

Inspire

ST JAMES & ST BONIFACE,
MID DEVON PARISH,
NR_4_21-11-21



THIRTY-FOURTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

We celebrate the **Solemnity of Christ the King**. In the first reading from the **Book of Daniel**, we read of a vision he has of "one like a Son of man coming on the clouds of heaven." In **John's Gospel** Jesus tells Pilate, "You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

Tuesday is the **Memorial of Saint Cecilia, martyr, and Patroness of Music and Musicians**. On Wednesday it is the memorial of **Saint Andrew Dũng-Lac, Priest, and Vietnamese Companions, Martyrs**. Thursday in the US, it is **Thanksgiving Day**, with its own set of readings.

The first reading this last week of the liturgical year is from the **Book of Daniel**. These apocalyptic and mystical readings were written to give encouragement to the Jewish people in the face of persecution.

The stories in the **Gospel of Luke** this week offer a look at the meaning of generosity as the poor widow offers her two small coins. Jesus cautions against those who will come in his name promising salvation: "Do not follow them!" The cost of following his teaching is made clear, "You will be hated by all because of my name, but not a hair on your head will be destroyed." In a dramatic look at the end time, echoing the Daniel readings, Jesus says, "And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory." Jesus continues the "end time" message saying, "know that the Kingdom of God is near. Amen, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place." He cautions, "Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of

daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap."

Sunday next is the beginning of a new liturgical year with the **First Sunday of Advent**. The first reading from the **Book of Jeremiah** offers a comforting promise of safety to beleaguered Israel: "those days Judah shall be safe and Jerusalem shall dwell secure." **Luke's Gospel** offers us a repeat of several of the daily gospels, advising us to be alert and vigilant, watching for signs. "And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory."

DAILY PRAYER THIS WEEK

The old and the new come together this week as we bring this liturgical year to a close and look ahead to Advent, which begins Sunday. We reflect that Jesus is our Saviour and King. This means we are called to join in building up his kingdom by loving our neighbours, particularly our poorest brothers and sisters.

We will encounter readings about the generosity of a poor widow and the warning of the approaching end of time. This is meant to help us begin our preparations for Advent. The actual end of the world may not be at hand, but the Kingdom of God is always at hand for us. It takes focus and paying attention to notice the signs, the ways the Lord makes himself available to us in the midst of our busy days.

We prepare for Advent this week when we can begin a small, but honest prayer, "Come, Lord, Jesus. Come into this place and into the conflict in my life. Let me be attentive and open to see the places where I am restless, distracted and too busy. Come into my real situation - not the way I present myself to others. Come to me - the real me that needs you." As we grow in our practice of connecting with our Lord and friend in brief moments throughout each day, we can develop the habit of giving thanks each night for what we have received.

<https://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html>

MRS SMITH CAME

We look forward to Jesus Christ's upside-down Kingdom, which is all inclusive, of those that love God and neighbour and where the Blessed are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the humble of heart.

There was once a volunteer retired teacher at a local hospital who was given a 9-year-old called Jimmy, to teach nouns and verbs. Jimmy was in the burn's unit, the sights and smells of which nearly turned her away. But she took a deep breath and went in and met Jimmy. He was not responding well to the treatment.

"Hello, Jimmy, my name is Mrs. Smith and I'm going to be your teacher until you can return to school. Today, we're going to learn about nouns and verbs. It's very important that a person knows how to speak and write properly". After the lesson was over, she told Jimmy that she'd be back in a few days.

Two days later, Mrs. Smith received a phone call from Jimmy's mother asking if she would be coming to the hospital. Mrs. Smith thought that she had done something wrong, but the Mother said, "Oh no, on the contrary. I don't know what you said to my son, but, since your visit, Jimmy has been trying hard to respond to his treatment. It seems like he has finally decided to live.

When Mrs. Smith returned to the hospital, she found Jimmy saying to his mother, "Now I know that I'm going to live. They wouldn't send a teacher to teach me nouns and verbs if I was going to die would they"?

God the Father wouldn't send his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ our King, if we were a lost cause. He wouldn't let his son die a miserable death on the cross for us, if he didn't think some of us would call out to him, as did the good thief - "Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom".

ON THIS YOUTH SUNDAY - We encourage young people and ourselves to deepen our knowledge of Jesus. As we continue our life journey, the Shepherd King, whose unconditional love and

mercy is a prayer away, will show us how to rest, call us back if we go astray, heal us, give us strength to do the Father's will. As we grow closer to him, he will continue to nurture and mould us into his likeness. O Lead us kindly light.

ADVENT POEM

Four candles were burning on the advent wreath. It was so quiet that one could hear them speak.

The first one whispered: I am called PEACE, but humans do not want me. The light extinguished.

The second candle sadly said: I am called FAITH, but humans do not want to know about God any longer. A puff, and the light was gone.

The third candle was heard: I am called LOVE, but people mistake me for quite something else. They do not know me at all, and with a sigh, it went out.

Then the fourth candle was heard saying: Do not despair, dear sisters and brothers, I am called HOPE.

And as long as I am still burning You can rekindle your light of LOVE, FAITH AND PEACE.

Author unknown

Lord, our God, your light dispels all darkness.

Your springs make deserts blossom; the warmth of your love melts what is frozen, restores what was lost, refreshes what was weary. In you, Lord God, there is always hope.

There is a God shaped hole in each of us... that can only be filled by God.

There is a 'U' shape in God... that can only be filled by you.

Canon John Udris – Northampton Diocese Nov 2006

The first book written [in middle English] was by a woman – Julian of Norwich.