



Christ King of the Universe 22nd November 2020

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Holy Family Confraternity

The closing Mass for the Holy Family Men's Confraternity will take place on Sunday, November 22nd at 3.00pm. All members are invited.



We thank you for last week's collection which came to £2,069.00.

Thank You

Annual Mass of Remembrance for deceased Redemptorists, Oblates, Benefactors and friends of Clonard, will take place in Clonard on Wednesday 25th November at 6:15pm.

Letters of invitation have been sent to families and relatives.

Following the new restrictions, the Church and the Monastery Reception will be closed from Friday 27th November until further notice. All Masses, therefore, will be online only. The schedule of Mass times (online) can be found in this week's Newsletter and on the homepage of the website at Clonard.com

Webcam and Public Masses in Clonard

MASSES via the WEBCAM

PUBLIC MASSES in CLONARD

7.00am	9.30am	11.00am		Sunday November 22.	7.00am	9.30am	11.00am	12.30pm
7.00am	9.30am	6.15pm		Monday November 23.	7.00am	9.30am		
7.00am	9.30am	6.15pm		Tuesday November 24.	7.00am	9.30am		
7.00am	9.30am	6.15pm		Wednesday November 25.	7.00am	9.30am		
7.00am	9.30am	6.15pm	9.00pm	Thursday November 26. [Novena Masses]	7.00am	9.30am	6.15pm	
7.00am	9.30am	6.15pm		Friday November 27.				
7.00am	9.30am	7.30pm [Vigil Mass]		Saturday November 28.				

Please wear face coverings when entering the church.

Use hand-sanitisers on entering and leaving the church.

Sit only on designated seats.

GOD'S WORD IN NOVEMBER 2020

22ND NOVEMBER CHRIST KING OF THE UNIVERSE

Readings: Ezek 34:11-12, 15-17; 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28; Matt 25:31-46
Sheep and Goats

The story in today's Gospel closes Jesus' final great teaching discourse. While not specifically called a parable, it comes as the climax of the series of parables of the end times. It is in many respects a sort of a key to them and to other aspects of Jesus' teaching in this Gospel.

It begins with a majestic scene describing the return of the Son of Man in glory. Within a few days, Jesus will end his earthly life in the pain and humiliation of the passion. After the Resurrection, he will depart unobtrusively, bidding farewell to his own in the relative obscurity of a hillside in Galilee. His return, however, will be glorious, escorted by angels to take his seat for judgment. Before him, all the nations are gathered. Like a shepherd at evening, he separates sheep from goats. The two speeches addressed to those on either side are substantially the same: what is different is the reaction of those to whom they are addressed.

The first group are the 'sheep': the bible takes a positive view of sheep. The message addressed to them is positive: they are blessed by the Father; a place has been prepared for them in the Kingdom since the foundation of the world. They have passed six vital tests: they have fed the king when he was hungry, given drink to him when he was thirsty, welcomed him when he was a stranger, clothed him when he was naked or visited him when he was the sick or in prison. Christian tradition adds another act, the burial of the dead, to make these the 'seven corporal works of mercy.' This comes as a surprise to them. They have no memory of ever having served the king in any of these ways. He reminds them that as long as they did it to the least, the most vulnerable of his brothers and sisters they did it to him.

The next group to be addressed are those on the left. The same test is applied to them, but they have failed it. Again, this is news to them: they have never seen the king in any kind of need, but in failing their weak brothers and sisters, they failed the king. The scene ends with the two groups going their separate ways – the goats to eternal punishment and the just ones to eternal life.

The parables of the end times have spoken continuously about the need to be ready for the mysterious coming of the Son of Man. It is now clear what readiness means. Jesus' first sermon on a hillside in Galilee began by proclaiming beatitudes that would distinguish his disciples. His last sermon, on a hill overlooking Jerusalem ends by enumerating six works of mercy that are a perfect match for the beatitudes. Matthew is a practical teacher, transforming the ideal into the practical. To quote St John of the Cross, 'in the evening of life, we shall be judged on love.'

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2020

In this extraordinary year, we are asking for cash or voucher donations instead of toys. If you wish to donate there are **SVDP blue envelopes** at the back of the Church which you can take away and bring back to us. Any donations are greatly appreciated and will help those families in need in this area. Please place the envelope in the box at the back of the Church.

The last date for requests for assistance is Wednesday 16th December.

CLONARD PILGRIMS- This Sunday, 22 November, we will be sharing in Fitzroy Presbyterian's Morning Service though a video which we have sent. In addition to greetings from various members of the Clonard Redemptorist Community, Fr Ciaran O'Callaghan will lead the Prayers of Intercession and Ed Petersen will do the Reading from Scripture. We are grateful for this friendship with our sisters and brothers in Christ in Fitzroy - the Clonard/Fitzroy Fellowship - which began over 35 years ago. Please join us in praying for Fitzroy's minister, Rev. Steve Stockman, their Kirk Session and all members of their congregation. We also invite you to visit our new Facebook page at Peace Ministry - Clonard Belfast.

