

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

22 November 2020

A Different Sort of King

Today's gospel leaves us in no doubt as to what Jesus expects of his followers. It is a gospel of contrasts. It begins with a scene of judgement, with Jesus in the role of king, sitting on the throne of glory. It would have been a familiar image to the people of the time, who were expecting a great Messianic king. In the time of Jesus, kings were powerful rulers, and sometimes were tyrants. We know from earlier in Matthew's Gospel that kings like Herod were capable of brutal acts. It is an image that remains familiar to us today, thanks to popular fairy tales, movies and TV shows - the all-powerful ruler sitting on their throne, passing judgement on their subjects.

But the king that Jesus talks about here turns these images upside down. He is not focused on riches or power, or inciting terror or fear. Instead, he is a fair judge, a shepherd who knows his flock. He invites all those who have acted with justice and generosity to take their place in his kingdom. He is in solidarity with the 'least' of his people - a king whose main concern is those who are hungry, displaced, sick or imprisoned. He refers to them as 'brothers'.

Jesus' kingdom is centred around charity, compassion and forgiveness. He expects us to treat everyone we encounter with welcome. There are simple acts of kindness we can carry out each day. Such love for others is love for God: 'In so far as you did this to the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.'

'In the evening of life, we shall be judged on love.' ST JOHN OF THE CROSS
Jane Mellett

Announcements

Last week's collection amounted to £2892.00. Thank you.

Those who pay to the weekly collection or any special collections, including Priest's Collection, by cheque are asked that all should be made payable to '*Melmount Parish*'.

Parishioners can still leave their contributions in the Parish Office during this time of uncertainty. Contributions can be made by cheque made payable to Melmount Parish or cash. If the Office is closed please use the letterbox.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place on Monday 23 November from 10.30am until 4.30pm.

St. Vincent de Paul Collection

The St. Vincent de Paul Society depends on your generosity all year round but especially at Christmas time. They will hold a special collection at all Masses this weekend 28/29 November. There is an envelope marked '*St Vincent de Paul*' in your box of envelopes for this collection. *Anyone contributing to this collection by cheque should make it payable to 'St. Vincent de Paul Society'.*

May they Rest in Peace

Deaths

Bredge Ward, 282 Lisnafin Park
Elizabeth Ervine, Woodmount

Owen Ward, 282 Lisnafin Park
Marie Casey, 133 Laurel Drive

Anniversaries

Marie McLaughlin	Edward Duffy	Thomas Duffy
Thomas Cooke	Bernadette Cooke	Catherine Hanna
James McBride	Danny Floyd	Ethna McMahan
Thomas Gerard Moss	John Christy Jnr	Peggy McGarrigle
Marcel Griffin	Patrick Patton	Charlie McDermott
Annie Mitchell	Mary Gallagher	Hugh McCormick
Annie McCrory	Mary McKenna	Jean Houston
David Coyle	Patrick Gallagher	Martha Devine
Frank McGowan	Mary Meehan	Phil Madden
John McDaid	John Ponsonby	William Ponsonby
John O'Kane	Elizabeth Madden	Patrick (Paddy) McDaid

Baptisms: To arrange Baptisms please telephone the Parish Office on 028 71383777.

Bulletin Notices and Anniversaries

All anniversaries and notices for the bulletin should be left at the Parish Office by 10.00am on a Wednesday for inclusion in that weekend's bulletin.

For your safety the main sacristy will be closed before and after masses. If you wish to leave an anniversary during these times please leave the details on the table at the entrance to the altar servers sacristy.

Christmas Masses

As we announced at Masses last week it will be necessary to book for Christmas Masses this year. We need to have a booking system to make sure that too many people do not arrive for the same Mass: for example - under the present restrictions, it is estimated that our church can safely accommodate 250 people; at last year's Christmas Vigil Mass we had at least 1400 people!! (The church can seat 1300.)

The following Masses are now fully booked: 4.00pm; 6.00pm and 8.00pm on Christmas Eve; 11.00am on Christmas Day.

Christmas Mass times available are:

Christmas Day - 8.00am, 9.30am, 12.30pm.

If you would like to book for one of these Masses, please preferably email melparish@aol.com, giving name and phone number, stating which Mass you would like to attend and how many tickets you need or else ring 02871383777. Please do not ask for a ticket unless you know it is going to be used!

Parish Draw: Promoters should make their returns for December to the Parish Office on **Monday 7 December from 2.00pm - 4.30pm**. The draw for December will take place on Thursday 10 December at 10.30am in the Parish Office.

Lough Derg November Memorial Service for Deceased Pilgrims and Benefactors

Live via webcam from St. Mary's Church, Pettigo today Sunday 22 November at 7.00pm, www.churchservices.tv/pettigo. To enrol a departed loved one please contact us by email: info@loughderg.org or telephone 00353 719861518.

Lisnafin/Ardnalee/Trust CCDA: Free Over 60's Community Christmas Dinner for residents aged 60 and over living in Lisnafin Park/Ardnalee Park and Old Trust area cannot take place in the Fir Trees Hotel this year because of Covid nor can we call to the homes of our older residents to take names. To try and compensate for this the Trust will be teaming up with Strabane Community Project to deliver a Free 3 course meal to their homes. Anyone aged 60 and over living in Lisnafin Park, Ardnalee Park and Old Trust areas will be eligible. The meals will be delivered on Wednesday 16 December between 1.00pm and 3.00pm. Booking forms are available in Lisnafin Community Centre or on Lisnafin/Ardnalee/Trust CCDA Facebook page. The closing date for booking is Friday 27 November at 4.00pm.

Strabane Posties 2020 Christmas Appeal: Strabane Postal staff have now launched their '*Christmas toy/present appeal for 2020*'. Anyone interested in donating to this good cause can give your gift to your local postman/woman, bring it to the sorting office in Castle Street or leave it in the Post Office in Supervalu before 12 December. The toys/presents will be passed on to St. Vincent de Paul to distribute to those in need in time for Christmas. The annual appeal covers all age groups. We wish all our customers a Healthy and Happy Christmas and a more normal 2021.

Can you Foster?

Could you give a home to a vulnerable child when they need it most? Fostering is about giving them a safe, secure place to live for a few weeks, months or even years. Barnardo's Fostering NI is looking for foster carers. Foster placements can be long-term, short-term, emergency, short breaks and parent and child together. You must be over 21 to foster and must have a spare room in your home. Foster carers are offered a fostering fee and allowances; they are given training and support. To learn more please telephone 90652288 or visit our website <https://www.barnardos.org.uk/foster>.

Church Opening Times

The Church will open on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Sunday at 9.30am and close at 5.00pm. On Tuesday and Saturday the church will open at 11.00am & close at 7.30pm. This is to facilitate cleaning and sanitizing.

Melmount Parish Webcam: The Webcam can be viewed by logging onto *Melmount Parish* Website and selecting view the webcam or by logging onto Churchmedia.tv and selecting Melmount Church from the list available.

Church contributions via a Donate button on the parish website.

The Donate facility on our Website allows you to pay your contribution to the Church by debit or credit card. If you have any difficulties in using this please contact the parish Office 71383777.