

Fr. Pat Moroney – HOMILY TRANSCRIPT - Feast of Christ the King – 21st November 2021

Today is the feast of Christ the King. Not one of my favourite feast days. Anyway, it was invented in 1925 by Pope Pius XI and the reason was the end of war of 1914-1918 where the world was falling apart. Nations were falling, nations were at war with each other, he wanted some kind of symbol that would join the world together. In those days there were lots of Kings and Princes hanging around, not today, but when he said, "I will invent a feast day that binds us all together", he decided that it will be Christ the King, a nice idea in 1925. Not so good today.

I've given a lot of thought, what can you say on the feast of Christ the King. I think I've deduced it to this. The feast will be called to mind, The great sovereignty and compassion and kindness and guidance of God in our lives. Some days that shine like a bright pecan. Some days I can barely find it. I'm fond of saying that my faith ordains my faith, burns like a bonfire. It's 850 yards away, some days I can barely find it. There are days when I sit down to pray and it's easy, there are days when I haven't got a word to say, that's life. Ups and down for all of us. Someone said to me your faith depends on your liver, if your liver is good your faith is good, if the liver is off everything is off. But basically, what I'm saying is faith is very much apart of our human living. It gives us meaning, It gives us hope and sometimes it carries us along, sometimes it's a battle. That's normal.

The Holy Father said recently anybody of faith has moments of doubt, their wonder if it's really true. Is there life after death, does God really forgive mistakes we all make, does God look at us with great compassion and kindness on our good days and on our not so good days. My response is if its the feast of Christ the King, the King is there for us every day all day. Some days I'm a very loyal subject, some days I'm not. But God doesn't look for me just on my good days, God takes me every day. There are days in my life when I wonder why God would hang around in the first place, I made so many mistakes. That's part of being human, part of being alive. Jesus had his marvellous gift of coming to those who needed him most, not those who seen the best to the world, he chose all people as his friends. He was such an unusual chooser of people. Those who are kind of important thought he was a very odd man. He sits with sinners, he mixes with prostitutes, he chose fishermen as his followers, he had a tax collector as his closest followers.

There is space for us all in the kingdom of God and God is in our lives in 1000 different ways. Sometimes God is very obviously there, sometimes very hard to find. That's fine, that's life.

I'm always quoting the same thing by Saint Paul, his marvellous comments for his friend Timothy after a lifetime of suffering and living the faith, sitting with Timothy of the eve of his death. He said Timothy my life is being poured out, I have run the race, kept the faith, way awaits is now the gift of God's Kingdom. If we can say in our old age, Timothy I've run the race, I've kept the faith, what we're saying is I've lived my life in the kingdom and the King will come to me in due course. The other great thing Paul said about the things he suffered in his belief in Jesus, he said he was shipwrecked 3 times, he was starved, he was beaten four times, he escaped from prison down the wall in a basket, he did amazing things because of his belief. He's not hosting, he's saying this is how I've lived my life. Then he says, you know Timothy I've known the right from the wrong, but I haven't always chosen. The things that you are all to do those haven't done. Those things that you are not to do those that have done. Marvellous comment.

It's the great Saint Paul that's lived his life in total devotion saying I'm a sinner like anybody else, nobody floats through life. My belief on feast of Christ the King is a reminder he takes me as I come, he helps me in difficult times, he understands the mistakes I make and forgives me every time.

So, while we celebrate this great feast, on the last Sunday of the year, let's celebrate the kingship of Christ. What it really means is He is there every day in different capacities, as healer, as forgiver, as understander and so forth. So, take your faith and love it as best as you can and some days we live it better than others. The mistakes you made in life, don't worry too much, if Jesus died on the cross for us, He's the one who forgives us all of our mistakes. We are all worth a lot more than thinking about the things we've done in life. Always think of Paul was the great apostle but he said at the end of his life he kept the faith and run the race. He didn't say I've kept it perfectly, he never said I've never sinned. He said at one point the things I ought to do, I haven't done. The things I ought not to do, I have done. What he's saying is I've made mistakes.

But the conquering thing for Paul should be for us also is a belief and kindness for God and be able to say in our own age I've run the race and kept the faith to which been able to gift of God's Kingdom and I say here on the Feast of Christ the King.