disciples, but all those who suffer, in supplying whose needs we do serve Christ himself.

The first reading by contrast shows us the Lord as the Good Shepherd tending to the various needs of us his sheep – looking for the lost, bandaging the injured etc – but ends with him judging between sheep and goats. In the Middle East mixed flocks of sheep and goats were common, but were separated by the shepherd in the evening, because goats need to go into the warm, but sheep prefer to stay outdoors. The sheep are the more valuable, which is why they symbolise the righteous in today's readings. Our prayer today is that by the way we serve Christ in the least of his brethren we may be counted among the sheep on the day of judgement: in the words of the Dies irae (a mediaeval hymn used in the church's liturgy this coming week), 'With thy sheep a place provide me,
From the goats afar divide me,
To thy right hand do thou guide me.'

Thank you

to all those whose preparatory work in the church, and by promoting the event widely, enabled us to keep on yesterday's Vigil of Christ the King the Four Hours Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, in which in a way in accordance with the lockdown regulations we were able to pray individually for all who have been affected by the pandemic, and to continue to pray for the intention of this Year of the Word, that we may hear the God who speaks to us through Christ in the Bible, and to rededicate ourselves to Mary as part of England her dowry.

November is the Month of the Holy Souls

As usual, a book containing the names of our dear departed will be placed near the altar, and each week several Masses will be offered for the repose of their souls. We invite you to submit the names of those you wish to be prayed for on a sheet of A4 (if possible) paper, which should be placed in an envelope marked Holy Souls, along with a donation towards the Masses, and put through the presbytery letterbox. (We are unable this year to leave special sheets of paper and envelopes in church for you to take for this purpose, as this would infringe the coronavirus regulations.)

PERFECT CONTRITION AND SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

What to do if you cannot go to Confession or receive Holy Communion because of the COVID-19 virus
Please visit our website for a link: www.holytrinityw6.org

Please pray for the sick, especially: John O'Neill, Noeline Mooney, Peggy Gilroy, Hannah Gallis, Agnes Walopo, Margaret Carney, Mary Scherer, Charley O'Neill, Christopher Browne, Clifford Browne, Marie Duffy, Irene Macneil, Ethan Hollyman, Francis Brady, Heather Marcille, Breda Moloney, Ray Collins, Christina Sweeney, Jenny Majumdar, Claudia Jaksch, Lyda Franco and Eddie Hughes. **We commend to God those who died recently and those with anniversaries around this time:** Michael Ryan, Paddy, Betty and Colm O'Donnell, Patrick McMahon and Vivienne Schaebbicke.

During the Lockdown we are not allowed to celebrate Mass publicly in the Church

Times of Opening of the Church for Individual Prayer for the Week beginning Sunday 22nd November

(Made possible due to the generosity of our volunteer stewards, who will ensure safe social distancing is maintained and that the hygienic cleaning of the seating etc takes place.)

Saturday 21st November <i>Vigil of Christ the King</i>	1.00 – 5.00pm FOUR HOURS ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT <i>The church will <u>not</u> be open for individual prayer in the evening</i>
Sunday 22nd November <i>Christ the King</i>	9.45 – 10.45 am 11.15 am – 12.15 pm
Monday 23rd November <i>St Clement</i>	5.45 – 6.45 pm
Tuesday 24th November <i>St Andrew Dung-Lac</i>	5.45 – 6.45 pm
Wednesday 25th November <i>St Catherine of Alexandria</i>	8.45 – 9.45 am
Thursday 26th November	8.45 – 9.45 am
Friday 27th November	8.45 – 9.45 am
Saturday 28th November	5.45 – 6.45 pm
Sunday 29th November <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	9.45 – 10.45 am 11.15 am – 12.15 pm

We are only allowed to open the church if volunteer stewards are kindly available to ensure the required hygienic and social distancing arrangements are observed, and to clean thoroughly or sanitise the church afterwards. If you would like to enquire about volunteering for this ministry, please contact the parish office.

Mass Intentions

Although no public Masses are allowed, our priests will still say Mass privately each day. You can find a link to the Mass Intentions for this week on our website: www.holytrinityw6.org .

Requests for Mass intentions can be made **by email during lockdown**. It is customary to make an offering when requesting a Mass intention. This has always been a contribution to the support of the priests of the particular parish where the Mass is being said. The Diocese of Westminster suggests the figure of £10 as a guideline, but it is of course entirely the free choice of the donor to decide this.

Today is National Youth Sunday, we celebrate and pray for the young people in our parish and all the gifts and talents they share with us.

Follow @NationalYouthSunday for more information, see www.nationalyouthsunday.com

This year we can't be physically together at Mass, so the **Confirmation candidates** have contributed to the power point Children's Liturgy for the feast of Christ the King. You can watch it on the parish Facebook page. Look out, also on Facebook, for the candidates' photos & reflections for each day of Advent!

On Saturday we were united together in prayer at the Four Hours Adoration.

Thank you to everyone who took part, including the parents & children enrolled for the **First Holy Communion Preparation** who came, so reverently, with their special prayers.

Children's Liturgy continues on the parish Facebook page every Sunday, thanks to our dedicated Children's Liturgy Team. Why not view it with your young children & give it a like?

Interested in the Catholic Faith? The new group has begun to meet via zoom. For more details email srjenefer@rcdow.org.uk All recently received Catholics and new enquirers are welcome.

Catechists are invited to register for a 30-minute Zoom reflection on the 'Saints of Catechesis': LIVE STREAMED FREE OF CHARGE –on a different day of the first week of each month. Next date is Wednesday 2nd December at 7.30pm. Register at catadmin@rcdow.org.uk

The Bible Timeline Course: Jeff Cavin's worldwide-famous Catholic Bible Study. **Live Streamed – Free of Charge** A 7- session course on Wednesdays, **started on Wed 4th November at 7pm**

Course info: www.comeandsee.org

Register: <https://comeandsee.org/registration.html>

Preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism: If you have a child for **Baptism** under 5 years old please email us for an application form. You will be contacted once the form has been received. A copy of one of the Catholic parents' baptism certificate will be required. Baptisms usually take place on Saturdays at 11am with special Covid safety measures in place, however, during lockdown baptisms are not allowed.

Certificate of Catholic Practice for Nursery and Primary School Applications

Due to lockdown restrictions no personal interviews with parents can take place. Please email the parish office in order to obtain and complete an information form and a certificate of Catholic practice:

brookgreen@rcdow.org.uk.

PACT - Operation Christmas Elf

Caritas Westminster is partnering with PACT to provide gifts for prisoners' children. This year, they are unable to receive physical presents so are asking people to send £10 book tokens:

You can buy book tokens online from www.nationalbooktokens.com (using a credit/debit card or PayPal) or from all local bookshops. If you buy your book token online, you can even choose for it to be delivered straight to Santa's Grotto! (Which is really our office: Pact - Operation Elf 29 Peckham Road, London SE5 8UA)

If you are going to be supporting Operation Elf and donating a book token for a prisoner's child, let us know on our website and you can also leave a Christmas message for a prisoner's child. There's also lots more information about Operation Elf on the website too, you'll find it all at www.prisonadvice.org.uk

Please note: We need tokens to arrive by 23rd November to give us time to distribute them.

With your help, Pact is working to ensure that these children still get to experience the magic of Christmas. Operation Elf gives you the chance show a little love and care for children with a parent in prison, especially in this most difficult of years. Thank you.

News from the Nightshelter

The nightshelter is up and running this year albeit in a very different form to previous years. We are covering Tuesday nights as usual but this year the night shelter is based in one venue, Chelsea Methodist Church on Kings Road. We are only offering a hot meal and no overnight accommodation and due to Covid restrictions we are only feeding 20 guests in the venue and providing 10 take away meals. But this may all change! As you can imagine, it is very difficult not being able to interact with guests in the same way as previous years and having to watch them walk out onto the street at the end of the meal.

At the moment we only need 5 volunteers to help each evening, but if you did feel able to volunteer do please contact us (Heather Alston, email hja@rawspace.co.uk or phone 07966 233 581). As in previous years, we would love to be able to offer the guests fruit and cheese with homemade cake that they can either eat in or take away to have later. If you felt able to make a small donation towards this, or towards the vouchers we have traditionally provided for Christmas gifts it would be much appreciated. Please either contact us directly or drop an envelope marked "Nightshelter" through the presbytery letterbox.

Thank you so much for your support.

Thank you to all who have been able to continue giving in these difficult times. If you wish to make a one-off donation, please use the link on our website: holytrinityw6.org. We have installed a **Virgin Money Giving** button which allows you to donate by debit or credit card. This is a mobile friendly button. Please make sure to label your donation as Planned Giving (when you normally use envelopes) or simply donation (if not gift aiding).

Alternatively, you may make any offering via bank transfer to:

HSBC

Acc Name: Westminster Roman Catholic Diocese Trustee, Brook Green Holy Trinity

Acc no: 01308173

Sort Code: 40-05-20

Thank you for remembering that without your donations the parish cannot run. A lot of expenses remain whilst our income has been drastically reduced. We are very grateful for your continued support.

Fr Rajiv writes:

The Fathers Know Best...

“And he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.” So then, people on earth are intermingled, and not only intermingled in that the righteous live side by side with the wicked, but they are also indistinguishable. Between the righteous and the wicked there is no apparent difference.

Even as in wintertime you cannot tell the healthy trees apart from the withered trees but in beautiful spring-time you can tell the difference, so too each person according to his faith and his works will be exposed. The wicked will not have any leaves or show any fruit, but the righteous will be clothed with the leaves of eternal life and adorned with the fruit of glory. In this way they will be separated by the heavenly shepherd and Lord. The earthly shepherd separates animals by their type of body, whereas Christ separates people by their type of soul.

The sheep signify righteous people by reason of their gentleness, because they harm no one, and by reason of their patience, because when they are harmed by others, they bear it without resistance. He refers to sinners as goats, however, because these vices characterize goats: capriciousness toward other animals, pride and belligerence.... God will place the righteous at his right hand but the goats at the left. Each one will know what his merits are, then and there. When judgment is passed, the punishment of shame will follow. He will justly place the righteous at his right hand, because they never knew the left side; he will justly place the wicked at the left, because they never wanted to know the right side. (Sermon from the *Incomplete work on Matthew*)

Fr Rajiv's homily will be updated on <https://castingfire.wordpress.com>