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Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Sunday 23rd November 2025

Page 64	2 Samuel 5: 1-3	Colossians 1: 12-20	Gospel Luke 23: 35-43
The readings this weekend help us to see Jesus as a different kind of king. He does not rule with force or seek power for himself. His kingdom is based on love, mercy, forgiveness and sacrifice, unlike earthly rule. We must follow Him as our king. In the first reading the prophet Samuel shows Israel united under King David's rule. King Saul had been the first King of Israel, chosen by God through Samuel, but had been disobedient leading God to choose a new king, the shepherd boy David. He was anointed by Samuel as the future king and famously defeated Goliath. Saul grew jealous of David and tried to kill him, forcing David into hiding. Despite having opportunities to kill Saul, David refused to harm him and showed him complete respect and loyalty. When King Saul died in battle, David became King of Israel and was a righteous ruler loved by the Jews. In the second reading St Paul praises God for bringing believers into the kingdom of His Son. It reflects on the supremacy of Christ and how God created everything on the earth and in the universe. His kingdom is not political but eternal, marked by redemption and peace for those who trust Him. Jesus rescues us from sin and wants us to join Him in heaven. Luke's Gospel shows Jesus as the true King, even while suffering on the cross. It highlights God's mercy for the humble and rejected, as a repentant criminal receives the promise of paradise. He calls us to live in His kingdom by caring for others especially the weak and rejected. Like David, he unites His people, not just through leadership but in His very person. Like the good thief St Dismas, we must turn to Jesus and trust in His kingship. Put Jesus first in everything we do in life. Malcolm			

Mass times

Feast Days

6 pm Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass	Saturday 22nd St Cecilia Born 210 to a noble Christian family in Rome.. From very young Cecilia was determined to remain a virgin' Her parents arranged a marriage to a rich pagan nobleman. On her wedding night told her husband of her vow and that she had an angel to protect her. He wanted to see the angel. Needed to convert to Christianity. He agreed and his brother also converted. Young brothers, encouraged by Cecilia, gave support to Christians, did works of mercy and buried martyrs against Roman rules. Both arrested. Refused to offer sacrifice to imperial gods. Executed as martyrs. Cecilia was arrested and also stayed true to her faith. Tried to kill by choking on toxic gases but kept singing Christian songs. Tried to behead her but she survived for 3 days. Patron saint of musicians.
	Sunday 23rd November Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe Mrs Victoria O'Connor
NO MASS	Monday 24th St Andrew (Dung) Lac and Martyrs of Vietnam Missionaries first arrived in Vietnam in 1535 but not until 1635, when Jesuits arrived in Hanoi , were there significant conversions to Christianity. But from 1745 persecution of Catholics started and by 1800 they were being tortured and killed. By 1862 between 100,000 and 300,000 were killed or tortured due to their faith. 117 were canonised by Pope John Paul in 1988, the largest mass canonisation in history. The most famous was St Andrew (Dung) Lac, born Dung An Tr��n to a poor family in about 1795. He became a Catholic when his family moved to Hanoi to obtain work. Took the Christian name Andrew. Having been a catechist, he was chosen to study theology. Ordained a priest in 1823. Fr Andrew Dung was very successful as a priest in his preaching, supporting his parishioners and his simple life style The good example of his moral life converted many. Arrested in 1835 in the persecution by Emperor Minh-Mang, <i>Nero of Vietnam</i> . Money collected to gain his release. Changed his name to Lac. Fr Andrew Lac was again arrested with Fr Peter Thi in 1839. Both liberated by exchange of money. Later that year both arrested again and taken to Hanoi. After being tortured were beheaded as martyrs.
NO MASS	Tuesday 25th St Catherine of Alexandria (Catherine Wheel) Born in Alexandria, Egypt, about 287 Intelligent and beautiful daughter of governor of Alexandria. A convert who challenged the pagan Roman Emperor Maxentius and converted some of his best pagan philosophers and his wife. Maxentius was furious and executed the converts. Tried to kill Catherine tied to a wheel with blazing torches (Catherine Wheel). Failed as the ropes broke and the wheel fell apart and she escaped. Then martyred by being beheaded by sword. Remains of St Catherine are in a monastery on Mount Sinai.
NO MASS	Wednesday 26th St Leonard of Port Maurice Born 1676 in Port Maurice on the north west coast of Italy. His father as a sea captain. Leonard was sent to live with his uncle so he could attend the Jesuit College in Rome. Family wanted him to have a career in medicine. Instead he joined the Franciscans. Brother Leonard received the habit in 1697. Ordained a priest in 1702. Missionary to China but had to return home to Port Maurice due to ill health. Became a great Italian Franciscan preacher. Sent to a monastery in Florence where he started reforms of austerity. Made it a major centre of training priests for missionary work. Led parish missions and retreats in Florence and Rome. In 1740 the new Pope Benedict XIV made him a papal diplomat to settle disputes. High ranking Church members were not impressed by a humble, shoeless, muddy friar. Their pride was hurt until he spoke and they realised his incredible skills. Promoted <i>Stations of the Cross</i> and set up <i>Stations</i> in 571 locations in Italy. Age 75 he was still travelling around preaching. Died 20 th November 1751.

NO MASS	Thursday 27th St James Intercisus Born about 390 in Persia. Christian who renounced his faith as a military officer to gain privilege from the king. When king died his family put pressure on him resume his Christianity which he did. Admitted he was a Christian to the new king and was sentenced to death. He died as a martyr being slowly cut into 28 pieces and finally beheaded in about 421.
NO MASS	Friday 28th St Catherine Labouré Born 1806 in France. Her father was a fairly rich farmer. Her mother died when she was 9. She went to live with her aunt. Catherine kissed a statue of the Virgin Mother and said "Now you will be my mother". In her teens she worked as a waitress in her uncle's café in Paris. She was very devout and had a dream where a sick priest said "it is good to look after the sick". Later in a hospice run by the <i>Daughters of Charity</i> she saw a picture of St Vincent de Paul, their founder, and recognised him as the priest in her dream. She joined the Order in 1830 aged 24. She prayed to him to have visions. Then had visions of Our Lady who relayed the request for people to wear the famous <i>Miraculous Medal of Our Lady of Graces</i> . Catherine spent 40 years caring for the aged and infirm and promoting the devotion. She died in 1876 aged 70. Her body is now encased in glass in the <i>Chapel of the Apparition</i> in Paris. Canonised in 1947 by Pope Pius XII.
10 am: Fire Marshall Training 6.30pm Vigil Mass Thanksgiving Mass by Peter and ? (Sly)	Saturday 29th November St Radboud, Bishop of Utrecht Born about 835 near Namur, Belgium, to a noble Frankish family. His great grandfather was the last pagan King of the Frisians before they were converted to Christianity. Began his studies with his maternal uncle, Archbishop Günther of Cologne. Continued his studies at the royal court of Western Frankish king. Ordained a priest. Was chaplain to Frankish King Charles the Bald. On the death of the king he moved to Benedictine monastery in Tours, France. Elected Bishop of Utrecht in the Netherlands. Could not live there due to its destruction by the Danes. Resided in Deventer east of Utrecht. Wrote hymns, sermons and poetry. Was renowned for his kindness to the poor. Died in Deventer in 917.
9.30 am Mass	Sunday 30th November First Sunday of Advent
PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK CAPITALS WHEN RECORDING NAMES FOR MASS INTENTION	
Your prayers are needed for the following people	
Sue Chandler	Hazel Sale Mary Light Trevor Delves Fr Shaun Budden Ann Drumgoole

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Welcome back to Fr Thomas who arrives in the UK at the end of the next week

Fr Thomas returns from India to celebrate Mass from Saturday 29th November at the 6.30 pm Vigil Mass

Fire Marshall Training at St Vincent de Paul at 10 am on Saturday 29th November

For those parishioners who volunteered many weeks ago to help with a "Fire Practice" for our church, we have organised training from Deacon Michael Short at the time above. Anyone else can attend if they wish.



Are you able to host the Posada, figures of Mary, Joseph and the donkey, for the night?

As last year, the modern Posada uses nativity figures of Mary, Joseph and the donkey who travel from place to place in the parish. This gives individual parishioners the chance to "host" the Posada and to create their own celebration of the real message of Christmas, making room for Jesus in their lives. Our Posada will be blessed at St Vincent de Paul on the First Sunday of Advent, 1st December at the 9.30 am Mass.

Parishioners wishing to host the Posada should fill in the "*Posada Journey Rota*" in the church porch with your name and contact details. The person hosting the Posada on the day before you will deliver the Posada to you at an agreed time. You are then expected to make arrangements for the Posada to be delivered to the next host on the following day. For the

evening that you host the Posada, you might like to invite family and friends to join in your celebration, or you might prefer a quiet evening of prayer and reflection. A sheet of suggested prayers is available.

Hosting the Posada can be an opportunity to share our faith with family and friends but, above all, it is a chance to celebrate the period of Advent and think about our journey towards the great feast of Christmas.

Sponsors for Christmas bags of treats to be distributed at the Southampton Sunday Lunch Project

Can you sponsor a Christmas bag of treats containing a hat, gloves, socks, toiletries and treats to be distributed at the Southampton Sunday Lunch Project Christmas Meal Service in Woolston and Portswood on Sunday 21st December. This year Liz Challand is trying to provide 150 and each bag is £10 in value. If you would like to sponsor a bag or bags please speak to Liz or email lizchalland@btinternet.com by Monday 29th November

Christmas Collection of sweets for Southampton Sunday Lunch Project by Sunday 15th December

Collection of wrapped sweets such as Roses, Celebration and Quality Street needed. Please place your donations in box in the porch by Sunday 14th December. Many thanks in anticipation. Shelagh Moon can be contacted up to Sunday 7th December on. Tel: 023 8073 6275. After that date please contact Liz Challand.

Next SVP Social is on Wednesday 3rd December – 1pm to 3 pm

Another opportunity to meet for refreshments and a chat. Come along with your friends. No need to stay for the whole time, a few minutes or 2 hours, whatever suits you. Renee and Pat

Parish collection for last weekend 15th and 16th November

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Parish Gift Aid Envelopes	Gift Aid	Parish Loose Collection	Direct debits, standing orders	Gift Aid	Total of Offertory Collection	Other money	Gift Aid	Loose	TOTAL of all money
£57	£14.25	£201.63	£242.54	£51.98	£567.40				£567.40