

# The week ahead...

<b>Saturday 24 November</b> Vigil Mass for Christ the King	<b>5:00pm</b>	Mass: <b>John Middleton and pro populo</b>
<b>Sunday 25 November</b> Feast of Christ the King	<b>NO MASS</b>	
<b>Monday 26 November</b> Weekday of Ordinary Time 34	<b>NO MASS</b>	
<b>Tuesday 27 November</b> Weekday of Ordinary Time 34	<b>NO MASS</b>	
<b>Wednesday 28 November</b> Weekday of Ordinary Time 34	<b>9:30am</b>	Communion Service
<b>Thursday 29 November</b> Weekday of Ordinary Time 34	<b>NO MASS</b>	
<b>Friday 30 November</b> <i>St Andrew, Apostle, Patron of Scotland</i>	<b>NO MASS</b>	
<b>Saturday 01 December</b> Vigil Mass for First Sunday of Advent	<b>5:00pm</b>	Mass: <b>Arthur &amp; Kamilla Crooks and pro populo</b>



**St Patrick's R.C. Church**  
*A Parish of the Finchale Partnership*  
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**Hospital Chaplain:** Fr Paul Tully **Ph:** (01388) 818 544

## Christ the King 25 November, 2018

### "I came into the world...to bear witness to the truth..."

THIS SUNDAY'S FEAST of Christ the King or, to give the feast its more accurate and exalted title, "Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe", marks the final Sunday of the Church's year. Next Sunday is the First Sunday of Advent and we begin preparation for the Christmas season, recalling the remarkable event of the Nativity, the beginning of our salvation.

We have a dramatic scene presented to us today as Jesus stands before Pilate, a man who clearly has a very limited understanding of kingship and who responds in a very trite manner to Jesus' rather enigmatic statement about an otherworldly kingdom. To Pilate's way of thinking a king reigned over a specific geographical area, rather like Pilate himself who, though not technically a king but a Roman Prefect, had responsibility for the province of Judaea. It is with this mindset that Pilate questions Jesus.

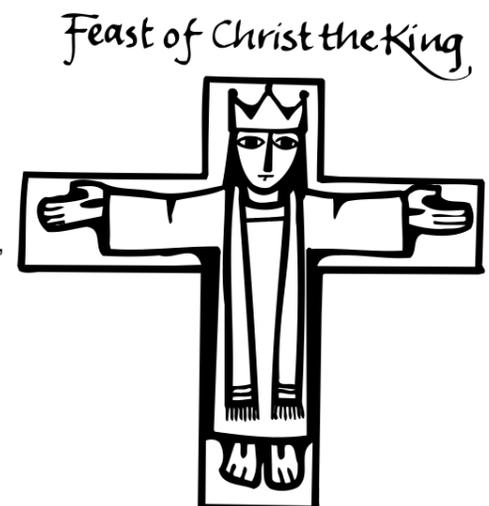
For me, one of the key features of this short scene is the contrast between the demeanour of Jesus and that of Pilate. Pilate is portrayed as uncertain and fragile, a leader who is vulnerable and at the mercy of greater forces despite his powerful position; Jesus, on the other hand is self-assured and in control - unshakeable, in fact. I would suggest that the reason for Jesus' confidence is because he has come "to bear witness to the truth." We are reminded of the martyrs of the Church who, over many centuries, have held firm in the face of death because they knew that nothing was more important than holding fast to the truth, not even their own lives. Jesus is not merely holding fast to the truth, he embodies it, for he *is* the truth.

Pilate, of course, is blind to all of this. He is the one who asks the question, "What is truth?" (Jn 18:38), words which follow on immediately from the Gospel passage we hear this weekend. As Pilate asks this question, he is blind to the fact that 'truth' is standing there before him in the flesh. He then walks out of the building and Jesus' fate is sealed. Truth is condemned to death.

Whilst many would be tempted to give philosophical answers to Pilate's question, we, as Christians who don't share Pilate's ignorance, can respond with two words: Jesus Christ. Jesus, earlier in the same Gospel, declares: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me." (Jn 14:6) We know that Jesus is the truth and it is only through continuous nourishment of our faith that we can maintain the strength to stand up for the truth, to keep the truth alive even if it means we suffer for it.

May we not flounder with limited vision like Pilate. Worldly kings are not to be worshipped, but Jesus is an otherworldly king. Worldly kings are often economical with the truth but our King, the King of the Universe, came "to bear witness to the truth." As we end the Church's year and enter a new one, let us resolve to give due time and attention to our King, knowing that Jesus is as far removed from worldly kings as is possible and thus worthy of all praise and gratitude.

*Wishing you a blessed week ahead,*  
 Fr Robert



### Confessions available after all Masses or by appointment

**MINISTRIES**  
**Saturday 24 November**  
**Eucharistic Ministers**  
 Jane Smith, Helen Musham  
 Wilf Lavery  
**Readers**  
 Ann Canavan  
 Angela Tosley  
**Children's Liturgy**  
 Maria Griffiths  
 Joanne Lidster  
**Welcomers**  
 Halina Holman  
 Janet Harrigan  
**Music**  
 Greg Mearman & Choir

**MINISTRIES**  
**Saturday 01 December**  
**Eucharistic Ministers**  
 Ambrose & Pauline Burnside  
 Harry Curran  
**Readers**  
 Claire Lavery  
 Margaret Purdom  
**Children's Liturgy**  
 Maria Griffiths  
 Michelle Dennis  
**Welcomers**  
 Paul & Anne Kelly  
**Music**  
 Bill Wilkinson & Choir

Feast of Christ the King

Should you have any items for the bulletin or wish to have it emailed to you, please contact the parish via phone or email. Contact details are on the front of the bulletin. Items for publication need to be submitted by **12:00noon on Thursday.**

#### We pray for our beloved deceased, including....



John MIDDLETON  
 Margaret TURNBULL  
 Christine KENNICK  
 Thomas BIRD  
 Mary PATTERSON

*Please remember in your prayers those who are sick and housebound in our parish....*

*Vera Lumsden, Pat Harrison,  
 Frances Harland, Sylvia Kelly,  
 Mary Spears, Ann Canavan,  
 Rose Crick, Doreen Carroll,  
 Jack Tobin, Tom Taylorson  
 and Margaret Pouton*



**£ LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION**  
**Gift Aid: £217 Loose Plate: £195**  
**TOTAL: £412**  
**Mass Attendance: 146**  
 DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE  
 CHARITY NUMBER 1143450



# What's going on...?

**Youth Sunday Collection:** Today on Youth Sunday, we celebrate the gift of young people in our Church and renew our commitment to encourage and support them. Please pray for the young people in your parish and throughout the diocese and for those who work with them and please give generously to today's collection for the Youth Ministry Team, our diocesan youth service ([www.ymt.org](http://www.ymt.org)).

**Advent Booklets:** As this Sunday marks the last Sunday before Advent, some Advent reflection booklets are available for purchase at the rear of the church for just £1.00 each.

**HCPT Coffee Morning:** Thank you to everyone for your help and support at the recent coffee morning held in the presbytery. We raised an amazing amount - £861 - enough to pay for a child to go to Lourdes. Your generosity and support is truly appreciated. When we go to Lourdes at Easter 2019, we will light a candle each day at the grotto for all our supporters and remember you all in our prayers throughout the week. To all who supported this effort in any way, a very big THANK YOU. - From all at HCPT Group 25.

**Changes to Mass times:** Please note that I will be away from the parish next week and so there will be no weekday Masses. A Communion Service will replace the Wednesday Mass on 28 November. The Saturday Vigil Mass will be celebrated as usual.

**Clergy Training Fund Appeal:** Thank you for your generosity. So far we have raised £225.30. This compares with the £190.00 raised last year by our parish. The appeal closes this weekend.

**Piety Stall:** There is a tremendous collection of Christmas-themed goods now available for sale at competitive prices at the pious goods stall at the rear of the church. Feel free to check it out!

**Finchale Partnership - Advent Service:** Please join us at Ushaw College for our Partnership Advent Service on **Sunday 02 December** at 4:00pm. During the service we will be lighting the first candle of the Advent wreath in the magnificent surroundings of St Cuthbert's Chapel. There will be drinks afterwards, and a treasure trail for the children. We'll be taking a collection for the college (and please be generous as you will also have the opportunity to see the Christmas tree festival while you are there).

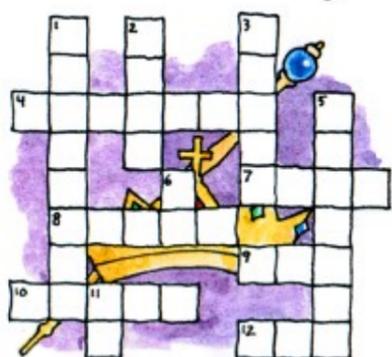
**Preparing our Young People for Confirmation:** The parishes of the Finchale Partnership have agreed that we will work together to prepare our young people for Confirmation. A training session, around the use of the diocesan programme, has been organised. This is open to those already involved in Confirmation programmes, as well as those interested in getting involved. The training will be led by Father Michael McCoy, beginning at 7:15pm, on Thursday 06 December, at St. Cuthbert's, Old Elvet, Durham City. Light refreshments will be available and the session should last around one hour. Preferably, email your parish office to confirm your attendance, by Monday 03 December, or feel free to turn up on the evening.

**Justice and Peace invitation:** The Outreach Committee of the Finchale Partnership is seeking to meet with all Justice and Peace groups within the partnership, and anyone else who has an interest in justice and peace issues, with a view to learning from each other and investigating ways we might work more effectively together across the partnership. The meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, 06 December, from 7:00pm at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Esh Winning.** Please contact Fr Robert Riedling at St Patrick's, Langley Moor with any enquiries ([langleymoor.stpatrick@rcdhn.co.uk](mailto:langleymoor.stpatrick@rcdhn.co.uk) / (0191) 378 4486).

**Missio (APF Mill Hill Missionaries):** Sponsors will collect donations from contributors to the 'Red Boxes/Brown Envelopes' during the first two weeks in December. If anyone wishes to help in the spreading of the Good News of Jesus and would like a box, please see one of the sponsors. Also, if you want a gift aid envelope, please let one of us know. Thank you, Michael & Stella Foody.

## The Kids' Bulletin

### Christ the King Crossword



Revelation 1:5-7

Here is a part of today's second reading. Use the words at the bottom to fill in the blanks and the puzzle.

D=down  
A=across.

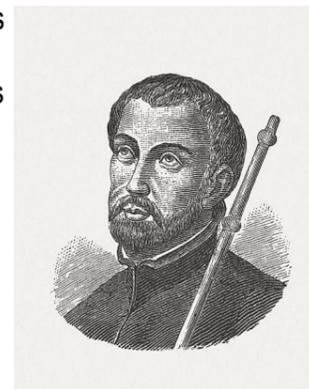
(3D) \_\_\_\_\_ Christ is the (1D) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (4A) \_\_\_\_\_, the firstborn (11D) \_\_\_\_\_  
 the dead and ruler of the (2D) \_\_\_\_\_s of  
 the earth. To (12A) \_\_\_\_\_ who loves us and  
 has (8A) \_\_\_\_\_ us from our (7A) \_\_\_\_\_  
 by his blood, who has made us into a  
 (5D) \_\_\_\_\_, priests for his (9A) \_\_\_\_\_ and  
 Father, to him (6D) \_\_\_\_\_ (10A) \_\_\_\_\_  
 and power forever and ever. Amen.

OF GLORY BE HIM WITNESS  
 GOD FAITHFUL SINS KING  
 FREED KINGDOM JESUS

## SAINT OF THE WEEK

### St Francis Xavier - 03 November

Francis Xavier was born in the Basque country of Spain in 1506. He met Ignatius Loyola when he was a student in Paris, and he was ordained priest in 1537. In 1541 the Pope sent him as part of a mission to India, and he spent the rest of his life in the East, preaching the Gospel in Goa and Malacca. He made many converts and fought against the exploitation of the native population by the Europeans. He spent two years on a successful mission to Japan, laying the foundations of many Christian communities; and in 1552, after entering China secretly to preach the Gospel there, he died of fever and exhaustion on the Chinese island of Shangchuan, not far from modern-day Macau..



(Information taken from [Universalis](http://Universalis))

### ~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~

#### Pope Francis' Mission Statement for November

**That the language of love and dialogue may always prevail over the language of conflict.**

*"In the name of Jesus we can make known, through our witness, that peace is possible."*

**LOVE,  
LOVE,  
LOVE**

### ~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~

#### *Prayer Group & Bible Study*

The **Advent Study Group** will next meet on **Friday, 30 November, 2:00pm - 3:00pm**. This group will meet weekly at the Parish Hall at Brancepeth. The York course "Life to the Full" will be used at a cost of £3.50. All are welcome!

The monthly **Prayer Group** is held in the presbytery here at St Patrick's. The next meeting is on **Tuesday, 18 December, 9:30am - 10:15am**. Refreshments are served before the meeting. All are welcome!



## SCHOOL NEWS

### Statement to Live By

This week's statement was, 'I think before I make choices that affect my health.' We shared Jesus' message about the greatest commandment, 'Love the Lord your God, with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind.' We also talked about the second greatest commandment, 'Love your neighbour, as you love yourself.' Our reflection focused on the importance of being happy with oneself, in order to share God's love with others.

### Masses and Liturgies

The following celebrations have been organised for the coming week:

**Wednesday, 28 November @ 3:00pm:** Liturgy with Year 1 (School Chapel)

**Thursday, 29 November @ 3:00pm:** Liturgy with Year 2 (School Chapel)

All welcome!



## DID YOU KNOW...?

### ...that this Sunday is Youth Sunday?

The Youth Ministry Team (YMT) website states: "This Youth Sunday we celebrate the truth that Jesus shows us we can have joy in Him. Joy because He has set us free to live the life we were created to live and joy even through the challenges of life."

Go to the website [www.ymt.org](http://www.ymt.org) for more information, including a gift for everyone!



## "QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"The faithful do not reap a quick harvest: they have to wait for it to ripen slowly because if God rewarded them quickly religion would be a career and not the worship of God. It would consist in the pursuit of self-interest, not piety."

Anonymous second-century author



**CONGRATULATIONS....** To Jane and David SMITH, and little sister Ava, on the birth of **Thomas James**, born on Tuesday, 20 November. Please remember the family in your prayers. We look forward to seeing Thomas at Mass in the not too distant future!

**IT'S A BOY!**